



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 26, 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  
Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, via WebEx  
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3  
Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4  
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; none were heard.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Chair Weik indicated an incorrect date on Consent item 3F. County Administrator Kevin Corbid stated that in the Request for Board Action (RBA) report, under the background information, one of the dates listed for confidential paper shredding was April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is incorrect. The correct date is April 21<sup>st</sup> and was indicated verbally for the public record. This item does not need to be pulled because the incorrect date does not impact the action.

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

A. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-012** as follows:

### **REVISED RESOLUTION EXTENDING COVID SICK LEAVE BENEFIT**

**WHEREAS**, The federal government passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or “Families First Act”) on March 18, 2020 with an effective date of April 1, 2020 and a sunset date of December 31, 2020. One portion of the law requires certain employers, including state and local government, to provide employees with paid sick leave related to COVID-19. The reasons for paid sick leave up to 80 hours include sick or quarantine for oneself and for family members; and

**WHEREAS**, There is some belief that the federal government may extend the “Families First Act” into 2021 in a new stimulus bill, but this has not yet occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, There is some belief that the Minnesota Legislature may create a new sick leave mandate for COVID-19 related purposes for 2021 but there has been no announcement to substantiate that belief; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources is recommending that Washington County allow employees who have COVID-19 sick leave hours remaining to be allowed to use those hours until June 30, 2021 for quarantine or isolation reasons related to the COVID-19 illness; and

**WHEREAS**, Approximately eighteen percent of our employees have used this benefit, however the rate of infection is increasing and it is expected some employees will need to rely on these hours over the coming months; and



**WHEREAS**, Many of our fellow county jurisdictions have granted additional sick or personal leave for employees dealing with COVID-19 related absences into 2021 for their employees; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Commissioners is directing Human Resources to extend current employee balances of paid sick leave, called COVID Sick, through June 30, 2021 for regular employees, excluding temporary employees. If the federal government extends the Families First Act or the federal or state government create a different leave benefit for employees for COVID-19 purposes, the COVID Sick leave granted under this Resolution will become null and void and the county will revert to the new or revised law.

- B. Authorize permanent use of fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to fund lump sum wage increases included in 2021 collective bargaining agreements.
- C. Approval for reclassification of the Coordinator to the County Administrator position to a supervisory position.
- D. Authorize the Deputy County Administrator to approve the grant agreement between the Department of Human Services and Washington County for the Emergency Solutions Grant in the amount of \$473,225, for the period of January 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022.
- E. Approve Contract No. 13923 with NEOGO covering the new employee performance management system, the continuation of the applicant examination system, and job openings advertising with GovernmentJobs.com.
- F. Approve licenses for the use of real property for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair, County Administrator, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 373.02.
- G. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-013** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
GRANT AGREEMENT SG-14294**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Legislature in 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3 Section 4 appropriated funds for State Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 from the Constitutional and Land Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to implementing agencies as required under the new Minn. Stat. § 85.53 for parks and trails resources ("Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation"); and,



**WHEREAS**, Grantee is authorized by Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3 to receive grants from Parks and Trails Fund Appropriations (P&T) to support parks and trails of regional significance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council is authorized by Minn. Stat. § 473.301 to make grants to eligible governmental units for the purpose of acquisition of regional recreation open space in accordance with the Metropolitan Council’s Recreation Open Space Policy Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council has expressed its commitment to issue bonds for acquisition and betterment of regional recreation open space lands (“Council Park Bonds”); and,

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is a governmental unit eligible for a Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation Grant; and,

**WHEREAS**, Washington County Parks applied to Metropolitan Council for a Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation Grant for the partial reimbursement of the purchase price for the property at PID 05.030.20.11.0002 within the planned boundary of Pine Point Regional Park.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Commissioners accepts the aforementioned grant from the Metropolitan Council and authorizes its County Board Chair and County Administrator to execute on behalf of the county a Metropolitan Council Grant Agreement SG-14294 conditioned upon approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney’s office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the agreement and restrictive covenant to be imposed upon the property at PID 05.030.20.11.0002 as a condition of the grant and authorizes Washington County to enter into the restrictive covenant agreement through the execution of the County Board Chair and County Administrator.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the recording of said restrictive covenant agreement with the Washington County Recorder’s Office.

- H. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. 11791 with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. in the amount of \$167,160 for the County State Aid Highway 19 (Woodbury Drive) Mobility and Safety Improvement Project.

I. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-014** as follows:

**APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
WASHINGTON COUNTY AND SUMMIT FOOD SERVICES LLC**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is authorized to enter into an agreement with Summit Food Services LLC to provide the County Jail with professional food services at a fixed cost.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 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 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Priorities and Process Updates**

Public Health and Environment Director Lowell Johnson reported that the COVID-19 vaccine is allocated by the federal government and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the State of Minnesota. Minnesota receives 60,000-65,000 doses each week and this is far less than what is adequate to meet the needs of the population. Some of what the state receives goes directly to the long-term care vaccination program, which is managed by the CDC and pharmacy providers.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) receives the state allocation and distributes it to providers in health systems, pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and local public health departments. The county also has contractors, such as BlueStone and Geritom, to support vaccination efforts.

Mr. Johnson reported that because supply has been limited, a detailed distribution plan has been developed in Minnesota. The top tier, Phase 1a, first priority, are people who are regularly exposed to and needed to treat COVID-19 patients. These include hospital personnel, skilled nursing facilities, EMS personnel, community vaccinators, and COVID-19 testers. The second priority is hospital personnel (expanded health care professions), urgent care settings, dialysis centers, and assisted living facilities. The third priority is adult residents in intermediate care facilities, health system personnel, and non-affiliated health personnel.

Mr. Johnson reported on how Washington County is doing to provide vaccines to the public. There are 8,849 people with at least one dose in Washington County, and 1,785 who have completed the vaccine series of two doses. The state has set a new benchmark that when a county receives its vaccines, 90% of the vaccines should be given within a 72-hour period. The



state distributes the allocation without asking about the specific amount needed. Although this can present scheduling challenges, the county has been hitting that benchmark.

The Public Health and Environment (PHE) Department continues to focus on those identified in Phase 1a. Mr. Johnson reported on the following statistics, as of January 22, 2021:

Total vaccine doses received by Washington County PHE	3,200
Number of clinics held	11
Number of additional clinics scheduled through 2/1/2021	8
Number of individuals vaccinated; 1 <sup>st</sup> dose	1,013
Number of vaccinations provided to BlueStone/Geritom	1,050
Doses needed for two clinics on 1/25/2021	300 (approx.)
Doses that must be reserved for second doses	800

Moderna and Pfizer recommend second doses within approximately 4 weeks after the first dose. That leaves only 37 unallocated doses by the end of the day on January 25, 2021. These doses will be distributed (along with additional doses from MDH on 1/26/2021) at vaccine clinics scheduled this week.

The State of Minnesota is responding to federal directive to vaccinate beyond Phase 1a with a pilot program intended to reach to persons age 65 and older, and education and child care personnel. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz wishes to have all schools open and back to in-person learning as soon as possible. The state is providing a very limited supply of vaccines to this expanded priority group. This pilot program is an opportunity to test phone/website registration, information systems, and vaccination operations in the state system. Site locations are Blaine, Brooklyn Center, Fergus Falls, Mountain Iron, Thief River Falls, Saint Cloud, North Mankato, Rochester, and Marshall. Registration by web is preferred or by phone (weekly each Tuesday at noon) for very limited supplies.

Mr. Johnson continued that this process is changing rapidly as the state works to determine how to best meet community needs and balance with the vaccine supply. Today (January 26<sup>th</sup>) persons age 65 and older may enter into the state system for the opportunity to be randomly selected for the vaccine at one of the pilot sites. Schools districts are receiving a limited supply of vaccines for employees and are determining priorities within their systems, and staff will be notified by the school district regarding available vaccinations.

At this time, local public health agencies are being asked by MDH to continue to focus on those identified in Phase 1a. The state intends to use Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) intentionally to increase reach to “at-risk” populations, effectively service those historically underserved and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and health equity.

Mr. Johnson stated that most people are expected to receive their vaccinations from their healthcare provider. Healthcare providers will notify residents when the vaccine is available. Healthcare providers will notify them as to how to schedule and where to go. Even after a person is vaccinated, people should still continue to stay at least six feet apart, wear a face mask, wash

hands frequently, and stay home when sick. Until there is more understanding about the protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccines, it is important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic.

Commissioner Kriesel asked if any of the vaccines received by the county had been compromised. Mr. Johnson said if a vial has been opened, all of it needs to be used within six hours, and PHE will contact people on the waiting list so the vaccine is not wasted. Mr. Johnson said there have only been a handful that had to be discarded. Commissioner Kriesel asked what happens if a person is unable to get the second dose within the timeline. PHE Deputy Director David Brummel responded that best practice is within 28 days because protection increases with the second dose. If a person does not get the second dose within the timeline, they would not need to start over.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the current number of vaccinations provided has reduced COVID-19 case numbers. Mr. Johnson said it is too early yet to see the impact and will follow up as to when a correlation will be seen. Commissioner Johnson asked why there are two doses for the vaccine. Mr. Johnson explained the methodology of how Moderna and Pfizer developed the two-dose vaccine. The first dose was developed to introduce a partial protection factor, to allow the body to begin to build that immunity and create antibodies, then the second dose is a boost to full immunity. The body can respond better to a lower dose and begin to develop natural immunity, rather than one large dose.

Commissioner Karwoski asked where Washington County fits in the order of receiving the vaccine for distribution. Mr. Johnson said the first allocation went to healthcare systems with large distribution lists. Pharmacies are also assisting in distribution within the community at skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities. The county's role is consistent to be a safety net, or to be targeted to certain groups of the population. Commissioner Karwoski asked how the county will proceed as production of the vaccine increases. Mr. Johnson said the PHE department is prepared to expand the clinics for increased volume of vaccinations.

Commissioner Miron asked if the expectation of the COVID-19 vaccine protocol will be an annual vaccination. Mr. Johnson said the rapid development and rollout of the vaccine is under the emergency use operation. The first persons vaccinated were not in a trial, and they can enroll in a follow-up program to check in on a regular basis. This is a very real-time medical experiment taking place. There are many unknowns at this time, and more will be learned in the future. Commissioner Miron asked how the vaccine is stored. Mr. Johnson reported the Pfizer vaccine requires the ultra-cold storage and the state has various locations where it is held. It is transported with dry ice and must be used in a relatively short period of time. The county receives the Moderna vaccine and it does not require ultra-cold storage. The county has it stored in a high-quality refrigerator that has temperature sensing monitors and PHE has a protocol for that storage. Commissioner Miron asked what staffing impacts this is having for the PHE department. Mr. Johnson said there are approximately 90 full-time equivalent employees and everyone has a participation role in emergency response.

Commissioner Weik asked regarding the coronavirus variants that are appearing: Are local health officials notified when a patient has been identified with the strain is living in Minnesota

and/or a Washington County resident? Mr. Johnson said the county's epidemiologist is in regular contact with the state department epidemiologist, and the county would know if that case is in the community. The transmissibility of this variant strain is increased and can be spread more easily, and the county would want to inform the community with the information quickly on how to stop transmission.

Commissioner Johnson asked what age a person needed to be to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Johnson reported that the age is 18 to receive the Moderna vaccine, and age 16 to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

### **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](http://www.co.washington.mn.us), under "County Board."

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

### **EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – HUMAN RESOURCES**

Commissioner Miron moved to move to an Executive (closed) Session, the time being 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

The Board met in Executive Session with Human Resources staff for the purpose of discussing strategy for negotiations with bargaining units that have contracts that expired at the end of 2020. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson and Miron, Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, Angie Nalezny, Paula Graff, and Don Theisen.

The County Board reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kriesel 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 11:13 a.m.

### **BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH PUBLIC WORKS**

The Board met in workshop session for a presentation of the Square Lake Special Recreation Feature Master Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.



The Board met in workshop session for a review of the Gold Line Joint Development project for a new County Service Center. 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:

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Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Lisa Weik  
County Board Chair