

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

**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 Fran Miron, District 1  
                  Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2  
                  Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3  
                  Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4  
                  Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

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

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1.   Approval of the January 10, 2023, and January 17, 2023, County Board meeting minutes.
2.   Approval to appoint Jan Webster, Denmark Township, to a partial, first-term as a member on the Personnel Board of Appeals (PBA) expiring December 31, 2024.
3.   Approve revisions to Fiscal Policy #2104.
4.   Approve revisions to Payment of County Obligations Policy #2501.
5.   Approve licenses for the use of real property in the cities of Stillwater and Mahtomedi for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator.
6.   Approve Grant No. 15291 with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the 2023 Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant.

7. Approve the 2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Agreement No. 15307 between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Washington County Sheriff's Office, for \$183,750, for the period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

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

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Grant Agreement for Mobile Crisis Services**

Division Manager Kathy Mickelson presented a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for 2023-2024 Mobile Crisis Services for \$1,185,822, which will provide adult and children's mobile mental health crisis response services, in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes.

Ms. Mickelson reported that the county's Crisis Response Unit (CRU) is comprised of trained, mental health practitioners and professionals, who are able to provide psychiatric services to individuals outside of a traditional clinical setting. CRU provides services such as helping people navigate the healthcare system and finding resources, providing assessment or stabilization services when a person is discharged from the hospital, or assisting people in a crisis situation to identify coping skills, all of which are effective ways to divert people from psychiatric hospitalization. They also serve as liaison for law enforcement, schools, hospitals, and community agencies. Crisis services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This grant will allow the department to continue the current CRU structure, with the addition of a Case Aide to help with administrative support. It will also allow the opportunity to expand the continuum of care by including peer support services as part of the crisis team. Peer support services are provided by certified peer specialists. These specialists have had personal experience with mental illness and are trained, indirect service mental health staff. Certified peer specialists offer support and help to individuals with mental illness by sharing their stories and helping individuals to discover their strengths.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Grant Agreement No. 15316 for Mobile Crisis Services with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for \$1,185,822, for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

### **Overview of the Family Resource Center Project**

Division Manager Sarah Amundson presented an overview of the Family Resource Center project, and its major goals, milestones, and progress.

Ms. Amundson reported that Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are a community-based support hub offering services, support, and opportunities for families, which are responsive to the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities and populations served. Common services provided are

parenting support and education, child development activities, and access to resources for families. FRCs focus on a reduction of child abuse in the community, and empower families to be strong, healthy, and successful, with an overall goal of reducing the need for child protection services.

Many other states have FRCs, and it is a nationally recognized model and is growing across the country. The National Family Support Network (NFSN) provides training and support. The Sauer Family Foundation is supporting this work through grant opportunities. Sauer is seeking to decrease child protection involvement and out-of-home placement for children, and increase connections, opportunities, and support for families. Washington County applied to explore and assess the feasibility and evaluate the need for an FRC.

Ms. Amundson continued that the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) has a policy platform to encourage legislative action to fund FRCs in the state. Scott County is the first county to develop and utilize family resource centers, currently housed within libraries and food shelves in its communities. Other counties have received grant awards from Sauer including St. Louis County and Pine County. Washington County will collaborate with its partner counties, as all are supported by AMC and NFSM.

This grant fits well with Community Services' mission and strategic directions of reducing disparities, supporting COVID-19 recovery, transforming service delivery, and integrating services. It also aligns well with the creation of a Prevention Unit within the Children's Division, and the county's community health workers, a shared initiative between Community Services and Public Health & Environment departments.

Ms. Amundson reported that the Sauer Family Foundation has awarded Washington County \$74,763 and Community Services staff will:

- Conduct an environmental scan by reviewing the best practices across the country; identifying what is working well currently for families in Washington County, and where are areas for improvement; what opportunities exist for new service offerings/supports; outline what potential threats/barriers may hinder this work; and visit FRCs that are already in place and learn from their expertise.
- Utilize existing community data by conducting surveys of community agencies and individuals with lived expertise, and facilitate community listening sessions.
- Create meaningful partnerships, relying on the local expertise and knowledge of community partners to help in building this prospective plan.
- Conduct a community and partnership assessment, driven by the needs of community and those with lived experience.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Contract for the County State Aid Highway 3 Improvement Project**

Engineer Erin Clarkowski presented a contract for final design of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 Improvement Project. This project is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as #RB-2641 and the location is CSAH 3 (Norell Avenue North) from CSAH 7 (Square Lake Trail North) to CSAH 4 (170th Street North).

Ms. Clarkowski reported that preliminary design and community engagement were completed in 2021, gathering community feedback and determining the scope of the project. This allowed Public Works to lay the groundwork for a successful project. The main objectives of the project are pavement rehabilitation, improving traffic operations on eastbound CSAH 4 with a new right-turn lane to southbound CSAH 3, and roadway stabilization and protection of the pond environment, with a new retaining wall at Warner Nature Pond.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that this consultant contract will include project coordination of final design, public engagement, utility coordination, permitting approvals, and right-of-way necessary to deliver this project. Final design will be completed later this year, to allow for construction bids in early 2024. This project is funded with Highway State Aid funds.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 15288 with Stonebrooke Engineering to perform final design engineering services for \$213,151 for the CSAH 3 Improvement Project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

### **2023 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program Grant**

Engineer Andrew Giesen presented a resolution authorizing submittal of the application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding under the 2023 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for the Highway 36 and County State Aid Highway 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue) Improvement Project, and two letters of support for RAISE grant funding.

Mr. Giesen reported that RAISE is the U.S. Department of Transportation's discretionary grant program. This program provides an opportunity to award federal funds to local projects that will make transportation systems safer, more accessible, and more sustainable. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2023.

The county is requesting \$20 million in RAISE funds for this \$40 million project.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2023-009** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION  
TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR  
FUNDING UNDER THE REBUILDING AMERICA'S  
INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY  
PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program aims to make transportation systems safer, more accessible, and more sustainable; and

**WHEREAS**, under the RAISE program, \$1.5 billion has been allocated in grant funding to help communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is an eligible recipient for 2023 RAISE funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is proposing to submit a grant application as part of the 2023 RAISE Program for the following project:

1. Trunk Highway 36 at County State Aid Highway 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue) Intersection Improvements

**WHEREAS**, the project will be of mutual benefit to Washington County, and the Cities of Grant and Lake Elmo, as well as the public that travels from multiple cities and states throughout the Trunk Highway 36 corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the project is selected as part of the 2023 RAISE program; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is committed to completing the project, if selected, and funding is provided as part of the 2023 RAISE Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Washington County is requesting funding from the federal government through the 2023 RAISE program and the county is committed to completing the project identified above and providing the county share of funding.

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

Mr. Giesen continued with a request to approve two letters of support.

The first letter supports the City of Cottage Grove's RAISE application requesting \$25 million for the County Road 19A/100<sup>th</sup> Street Realignment Project.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve the letter of support for the City of Cottage Grove's 2023 RAISE program grant application for the County Road 19A/100<sup>th</sup> Street Realignment Project. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The second letter supports Chisago County's RAISE application requesting \$20 million for the Trunk Highway 8 Reconstruction Project.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the letter of support for Chisago County's 2023 RAISE program grant application for the Highway 8 Reconstruction Project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Federal Legislative Updates**

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference will be February 11-14, 2023. Ms. Lucke reported that Commissioner Bigham will be serving on the Justice & Public Safety Steering Committee, Commissioner Clasen will be serving on the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee, and Commissioner Karwoski is serving on the Transportation Steering Committee. Wayne Sandberg, Public Works Director, will also be serving on the Transportation Steering Committee. Those committees are meeting all day Saturday, and the conference agenda begins Sunday. On Tuesday morning, staff will be meeting with Federal Transit Administrator Nuria Fernandez.

Ms. Lucke reported that this is the third year of Community Project Funding, and Congress members have begun to reach out for project ideas. This funding needs to align with an existing funding source. Washington County has been a recipient of Community Project Funding for projects the past two years for the Central Greenway trail extension, and 20 squad cars and a patrol boat in the Sheriff's Office. Staff will be working closely with Downs Government Affairs to bring forward a slate of projects.

Public Works Planning Director Lyssa Leitner reported that the full funding grant agreement (FFGA), which will commit more than \$200 million in federal funds for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project, has made it to the final stage for review. Ms. Leitner reported that the grant has been under review for nearly a year. This review alerts Congress that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has followed all of the rules in the federal program, and that FTA is intending to award the amount that Congress budgeted. All funds for the Gold Line were committed in the federal fiscal 2022 budget; therefore, Congress does not need to act any further to commit funds in future years. That is exceptionally rare. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has full authorization to execute the grant. Ms. Leitner said staff are thrilled with this news, as this project has been a decade in the making. Ms. Leitner reported that staff are working closely with the Metropolitan Council, as it will execute the grant locally.

### **State Legislative Update**

Margaret Vesel, Larkin Hoffman, reported that legislators are four weeks into the legislative session and the pace is unprecedented. Ms. Vesel reported that there are more than 1,300 bills introduced in the House. Ms. Vesel shared comparisons that in 2019, there were 632 bills, and in 2009, there were 410. Ms. Vesel reported that there have been 100 committee reports submitted, and as a comparison, in 2019, there were 16, and in 2009, there were 11.

Ms. Vesel reported that 30% of the legislators are new. There are 201 members, and there are more than 70 new members, and she emphasized that the Legislature has hit the ground running.

Ms. Vesel has been meeting with Washington County's legislative delegation. The 2023 legislative session began January 3, with a budget surplus projected at \$17.6 billion. Governor Tim Walz

announced his budget recommendations on January 24, which included \$30 million for County Program Aid, funding for Community Corrections, and \$3 million for metro parks, which is in the bonding bill. The Legislature is working on a bonding bill, with the potential of one being passed in February, and one passed at the end of the year. The legislative end-of-session is May 22, and Ms. Vesel is optimistic that it will end early.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events 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**

No board correspondence was received.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Miron moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**

The board met in workshop session for an update on opioid settlement funding. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

The board met in workshop session to review Data Practices as it relates to the duties and activities of county commissioners. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION**

The board met in workshop session to discuss the Land and Water Legacy Program’s Mississippi Dunes conservation easement project in Cottage Grove. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.



Attest:

*Kevin Corbid*

Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator

*Gary Kriesel*

Gary Kriesel  
County Board Chair