



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 19, 2021**

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

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief, via WebEx
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

Board Chair Lisa Weik announced that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Emergency Declaration issued by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, and the Declaration of Emergency issued by the Washington County Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2020, some or all of the county board members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and the Board meeting will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person, or view/monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location via live web stream.

Noted for the record:

1. That either the Washington County Board Chair or the County's chief Administrator has determined that an in-person meeting of the entire County Board may not be practical nor prudent because of the existing Pandemic and Emergency.
2. All County Board members participating in this meeting, whatever their physical location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony.
3. All members of the public present here today at the regular meeting location, if any, can hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the County Board.
4. At least one member of the County Board or the Chief Administrator of the County is physically present at the regular meeting location.
5. Each member of the County Board participating in this meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.
6. Proper notice of this meeting has occurred.
7. All votes will be conducted by roll call.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Weik asked for comments from the public.

Columbus City Council Member Janet Hegland came forward as a citizen volunteer on local political campaigns, and as a Columbus City Council member and liaison to the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). Ms. Hegland is requesting that the Washington County Board of Commissioners convene a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Rules 8410.0040, Subpart 1, for the purpose of removing Rice Creek Watershed District Manager John Waller before term expiration, for violation of the code of ethics of the district bylaws.

Columbus City Council Member Sue Wagamon came forward. Ms. Wagamon was recently elected to the council. Ms. Wagamon reported that campaign literature was mailed to Columbus residents by mayoral candidate Dave Povolny that featured a letter written by Manager John Waller and signed in his official capacity as a RCWD Board Manager. The letter made false claims about Ms. Wagamon and her husband, and implicated her during her campaign for City Council. Because of this interference in the campaign process, Ms. Wagamon urged the Washington County Board of Commissioners conduct a public hearing on the matter of RCWD's resolution to remove Manager John Waller from the RCWD Board.

Columbus City Council Member Shelly Logren came forward. Ms. Logren said that unfounded, convoluted opinions, not facts, by Manager John Waller were included on signed, political material distributed by mayoral candidate Dave Povolny and sent to citizens of Columbus. Ms. Logren supports the RCWD's resolution on December 1, 2020, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners convene a public hearing for the purpose of removing Manager Waller for violation of the code of ethics of the district bylaws and/or for misfeasance.

Mayor of the City of Columbus, Jesse Preiner, came forward to request a public hearing to remove Manager John Waller from the RCWD. Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 8410.0040, Subpart 1, Mr. Waller's interference, misinformation, and outright lies have slandered Mr. Preiner and his family, sowed the seeds of distrust and suspicion in the 2020 Columbus election, cast a shadow on Washington County, and damaged the reputation and integrity of the RCWD.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. Approval of the January 5, 2021, County Board meeting minutes.

B. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-006** as follows:

**2021 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 their designee, as allowed under Minnesota Statutes 471.38.

- C. Approval of Subrecipient Agreement No. 13909 between Washington County Community Services and the Washington County Community Development Agency, to continue the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment partnership, for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025.
- D. Approval to authorize the Human Resources Department Director to electronically submit the county's 2021 Pay Equity Report to the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget.
- E. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-007** as follows:

LIBRARY DONATION

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 donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the donation in the amount of \$30,000 from the Anonymous Donor for the Washington County Library.



F. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-008** as follows:

LIBRARY DONATION

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 donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the donation in the amount of \$1,003.95 from the Washington County Library Partners for the Washington County Library.

- G. Approve a letter of support for the City of Forest Lake’s grant application for a new fishing pier at Shields Lake Park through the Department of Natural Resources Fishing Pier and Shore Fishing Area Program.
- H. Approval of Change Order No. 8 to Contract No. 12859 with Belair Builders Inc. in the amount of \$28,505.18 for work on the Wildwood Library Project (BSD-WWL-001).
- I. Approval of Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 12923 with Neo Electrical Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$1,550.00 for work on the Wildwood Library Project (BSD-WWL-001).
- J.
 1. Approval of Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 13382 in the amount of \$24,949.95 with Valley Paving Inc. for the County Road 75 and Grey Cloud Trail Resurfacing Project.
 2. Approval of Change Order No. 8 to Contract No. 13382 in the amount of \$16,093.05 with Valley Paving Inc. for the County Road 75 and Grey Cloud Trail Resurfacing Project.

K. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-009** as follows:

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, MINNESOTA
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY – STILLWATER AND
WASHINGTON COUNTY**



BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is authorized to enter into a Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Correctional Facility – Stillwater.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry is hereby authorized to execute and sign this agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution to Amend Funding Commitment to Advance METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project

Public Works Director Don Theisen presented an overview and resolution to support the funding commitment for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project. This project will serve a very transit-dependent demographic in Washington County and Ramsey County. Households within a half mile of this corridor live 17% below the poverty level, 14% have a disability, and 18% are zero car households. This project will provide frequent all-day service in both directions with buses, pre-boarding fare payments for faster stops, access to park & ride lots in St. Paul, Oakdale, and Woodbury, real time arrival and departure information, heated shelters, lighting, and security features. It will be a safe, reliable, and easy-to-use transit service for the public. Entry to engineering is expected today, January 19, 2021, but may be delayed due to Inauguration Week in Washington, D.C. This is a major project milestone, with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) showing support for the project. The total federal funding dollar amount is locked in, with current costs, the federal share is 45%. The project scope includes Joint Development for the new Service Center.

The project costs were reviewed by the FTA during the Risk Assessment in October 2020. This three-day review was conducted by a team of transit experts from around the country. This process is designed to ensure the project budget is adequate to deliver the project. The Risk Assessment had no major findings affecting the design.

The METRO Gold Line cost timeline is as follows:

September 2019 Base Project Cost:	\$460.9 million
Joint Development Scope Additions:	+ \$40 million
Other Base Project Scope Refinements:	+ \$18 million
May 2020 Updated Total Cost:	\$519.2 million
FTA Risk Assessment Added Contingency and Other Cost Refinements:	+ \$12.7 million
December 2020 Updated Total Cost:	\$531.9 million

Mr. Theisen continued that for the Risk Assessment in October, the 30% design level included 31% of the budget for contingency. The FTA requested the county add a small amount of contingency and it is now at 33% contingency in the \$531 million.

The \$40 million addition includes the Service Center conceptual shell (60,000 square feet), two elevators, 3.16 acres of conceptual site development, Woodlane Drive roadway relocation, structured parking (I-494 Park & Ride expansion), surface parking, and the I-494 site south parcel acquisition. The cost of the county service center is \$33.5 million, of which 55% is Washington County funding, and 45% is FTA funding.

The \$18 million addition includes added 312 structured parking stalls at the I-494 Park & Ride, added 38 surface parking stalls and underground stormwater at Helmo Park & Ride, modified bridge type for Maple Street pedestrian bridge.

The \$12.7 million addition includes, from the Risk Assessment, added contingency specific at the I-494 Site: Joint Development unknowns, funded by Washington County; elevators in the parking structure and power distribution, funded by both counties. The \$12.7 million addition also includes added contingency in the base project, funded by both counties. FTA added contingency to Joint Development costs, which incrementally increased Washington County and Ramsey County shares for Joint Development. However, there were right-of-way costs for Joint Development that went down (solely for Washington County), thus a net decrease for Washington County and increase for Ramsey County.

Revenue funding sources with Joint Development are as follows:

Counties Transit Improvement Board	\$6,000,000
State of Minnesota	\$1,866,605
Washington County Transit Tax*	\$145,417,047
Ramsey County	\$127,849,798
Regional grant for Bielenberg Bridge	\$4,400,000
Regional grant for St. Paul Stations	\$7,000,000
FTA	\$239,345,550
Totals	\$531,879,000

*Washington County Share includes new County Service Center.

Mr. Theisen recommends adopting the resolution supporting Washington County funding commitment of \$145,417,047. The Washington County Transit tax is the funding source and includes Joint Development for the new Service Center. The resolution protects county funds if the Service Center is not constructed. Mr. Theisen reported that the Ramsey County Board adopted its funding commitment resolution on January 12, 2021. On January 27th, the Gold Line Joint Powers Board will consider approval of the project scope (now at 60% design level), project budget (\$531,879,000), and project schedule (open for service in 2024).

Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-010** as follows:

REVISED GOLD LINE FUNDING COMMITMENT

WHEREAS, the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (“BRT”) will provide transit infrastructure improvements in the eastern portion of the Twin Cities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of METRO Gold Line BRT (“Project”) is to provide transit service to meet the existing and long-term regional mobility and local accessibility needs for businesses and the traveling public within the Project area by providing all-day, bi-directional, station-to-station service that complements existing and planned bus service in the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the METRO Gold Line BRT is located in Ramsey and Washington Counties (“Counties”), Minnesota, and extends approximately ten miles, running between Saint Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury (“Cities”); and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Counties and the Cities in the corridor selected BRT in a dedicated guideway as the locally preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2018, the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) acted to include METRO Gold Line BRT in the regional Transportation Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Council and the Counties are advancing design of the Project through the Gold Line Project Office (“GPO”), in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Cities; and

WHEREAS, the Council and the Counties are proposing to design and construct the METRO Gold Line BRT Project, which will be owned and operated by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council is the local project sponsor and the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) grantee and therefore is responsible for the planning, designing, acquiring rights of way, constructing, equipping, and commissioning the Project; and

WHEREAS, since January 2018 the Project has been advancing through the Project Development phase of the New Starts process by progressing and completing FTA requirements associated with the design and environmental processes; and

WHEREAS, many residents and businesses have participated in numerous open house meetings, neighborhood meetings, and other public forums, including project committees, to provide feedback on project elements as part of the issue resolution and design advancement and refinement processes leading to the creation and advancement of the design plans; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2019, Washington County demonstrated its local financial commitment by adopting Resolution #2019-083 committing Washington County to contributing 26.1% of the total project cost of \$460,980,000; and

WHEREAS, after completing the requirements of the Project Development phase, on January 19, 2021, the Council requested the FTA to allow the advancement of the Project into the Engineering Phase of the New Starts process; and

WHEREAS, the Council and the Counties have since advanced the design of the project to 60%, completed the FTA required risk assessment process, and added a potential joint development project at the terminus station in Woodbury (“Joint Development”); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Joint Development will include the development of a Washington County service center and associated improvements to serve east metro residents and businesses, and Washington County’s share of the Joint Development is estimated to be \$17,567,249; and

WHEREAS, the new estimated cost of the Project has increased to a total amount of \$531,879,000, including the potential Joint Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Washington County commits the following to the METRO Gold Line BRT Project:

- a) 50.0% of the cost of the Engineering Phase of Work, in an amount not-to-exceed \$37,500,000; and
- b) 23% of the cost of the Construction Phase of Work, in an amount not-to-exceed \$99,417,047; and
- c) 27.3% of the total Project cost of \$531,879,000, in an amount not-to-exceed \$145,417,047 (which amount includes the County’s contributions to all phases of work); and
- d) 25% of the net operating subsidy upon commencement of revenue operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fulfillment of Washington County’s obligations under its full funding commitment of 27.3% of the total Project cost is contingent upon the following conditions being met or occurring:

- a) No expenditures for construction activities, vehicle acquisition, or right of way acquisition may be incurred or obligated prior to the completion of any necessary state and federal environmental review and findings and publication of the environmental decision document in the Federal Register.
- b) Any expenditure of Washington County funds pursuant to a Letter of No Prejudice issued by the Federal Transit Administration or pre-award authority is subject to the prior approval of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board.
- c) Fulfillment of the County's obligations under its full funding commitment of 27.3% of the total capital costs, in an amount not to exceed \$145,417,047, is contingent upon FTA execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement ("FFGA") for not less than 45% of the capital costs.
- d) The Gold Line Joint Powers Board has reviewed and approved the Project scope, cost estimate and schedule at the completion of 30% design, 60% design, 90% design and 100% design.
- e) The project contingency shall be managed in accordance with the procedures established by the Gold Line Joint Powers Board, as required in the Joint Powers Agreement. Excess funds resulting from low bids shall be deposited in the unallocated contingency and shall be managed in accordance with such contingency management procedures.
- f) Funds may be used only for New Starts federally-eligible activities.
- g) In the event the FTA deems any Project expenditure as ineligible to qualify as part of the local match for the Project pursuant to a FFGA, the Council shall reimburse the Gold Line Joint Powers Board for its proportional share of all ineligible expenditures.
- h) Washington County's funding commitment for its share of the proposed Joint Development component of the Project is conditioned on execution of the necessary agreements with the Council, including but not limited to the Ground Lease, Joint Development Agreement, and funding agreement; and further, no expenditure for the proposed Joint Development may be incurred or obligated prior to the execution of such agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms and conditions of this funding commitment will be fulfilled by and subject to the terms and conditions of grant agreements entered into by the Gold Line Joint Powers Board and the Metropolitan Council, which agreements must include the conditions set forth herein.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Accept HealthPartners Donation

County Administrator Kevin Corbid presented a letter from HealthPartners sent on December 15, 2020, from Donna Zimmerman, Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations, to acknowledge and support the work the county does to enhance individual and community health. The letter offered a \$16,000 donation to support work addressing the needs of low-income families in Washington County through its health and social service agencies. HealthPartners asked that the county prioritize efforts to support the lives of residents who are on Medicaid. Staff will follow up with HealthPartners on how the funds will be used.

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to accept the donation of \$16,000 from HealthPartners. The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

Rice Creek Watershed District Discussion

Mr. Corbid provided background for the board to discuss consideration of the request from the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) to remove a watershed district manager that has been appointed by the board.

At the County Board meeting on December 1, 2020, RCWD Manager Michael Bradley spoke during the public comment section of the meeting. Mr. Bradley presented a watershed district resolution titled "Findings and Resolution in the Matter of Complaints regarding Manager John Waller pursuant to the Board of Managers Code of Ethics."

Prior to that presentation, Mr. Nick Tomczik, RCWD Administrator, provided an email to each of the Washington County board members with a number of documents related to this matter. Those documents included:

- Copies of complaints from Rice Creek Watershed District Manager Steve Wagamon and Rice Creek Watershed District President Patricia Preiner;
- Copies of meeting minutes from six watershed district meetings from August 2020 through November 2020;
- Materials related to a campaign brochure of Dave Povolny and related documents;
- Agenda materials and packets related to a wetland banking process of the watershed district that covered a period of 2015 through 2018;
- Information related to the issue of the salary for the watershed district administrator that covered a period from 2012 through 2017;
- Materials related to the process of appointing watershed district managers from the City of Circle Pines, the watershed district, Anoka County, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The RCWD resolution presented to the Washington County Board by the watershed district, requests the county board convene a hearing for the purpose of removing Mr. Waller from the

watershed district board. Mr. Waller's current term on the watershed district expires on January 18, 2022.

Washington County Attorney Civil Division Chief Sue Tice provided the statutory requirements and rule context that are referenced in the resolution.

Ms. Tice stated that a watershed district is a political subdivision of the state with the power, authority, and duties presented in Minnesota Statute §103D. The Minnesota Legislature has given watershed district managers highly substantial statutory duties and powers, including the power to levy taxes and assessments, issue debt, exercise eminent domain, and regulate land use activities impacting water resources. (MN Stat. §103D.335, subd. 1, 11, 19; 103D.341; 103D.901.905).

The watershed district manager's role is not an extension of the County Board's powers. A watershed district has geographic jurisdiction broader than the County and it pursues purposes defined by statute and not delegated by the County Board. However, County Boards representing the counties within which the watershed district lies make all district manager appointments subsequent to the initial creation of the watershed district. County Boards appoint watershed district managers and County Boards have the power to remove watershed district managers.

Minnesota Statute classifies a watershed district manager as a "public official." The removal of a public official generally is "at will" unless restricted where a statute creates an office to be filled by appointment for a fixed term. Where that is the case, the appointing authority can remove a public official from office for "cause."

A watershed district manager in Minnesota is appointed for a fixed term pursuant to MN Stat §103D.315 subd. 6. Removal of a watershed district manager is addressed in MN Stat. §103D.227 subd. 3, which provides that the appointing authority may remove a member of a watershed management organization's board for "just cause." That statute goes on to provide that the Minnesota State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) shall adopt rules prescribing standards and procedures for removing members of watershed management organization boards for "just cause."

Therefore, the statutory language addressing removal authority over watershed district managers given to County Boards is permissive. The appointing authority may remove a watershed district manager for just cause.

BWSR has adopted Rule 8410.0040 Subd. 1 entitled "Removal for Violations" pursuant to the statutory directive. That rule provides as follows:

- A Manager of a Watershed District may be removed from the position by a majority vote of the appointing authority before term expiration for violation of a code of ethics of the watershed management organization or the appointing authority for malfeasance, nonfeasance or misfeasance after being provided an opportunity for a hearing before the appointing authority.

Ms. Tice concluded that the rule language addressing removal standards and procedures is also permissive. The appointing authority may, by majority vote, remove a watershed district manager for just cause, meaning a violation of a code of ethics constituting malfeasance, nonfeasance, or misfeasance, only after having provided the manager with an opportunity for a hearing before the appointing authority.

As has been stated, the RCWD has presented Resolution No. 2020-26 and Exhibit A to the Washington County Board of Commissioners in the matter of complaints regarding Manager John Waller.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners determined they do not wish to proceed with the removal of Manager Waller. No action was taken.

Authorize Permanent Use of Fund Balance for COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Expenditures

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported during 2020, the county utilized federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to pay for pandemic-related costs, including technology, to allow staff to work remotely while protecting the cyber environment. CRF was also used to pay for personal protective equipment to protect staff. The need for these protections continues, even though the deadline for CRF is passed.

Shortly after the Emergency Declaration in March, the board authorized use of contingency funds in the 2020 budget to pay for emergency expenses related to the pandemic. Much of the expenditures that were anticipated were covered by CRF funds. The permanent use of fund balance in the amount of \$250,000 will provide funding to continue these protections into 2021.

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, to authorize permanent use of fund balance in the amount of \$250,000 for continued COVID-19 pandemic-related expenditures for technology and personal protective equipment and supplies. The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

Resolution Recognizing the Washington County Community Development Agency for 40 Years of Service

Mr. Corbid presented recognition of the Washington County Community Development Agency on its 40th Anniversary.

Created in 1980 as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the first meeting was held on January 20, 1981. For the past forty years, the HRA, now the county's Community Development Agency, or CDA, has:

- Helped low and moderate income families obtain and sustain affordable housing;
- Helped expand housing choices for all people;
- Helped to eliminate blight and underutilized properties through its redevelopment programs; and
- Helped communities recover from natural disasters and emergencies.



In just the past few years, the CDA has taken on the additional role of helping communities grow businesses and jobs. The resolution recognizes the staff of the HRA/CDA over the past 40 years and 54 county residents that have served as Commissioners on the CDA Board.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-011** as follows:

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE FORTIETH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

WHEREAS, on June 17, 1980, the Washington County Board of Commissioners created the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, now known as the Community Development Agency (the “Agency”), after determining the need for government assistance to address the redevelopment of substandard or blighted areas, housing to veterans and their families, and the shortage of decent housing available to low and moderate income households; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1981, the County Board of Commissioners appointed representatives from each County district to serve as commissioners of the Agency, the first of fifty-four dedicated citizen volunteers who have led the Agency, to date; and

WHEREAS, forty years ago, the Agency was officially established when the Agency Board of Commissioners held its first meeting, elected officers, and adopted bylaws and a seal on January 20, 1981; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, the Agency has helped low and moderate income families, seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities obtain and sustain housing affordable at their incomes through its rental assistance and rent restricted apartments throughout Washington County; and

WHEREAS, over the last forty years, the Agency has helped Washington County communities expand housing choices for people at all income levels and life stages through its housing financing programs, federal housing tax credits allocation, conduit bond issuance, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, over the last forty years, the Agency has helped Washington County communities eliminate blight and underutilized properties through its redevelopment programs, community development financing tools, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, during the last forty years, the Agency has helped Washington County and its communities prevent, address, and recover from disasters and emergencies including creating storm shelters, financing the creation of



fire stations and equipment purchases, responding to the Great Recession with foreclosure mitigation programs, and responding to the COVID-19 global health crisis with small business relief and homeowner stabilization funding; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, the Agency has helped homeowners succeed through its homebuyer education, home purchase financing, homeowner advisory programs, and home improvement financing; and

WHEREAS, over the last five years, the Agency has helped communities grow businesses and jobs through its business advisory and financing services, technical assistance, and marketing and promotion of doing business in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, in the forty years since its creation, the Agency has employed dedicated public servants who have steadfastly and innovatively pursued its mission of promoting community and economic development, and providing and maintaining affordable, decent and safe housing opportunities in Washington County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners, with appreciation and honor, recognizes the fortieth-year anniversary of the creation of the Washington County Community Development Agency and the many accomplishments and great impact of its first forty years on the resilience and prosperity of Washington County residents, businesses, and communities made possible by the Agency's leadership of citizen volunteers and dedicated employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners declares January 20, 2021 as Washington County Community Development Agency Day in Washington County.

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

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 Kriesel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none. The County Board meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The Board met in workshop session for an update on the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Loan Program. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

BF6D5C95BF3E41A...
Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

DocuSigned by:

2BB6324A826E467...
Lisa Weik
County Board Chair