

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 14, 2020**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room.

Present: Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5
 Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3
 Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2
 Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4
 Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1

Also Present: Molly O'Rourke, County Administrator
 Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief
 Stephanie Kammerud, Board Clerk

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Miron asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Karwoski moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to adopt the following Consent Calendar as follows:

- A. Approval of the December 17, 2019, County Board meeting minutes.
- B. Approval to reappoint Craig Leiser, Stillwater, and appoint Chuck LeRoux, Oak Park Heights, to the Brown's Creek Watershed District to three-year terms expiring on October 21, 2022.
- C. Approval of a new Art-In-Public-Places policy that establishes the framework for art work to be displayed in spaces accessible in Washington County owned and leased facilities.
- D. Rescind Washington County Board Resolution No. 2005-120 and clarify that the Washington County Library Advisory Board is governed by Policy #6006.
- E. Approval of **Resolution No. 2020-004** as follows:

2020 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT OR THEIR DESIGNEE

WHEREAS, an electronic funds transfer is defined in Minnesota Statutes 471.38 as a process of value exchange via mechanical means without the use of checks, drafts, or similar negotiable instruments; and

WHEREAS, a local government is authorized to make electronic funds transfers if it meets the eligibility requirements in state law; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements is for the governing body to annually delegate the authority to make electronic funds transfers to a designated business administrator or chief financial officer or the officer's designee; and

WHEREAS, the county desires to utilize electronic funds transfers as authorized by statute.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County delegates the authority to make electronic funds transfers to its Accounting and Finance Director, or her designee, as allowed under Minnesota Statutes 471.38.

- F. Approval of 2020 Tubman Contract No. 13059 in the amount of \$188,505.
- G. Approval of Contract No. 13134 with Canvas Health in the amount of \$1,459,609 for the period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and authorize its execution pursuant to Minn. Stat. 373.02.
- H. Approve licenses for the use of real property for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair, County Administrator, and pursuant to Minn. Stat. 373.02.
- I. Approve Cooperative Agreement No. 11260 for maintenance between the City of Afton and Washington County, for the period from signature through perpetuity, for the St. Croix Trail and downtown village improvements project (RB-2551).
- J. Approve Contract No. 13119 with Tierney Brothers in the amount of \$140,035.71 for the County Board Room audio visual update.
- K. Approval to set a public hearing for February 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to consider an update to the county's current Transportation Sales, Use and Excise Tax to include funding the development and construction of county Road & Bridge projects as well as increase the tax to 0.5%

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Resolution to Appoint Kevin Corbid as County Administrator effective January 29, 2020

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2020-005** as follows:

APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN CORBID AS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375A.06, Subd. 1, authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to appoint and employ an Administrator upon such terms and conditions as it deems advisable and directs the County Board to set the Administrator's salary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Kevin Corbid as the Washington County Administrator, effective January 29, 2020 at an annual salary of \$188,700.00, and authorizes the approval and execution of the employment agreement setting the terms and conditions of this appointment.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

PUBLIC WORKS

Approve Financial Services Agreement for the Gold Line Joint Powers Board

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve an agreement for financial services between Washington County and the Gold Line Joint Powers Board. This agreement designates Washington County to receive and manage Joint Powers Board administrative funds, to provide budgeting and accounting services, to review and draft Joint Powers Board contracts, and to provide other general counsel services. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Resolution to Accept a Donation of Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Supplies

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2020-006** as follows:

DONATION TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board is authorized to approve donation, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve a donation from Mark Altmann for ten Cardiac Science Intellisense Powerheart G3 AED Batteries and ten Cardiac Science AED Defibrillation Pads valued at \$4,490 to the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Order 13888 – Letter of Consent

County Administrator Molly O'Rourke asked for a motion to approve sending a letter of consent, directing the County Administrator to sign a letter of consent as required by Executive Order 13888, Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement. Ms. O'Rourke noted a public workshop was held on January 7, 2020 regarding the Executive Order.

Chair Miron acknowledged that there were members of the public who wished to comment on this item and the board will allow time for those comments.

Woodbury residents Chris Salmon, Joe Salmon, and Alley Waterbury, expressed concerns about the impact of refugees and opposed the consent letter. Kathy Burkett of Plymouth, Minn., also expressed disagreement with consenting to refugee resettlement.

Deputy Administrator Kevin Corbid provided background information from the January 7th workshop, and also pointed out new information received since the workshop. He noted the board received information provided to county staff from the U.S. Department of State, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the National Association of Minnesota Counties (NACo) and non-profits that work with refugees on this federal program before acting on this issue.

Mr. Corbid provided the following summary. In December, a number of counties, including Washington, received a letter from non-profits making the county aware of a recent Presidential Executive Order related to the federal Refugee Admissions Program. The executive order requires state and county consent for refugees under this program to be resettled within a county.

The federal Refugee Admissions Program was designed to resettle refugees forced from their homes due to violence or persecution. More than 70% of those who enter the program are women and children. The federal government sets a cap on the number admitted through this program each year. For 2020 that number has been set at 18,000, much lower than the historical average of about 85,000 to 95,000 per year. Vetting of potential refugees is done by eight different federal agencies including Federal Homeland Security, U.S. Department of State, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Numerous assessments are completed, including five background checks, biometric security checks, and in-person interviews with Homeland Security officers.

In the last year nine refugees were settled in Washington County, five in Oakdale, four in Woodbury. Fewer than 900 settled in Minnesota in 2019. Most placements are made with family members who are already established in an area (95% in the past 15 years). The placement of refugees through this program has been occurring for quite some time. The change is the local role that the executive order now requires in consenting to these initial placements.

If a county does not provide consent, initial placements cannot be made in that county by the non-profits that work with these individuals. However, one new item that was learned last week was that the U.S. Department of State did say it would continue to make placements of spouses and minor children who are joining a person who is already settled in a county regardless of whether consent has been given. In addition, after an initial placement in a county that has provided consent, a refugee may move into any county regardless of the consent.

Federal funds are provided to the non-profits to help with the initial placement and settlement. These federal dollars do not follow the individual past the initial placement. There are some federal dollars that are available to help support refugees in addition to the initial placement support, and those funds can be accessed regardless of whether a county has consented. Federal funds can be used for rent, damage deposits, furnishings, clothing, and food.

In order to provide consent, the executive order states the consent must be provided by the chief executive officer of the county (or county equivalent) and does not define who that is (Board Chair or Administrator).

The board action to consider today is to direct the county administrator to sign a letter of consent as required by the Executive Order. One change to the letter from last week is to include a time period. If not stated, the federal government assumed the consent was granted for the current federal fiscal year that ends in September 2020. In order to better track the annual consents that are required, counties are being asked to state directly in the consent letter that it provides consent for the current federal fiscal year.

The County Board asked questions and discussed individual perspectives. Discussion noted that individuals in this program are entering the county as legal immigrants and the rules related to the program are set by the federal government, not the individual county governments. Only nine refugees were placed in Washington County through this program in 2019 and we expect fewer than that going forward as the federal government has lowered the total admitted in the entire country through this program in 2020 from around 90,000 per year to 18,000. The spouse and

children of refugees already placed in the county can continue to be settled in the county even if local consent is not provided. The potential refugees in this program are vetted by eight different federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and go through background checks, biometric security checks, and in-person interviews with federal Homeland Security officials to ensure that they do not pose any threat.

This program comes from federal dollars and does not use county property taxes and services. If the county did not provide consent, the only change is that the federal money available to charitable organizations to help with the initial placement could not be spent on those refugees who move into the county. By not allowing this federal support, it may make it harder for that refugee to get settled and be self-sufficient, and may make it more likely they would need other ongoing governmental support or additional support from the non-profit settlement agencies. It would also place a financial burden on the charitable organizations providing these programs. Even if the county did not provide consent, a refugee who may have family in our county could be initially placed in a county that has provided consent and then is free to move to any county they wish, including one that did not provide consent. In this scenario, the only change is they would not have the initial federal financial assistance to be supported in our county. It was also noted that the county does not have the authority to reallocate federal funds to other programs.

Commissioner Johnson moved to direct the County Administrator to sign a letter of consent as required by Executive Order 13888, Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement, including a review at the end of the federal fiscal year, which is September 30, 2020. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events that they attended. Please see archived web streaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports at www.co.washington.mn.us, under “County Board.”

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Weik moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, and it was adopted unanimously. The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP – PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session to review plans for a West Central Service Center as recommended by studies performed for Washington County Workplace Guidelines and a Strategic Facilities Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Molly O’Rourke, Kevin Corbid, outside agencies, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP – PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session to discuss potential updates and modifications to the county's current Transportation Sales, Use and Excise Tax. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Molly O'Rourke, Kevin Corbid, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP – ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session for an update on the 2020 Strategic Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Molly O'Rourke, Kevin Corbid, and county staff.

Attest:



Molly O'Rourke
County Administrator



Fran Miron
County Board Chair