



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

**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, 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

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 conduct 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**

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

- A. Approval of the February 2, 2021, County Board meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-020** as follows:

**RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE TERMS OF PROPOSAL FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION SOLID WASTE FACILITY REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021A BY RAMSEY COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION SOLID WASTE FACILITY REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2021A BY WASHINGTON COUNTY TO RAMSEY COUNTY, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PARAMETERS, FIXING ITS FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS, DIRECTING ITS EXECUTION AND DELIVERY, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PAYMENT; AND APPROVING FORMS OF LOAN DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THEREWITH**

**WHEREAS**, the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Joint Powers Board (the “R&E Board”), a joint powers entity established under Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, as amended, consisting of two members, Washington County, a county and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota (the “County” or “Washington County”), and Ramsey County, a county and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota (“Ramsey County”), has incurred certain expenditures with respect to capital improvements to the Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Facility located in Newport, Minnesota (the “Facility”) necessary for system enhancements for recycling as identified in the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center Enhancements Financing Plan, including without limitation, a durable compostable bag processing system and a recyclables recovery system, and other improvements to the Facility (the “Project”).

**WHEREAS**, the County and Ramsey County have determined to assist the R&E Board in financing a portion of the costs of the Project through the issuance by Ramsey County of its General Obligation Solid Waste Facility Revenue Bonds, Series 2021A (the “Ramsey County Bonds”), the proceeds of which will fund a loan to the R&E Board to finance the Project and the costs of issuance of the Ramsey County Bonds and the Washington County Bond defined below (the “Enhancements Loan”) pursuant to: (i) a Loan



Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2021, between the County and the R&E Board (the “Loan Agreement”), and (ii) a Loan Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2021, between Ramsey County and the R&E Board.

**WHEREAS**, the County and Ramsey County have determined that the County’s proportionate share of the cost of the Project, the contribution to the Enhancements Loan and the payment of the debt service on the Ramsey County Bonds shall be 27% thereof (the “Washington County Portion”) and Ramsey County’s proportionate share of the cost of the Project, the contribution to the Enhancements Loan and the payment of the debt service on the Ramsey County Bonds shall be 73% of (the “Ramsey County Portion”); therefore, the County (i) will be legally obligated to Ramsey County pay a portion of the debt service on the Ramsey County Bonds as evidenced by the County’s Taxable General Obligation Solid Waste Facility Revenue Bond, Series 2021A (the “Bond” or “Washington County Bond”), pursuant to which the County will pledge its full faith and credit and taxing powers to pay the Washington County Portion of the debt service on the Ramsey County Bonds and (ii) will execute and deliver to Ramsey County an Assignment of Loan Agreement and Promissory Note, dated as of March 1, 2021, between the County and Ramsey County (the “Assignment”), providing for the assignment of the Loan Agreement and a promissory note from the R&E Board to the County evidencing the Washington County Portion of the Enhancements Loan (the “Note”).

**WHEREAS**, the payments made by the R&E Board under the Loan Agreement and the Ramsey County Loan Agreement will be credited on a pro rata basis against the Ramsey County Portion of the Enhancements Loan and the Washington County Portion of the Enhancements Loan.

**WHEREAS**, Ramsey County, by an ordinance adopted November 17, 2020, authorized the issuance of the Ramsey County Bonds pursuant to its Home Rule Charter to provide funds to finance costs of issuance and to fund a loan to the R&E Board to finance a portion of the costs of the Project.

**WHEREAS**, Ramsey County, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Ramsey County on January 26, 2021, found, determined and declared that it should issue and sell its Ramsey County Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$36,000,000 to provide funds for such purposes, by private negotiation, by way of a competitive sale in response to the Terms of Proposal for the Ramsey County Bonds attached hereto as EXHIBIT A (the “Terms of Proposal”).

**WHEREAS**, the County is authorized by Minnesota Statutes, Section 473.811, subd. 2, as amended, and Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475, as amended (collectively, the “Act”), to issue bonds to provide funds for the acquisition or betterment of solid waste facilities and may pledge to the



payment of such bonds and the interest thereon, its full faith, credit, and taxing powers, or the proceeds of any designated tax levies, or the gross or net revenues or charges to be derived from any facility operated by or for the county, or any combination thereof.

**BE IT RESOLVED** By the Board of Commissioners (the “County Board”) of Washington County, as follows:

Section 1.       **TERMS OF PROPOSAL FOR RAMSEY COUNTY BONDS.** The County Board hereby finds, determines and declares that the issuance of the Ramsey County Bonds by Ramsey County is necessary and in the best interests of the County and concurs in the action of Ramsey County with respect to the issuance, sale, and delivery of the Ramsey County Bonds in accordance with the Terms of Proposal.

Section 2.       **PRICING COMMITTEE.**

2.01    Pricing Committee. The County Board hereby establishes a pricing committee with respect to the Ramsey County Bonds and the Washington County Bond comprised of the Chair of the County Board (the “Chair”), the Administrator of the County (the “County Administrator”) and the County Auditor/Treasurer of the County (the “County Auditor/Treasurer”), or their designees (the “Pricing Committee”). The Pricing Committee is authorized and directed, with the advice of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, the County’s municipal advisor (the “Municipal Advisor”), to (i) review a tabulation of the proposals to be received in the manner specified in the Terms of Proposal for the Ramsey County Bonds; (ii) determine the final terms of the Washington County Bond, based on the proposal of the successful bidder (the “Purchaser”) for the sale of the Ramsey County Bonds and based further on the following parameters: (a) the principal amount, net of any reoffering premium and reoffering discount, shall not exceed the lesser of 27% of the aggregate principal amount of the Ramsey County Bonds or \$9,720,000, (b) the true interest cost shall not exceed 2.25%, (c) the final maturity of the Bond shall be no later than February 1, 2041, and (d) the interest rates and principal installments, payment dates, and redemption provisions shall be as set forth in the Ramsey County Bonds; and (iii) take any other appropriate action with respect to the Washington County Bond. The County hereby concurs in the issuance of the Ramsey County Bonds to the Purchaser subject to the preceding sentence and approves the issuance of the Washington County Bond to Ramsey County, at the prices and at the rates to be determined by the Pricing Committee in accordance with the preceding sentence.

2.02    Pricing Committee Certificate. The Pricing Committee shall meet on or about March 1, 2021 to determine the final terms of the Washington County Bond. Upon meeting for such purposes, the Pricing Committee shall complete and sign a certificate (the “Pricing Committee Certificate”) in substantially the form set forth in EXHIBIT B attached hereto. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to attach the Pricing Committee Certificate, when complete, to this resolution.

Section 3.       **WASHINGTON COUNTY BOND.**

3.01 Terms and Principal Amounts of the Bond. It is hereby determined that it is in the public interest for the County and Ramsey County to assist the R&E Board in financing a portion of the costs of Project through the issuance by Ramsey County of the Ramsey County Bonds, the proceeds of which will fund a loan to the R&E Board to finance the Project and the costs of issuance of the Ramsey County Bonds and the Washington County Bond as provided herein. To evidence the County's obligation to pay its proportionate share of the debt service on the Ramsey County Bonds, it is necessary and expedient to the sound financial management of the affairs of the County to issue the Washington County Bond pursuant to the Act in the denomination of its paramount, originally dated the date of delivery, and bearing interest at the rates and in the principal installment amounts all as determined by the Pricing Committee. The Washington County Bond will be printed or typewritten in substantially the form set forth in Exhibit C.

3.02 Optional Redemption. The Bond shall be subject to optional redemption prior to maturity to the same extent as the Ramsey County Bonds as determined by the Pricing Committee.

3.03 Execution and Delivery. The Bond will be prepared under the direction of the County Administrator and executed on behalf of the County by the manual signatures of the Chair and the County Administrator. Upon payment of the purchase price for the Ramsey County Bonds in accordance with the contract for sale between the Purchaser and Ramsey County, the County Administrator will deliver to Ramsey County the Washington County Bond so prepared and executed.

3.04 Debt Service Coverage. The proceeds of the Bond will be loaned to the R&E Board pursuant to the Loan Agreement. The Bond will be secured by the loan repayments from the R&E Board required to be made to the County under the Loan Agreement, as evidenced by the Note, including without limitation the net revenues or charges to be derived from the Facility (the "Revenues"). It is hereby determined that the estimated collection of Revenues pledged to the payment of principal of and interest on the Ramsey County Bonds will produce at least five percent (5%) in excess of the amount needed to meet, when due, the principal and interest payments on the Ramsey County Bonds and that no tax levy is needed at this time.

3.05 General Obligation Pledge. For the prompt and full payment of the Bond, as the same becomes due, the full faith, credit and taxing powers of the County will be and are hereby irrevocably pledged. If Ramsey County notifies the Washington County Administrator that the balance in the debt service fund to be established for the Ramsey County Bonds (the "Debt Service Fund") is ever insufficient to pay the Washington County Portion of the principal and interest then due on the Ramsey County Bonds, the deficiency will be promptly paid out of money in the general fund of the County which is available for such purpose, and such general fund may be reimbursed with or without interest from the Debt Service Fund when a sufficient balance is available therein.

3.06 Authority to Negotiate the Sale of the Bond. The County is authorized by Section 475.60, subdivision 2(9) of the Act to negotiate the sale of the Washington County Bond, it being determined that the County has retained an

independent municipal advisor in connection with such sale. The actions of the County staff and the Municipal Advisor in negotiating the sale of the Washington County Bond are ratified and confirmed in all aspects.

3.07 County Auditor/Treasurer's Certificate as to Registration. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution with the County Auditor/Treasurer of the County (or the official of the County performing the functions of the County Auditor/Treasurer of the County) and to obtain the certificate required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.63, as amended.

#### Section 4.

4.01 Loan Documents. The County Board hereby approves the Loan Agreement and the Assignment (the "Loan Documents") in substantially the forms now on file with the County, and authorizes their execution by the Chair and County Administrator (the "County Officials"). The approval hereby given to the Loan Documents includes approval of such additional details therein as may be necessary and appropriate and such modifications thereof, deletions therefrom and additions thereto as may be necessary and appropriate and approved by the Pricing Committee in consultation with the Municipal Advisor and the County's bond counsel and by the County Officials; and the County Officials are hereby authorized to approve said changes on behalf of the County. The execution of the Loan Documents by the County Officials shall be conclusive evidence of the approval of the Loan Documents in accordance with the terms hereof.

4.02 Other Certificates. The Chair, County Administrator and County Auditor/Treasurer, or any of them, are hereby authorized and directed to furnish at the closing such certificates as are required by the parties to this financing transaction.

4.03 Amendments. The terms of the Bond, as set forth in this resolution, and the terms of the Loan Documents, are approved substantially as set forth in this resolution or substantially in the form on file on or about the date of adoption of this resolution with such additions, deletions, or other amendments as are mutually agreed to by the County and Ramsey County on or prior to the date of delivery of the Ramsey County Bonds and the Washington County Bond.

Section 5. NO REQUIREMENT OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE. With respect to the Bond, Ramsey County is exempt from the continuing disclosure requirements of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Consequently, the County will not enter into any undertaking to provide continuing disclosure of any kind with respect to the Bond.

#### Section 6. MISCELLANEOUS.

6.01 Authority Proceedings and Records. The officers of the County are authorized and directed to prepare and furnish to Ramsey County and to the attorneys approving the Bond, certified copies of proceedings and records of the County relating to the Bond and to the financial condition and affairs of the County, and such other certificates, affidavits and transcripts as may be required to show the facts within their knowledge or as shown by the books and records in their custody and under their

control, relating to the validity of the Bond and such instruments, including any heretofore furnished, will be deemed representations of the County as to the facts stated therein.

6.02 No Official Statement or Prospectus. It is determined that no official statement or prospectus has been prepared or circulated by the County in connection with the Bond.

6.03 Electronic Signatures. The electronic signature of the Mayor and/or the City Administrator to this resolution and to any Financing Documents or certificates authorized to be executed hereunder shall be as valid as an original signature of such party and shall be effective to bind the City thereto. For purposes hereof, (i) “electronic signature” means (a) a manually signed original signature that is then transmitted by electronic means or (b) a signature obtained through DocuSign or Adobe or a similarly digitally auditable signature gathering process; and (ii) “transmitted by electronic means” means sent in the form of a facsimile or sent via the internet as a portable document format (“pdf”) or other replicating image attached to an electronic mail or internet message.

6.04 Headings; Terms. Paragraph headings in this resolution are for convenience of reference only and are not a part hereof, and shall not limit or define the meaning of any provision hereof. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given them in the Loan Agreement.

- C. Approve the 2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49.
- D. Approve the Lower St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan.
- E. Approval of agreements related to the Washington County Low Interest Loan Program, and authorization for the County Board Chair and/or County Administrator to enter into the agreements.
- F.
  1. Award the bid to and authorize execution of Lease Agreement No. 13941 in the amount of \$9,281.25 with Ronald Shiltgen for the lease of agricultural land located in Big Marine Park Reserve.
  2. Award the bid to and authorize execution of Lease Agreement No. 13943 in the amount of \$9,279.00 with Ronald Shiltgen for the lease of agricultural land located in Pine Point Regional Park.
  3. Award the bid to and authorize execution of Lease Agreement No. 13942 in the amount of \$87,225.40 with Herman Farms for the lease of agricultural land located in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.
  4. Award the bid to and authorize execution of Lease Agreement No. 13944 in the amount of \$153,859.50 with Matthew Wohlman for the lease of agricultural land in St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

G. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-021** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF A FORCE  
ACCOUNT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, The Washington County Board of Commissioners on March 24, 2016, authorized the submittal of an application to the Regional Solicitation for funding under the Surface Transportation Program for traffic signal communication upgrades in Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the submitted project was selected for funding under the Surface Transportation Program; and

**WHEREAS**, a Force Account agreement is the most effective way to complete the proposed project.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Local Agency to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Board Chair and the County Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Local Government to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in “Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number 1044782,” a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

- H. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 13434 with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. to add an additional amount of \$174,800 to provide final design services to complete the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 14 Signal Replacement and Trail Construction Project plans and provisions.
- I. Approve Metropolitan Council Grant Agreement No. SG-12408 in the amount of \$535,113 Central Greenway Regional Trail and Lake Elmo Park Reserve Trail Improvement.
- J. Approve Mutual Aid Agreement No. 13947 between the City of Saint Paul and Washington County, to furnish assistance to one another in the event of specific emergencies.

- K. Approval of Joint Powers Agreement No. 13948 with the City of Bayport, to provide fuel to the city for law enforcement services.

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**

### **Update on Federal Transportation Funding through Metropolitan Council's 2020 Regional Solicitation**

Emily Jorgensen, Planner II, presented an update on the awarding of federal transportation funds through the Metropolitan Council's 2020 Regional Solicitation.

The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation project funding is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally-required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The funding program, projects, and related rules and requirements are established by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and administered locally through collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Every two years, the Regional Solicitation process allocates federal transportation funds to locally-initiated projects to meet regional transportation needs. As the region's federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Metropolitan Council works with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to review and allocate these funds. As authorized by the most recent federal surface transportation funding act, FAST Act, projects will be selected for funding as part of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) available in 2024-2025.

Ms. Jorgensen reported that in 2020, Washington County submitted 137 projects through the Regional Solicitation process for approximately \$200 million in available federal funds. Those 137 applications are split between three general categories: Roadways, Bicycle & Pedestrian, and Transit. Ms. Jorgensen said the applications can be 30 to 100 pages, depending on the project, and acknowledged the significant efforts of all entities involved in this process, including TAB, Metropolitan Council, Washington County commissioners, and staff.

Washington County was awarded funding for three projects: CSAH 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue) at Trunk Highway (TH) 36 Interchange was awarded \$10,000,000 for 2025; Multiuse Trail along Hudson Boulevard between Greenway Avenue and TH 120 (Century Avenue) was awarded \$825,865 for 2024; and, Pedestrian Facility from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 (75<sup>th</sup> Street) to Mahtomedi School Entrance was awarded \$265,800 for 2024.

Ms. Jorgensen reported on other funding awarded that was not submitted by Washington County. Metro Transit received \$7,000,000 for METRO Gold Line Downtown Transit Stations Modernization, and Ramsey County received \$1,000,000 for Maple Street/Interstate-94 Pedestrian Bridge Replacement. The City of Oakdale received \$400,000 for Multiuse Sidewalk on Greenway



Avenue from Hudson Boulevard to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and the City of Mahtomedi received \$335,583 for Safe Routes to School Multiuse Sidewalk on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street North from Warner Road to Glenmar Avenue.

### **Resolution for Joint Powers Mutual Aid Agreement and Equipment Loan Agreement**

Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer Wayne Sandberg and Emergency Services Manager Doug Berglund presented a resolution for a Joint Powers Mutual Aid Agreement to provide a process for units of government to share public works personnel and equipment with other agencies within the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Berglund stated that successful efforts in recovery from any disaster are dependent upon acquiring and prioritizing resources. The resolution will help the county to do that and expand those possibilities, and it is critically important during disaster time that the county has built relationships to reach out to and acquire resources.

Mr. Sandberg stated a mutual aid agreement allows intergovernmental cooperation and sharing of resources and services for mutual benefit. Governmental units include cities, counties, school districts, watershed districts, etc. This agreement supports cooperation during emergencies and the county retains all decision-making related to response, resources, and funding. Participating parties can utilize the resources for many reasons including routine circumstances, such as training efforts, maintenance operations, joint projects, and back-up support service. This agreement provides the flexibility for all units of government to use the resources located among all participating parties in the State of Minnesota.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-022** as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS JOINT POWERS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AND EQUIPMENT LOAN AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Washington County has collaborated and shared resources with other governmental units in emergency situations under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.331 and Section 471.59; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Joint Powers Mutual Aid Agreement and Equipment Loan Agreement allow for the sharing of resources with other governmental units that participate in the agreements in emergency and non-emergency situations; and

**WHEREAS**, these agreements provide a framework establishing liabilities and responsibilities while providing or requesting aid.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Board of the County of Washington authorizes entering into the Public Works Joint Powers Agreement and Equipment Loan Agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Public Works Director, County Engineer, and Emergency Services Manager are designated as both the Requesting Official and Sending Official for both agreements.

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.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Legislative Update**

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported on state and federal legislative updates. Larkin Hoffman, Washington County's state government relations advisor, reported on Friday that all bills for Washington County state funding requests will be jacketed within the next two weeks. The first committee deadline is March 10<sup>th</sup>, although there is no deadline for requests for bond funds.

Ms. Lucke followed up on the board's previous discussion about inviting the Washington County delegation for formal updates/discussions mid-session. The Larkin Hoffman team recommended targeting the afternoon of Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, based on legislators' committee schedules. Based on that discussion, staff will evaluate how to schedule additional conversations going forward at strategic times.

Ms. Lucke reported there are some bills the county is targeting for a defensive strategy. Senate File (SF) 39 requires a referendum for bond funds of more than \$1 million. It has no companion in the house. Without a companion, it is unlikely this bill will gain momentum, but staff will continue to watch it. House File (HF) 1027 (Hornstein) and its companion SF 957 (Newman), establishing the governor's budget for transportation and public safety activities, includes language that could impact county operational costs for transit operating in a dedicated guideway. The county is working closely with the Larkin Hoffman team, Brian McClung's team at Park Street Public, and partners at Dakota County and Hennepin County on the defensive strategy. This could be a discussion topic with the delegation on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, there are some emerging discussions that could impact how the county approaches truth in taxation, and the adoption of the county budget.

Ms. Lucke continued with the federal update. There is a \$1.19 trillion federal stimulus bill moving forward in the House which includes \$130.2 billion for counties and cities, of which Washington County's share would be \$50 million. Staff is working closely with the Downs team, the federal government relations advisor, to make sure the county's desire for flexibility, both in eligible expenses and time in which to spend funds, is reaching the federal delegation.

Ms. Lucke highlighted some items that are moving forward in the bill. In addition to direct funding for local governments for healthcare the package includes: \$46 billion for testing, contact tracing, and mitigation; \$25 billion to address health disparities and protect vulnerable populations; \$14



billion for vaccines; \$7.6 billion to hire public health workers; and, \$4 billion for behavioral and mental health services.

In addition, the package includes: \$50 billion for coronavirus related FEMA response and recovery; \$15 billion for Small Business Economic Injury Disaster Loans; \$14.9 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants; and, \$3 billion for COVID-19 related economic development grants.

Ms. Lucke noted that extended unemployment benefits expire on March 14, 2021, providing a possible target date for final action on the final legislation.

### **Small Business Relief Grant Program**

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported on funding for the County Local Business Relief Grant Program. There were more applications received than funding available and staff sought direction from the County Board on how to handle distribution of funds at a previous board meeting. Mr. Corbid reported that qualified Priority 1 applications will be fully funded. Qualified Priority 2 applicants will be prorated as directed by the board, and an estimate based on the number of total approved applications is \$12,000 for for-profit businesses, \$8,000 for non-profits, and \$3,500 for individual/home-based businesses. If there are fewer approved applications than currently estimated, the grant amounts will be increased in order to utilize all the funding available.

### **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**

No board correspondence was received.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kriesel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Miron 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 10:18 a.m.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Board met in workshop session for an overview of mental health services in Washington County. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

**BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH ADMINISTRATION**

The Board met in workshop session to review property tax abatement for economic development. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

The Board met in workshop session to review the projects included in the 2021-2025 Capital Equipment and Technology Plan (CETP). 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:  
  
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Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator

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Lisa Weik  
County Board Chair