



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 2, 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 Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- A. Approval of the February 9, 2021, County Board meeting minutes.
- B. Approval to appoint Temmy Olasimbo, Woodbury, to the Community Development Agency Board of Commissioners as a District 5 Representative, to a partial first term expiring December 31, 2022.
- C. Approval to appoint Don Pereira, Afton, to a partial first term expiring November 14, 2023, as a Manager on the Valley Branch Watershed District.
- D. Approval to appoint John Brach, West Lakeland, to a partial first term expiring November 14, 2022, as a Manager on the Valley Branch Watershed District.
- E. Approval to appoint Wendy Ward, Marine on St. Croix, to the Groundwater Advisory Committee as a Municipal Government Representative, to a partial first term expiring December 31, 2023.
- F. Approval to appoint Shelley Quam, Oakdale, to the Mental Health Advisory Committee as a District 2 Representative, to a partial term expiring December 31, 2023.
- G. Approval to appoint James Lovold, Oakdale, to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee as a District 2 Representative, to a partial term expiring December 31, 2023.
- H. Approve Contract No. 13954 with Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in the amount of \$240,000 for the period of February 15, 2021, through January 31, 2022.
- I. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-023** as follows:

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CONVEYANCE OF TAX
FORFEITED LANDS BY CONDITIONAL USE DEEDS TO THE
CITY COTTAGE GROVE AND CITY OF SCANDIA**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 282.01, Subd. 1a, para. (e) provides for the conveyance of tax forfeited land by the Minnesota State Department of Revenue to a local governmental subdivision of the state for no compensation or consideration by conditional use deed upon favorable recommendation of the county board, and



WHEREAS, requests have been received from the City Cottage Grove and City of Scandia for conveyance of tax forfeited lands by conditional use deed for authorized public use, and

WHEREAS, the parcels have been classified as non-conservation, and

WHEREAS, the requests from City of Cottage Grove and City of Scandia meet the definition of authorized public uses as defined in M.S. 282.01, Subd. 1a, para. (e) as described below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners recommend to the Commissioner of Revenue that the following conveyances by conditional use deeds be approved as submitted by the governmental agencies below.

City of Cottage Grove

1. Parcel 08.027.21.33.0044, Use #8 - Public service facilities such as fire halls, police stations, lift stations, water towers, sanitation facilities, water treatment facilities, and administrative offices.

City of Scandia

1. Parcel 23.032.20.33.0009, Use #2 - A park that is both available to, and accessible by, the public that contains improvements such as campgrounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or shelters.

J. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-024** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF
TAX FORFEITED LAND AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute Chapter 282 gives the county board the authority to manage tax forfeited property that is located within Washington County, and

WHEREAS, each year property forfeits for the non-payment of property taxes and the Property Records and Taxpayer Services Department, on behalf of the county board, works with the local municipalities and others to develop a plan to move the property into public ownership if there is a public use or purpose for the property, or to sell the property and return it to the tax rolls, and

WHEREAS, the parcels listed on the Public Auction Listing #2021-01 have been identified to be offered for sale to the general public through a public auction, and the attached terms for the sale have been developed, and



WHEREAS, the department will publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks of the public auction as required by law and will notify all adjoining owners of the lands to be auctioned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the basic sale price of each parcel appearing on the list filed with the County Property Records and Taxpayer Services Department be approved; and authorization for public sale be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, April 9, 2021, at the Washington County Government Center, Stillwater Minnesota; and the sale be for not less than the basic sale price, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sale date of April 9, 2021, is hereby confirmed and repurchase applications will no longer be accepted for parcels listed on the 2021 Public Auction Listing #2021-1, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms of the sale be set forth in the attached document titled as Terms for the Sale.

- K. Approval of an application for renewal of an On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for VR US Holdings, Inc., Afton Alps Resort, located in Denmark Township.
- L. Approval of an application for renewal of an On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for the Disabled Veteran's Rest Camp Association, located in May Township.
- M. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-025** as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION
TO THE 2021 REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM
COMPETITIVE EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has designated a portion of its regional parks bonds and park interest earnings to provide financial support to regional park implementing agencies for projects that will strengthen equitable uses of regional parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is one of ten implementing agencies responsible for regional parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has a focus on creating equitable use of the county's parks and trails for all our region's residents regardless of age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, or ability; and

WHEREAS, the Competitive Equity Grant Program will enhance institutional capacity around equity work across the Regional Parks System,



with the Metropolitan Council, and with individual implementing agencies;
and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit a grant funding request in the amount of \$400,000 for capital projects and non-capital expenses to the Metropolitan Council to fund the new equity initiatives within Washington County's Regional Parks and Trails.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the application listed above for funding under the 2021 Metropolitan Council Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program.

N. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-026** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS
TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FOR FUNDING UNDER THE LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature approved \$75 million of state transportation bond funds for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP); and

WHEREAS, projects that are eligible for funding shall be "Rural Road Safety" in the LRIP years 2021, 2022 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, the project must correct a transportation deficiency and incorporate a safety strategy as part of the proposed improvement project; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is an eligible project sponsor for funds and has evaluated potential project locations for which these funds would likely result in the greatest safety and operational improvement; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit applications for the following projects:

1. Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of County State Aid Highway 18 (Bailey Road) and Settlers Ridge Parkway/Cottage Grove Drive in the City of Woodbury.
2. Construction on County State Aid Highway 28 (Old County Road 78, and 110th Street S) approach to make the slope more gradual as it approaches Trunk Highway 95 (Manning Avenue S) in Denmark Township to improve sight distance.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is requesting funding through the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Road Improvement Program and the county is committed to completing the project identified above and providing the county share of funding.

- O. Approve the 2020 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Agreement No. 13978 between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Washington County Sheriff's Office, in the amount of \$183,750 for the period of January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Resolution to Approve Substantial Amendment to Washington County's 2019 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, and Authorizing Submission of such Grant Request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Washington County Community Development Agency Deputy Executive Director Karly Schoeman presented a substantial amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides for additional funding to the Community Development Block Grant program and designated as CDBG-CV funds. On May 26, 2020, Washington County processed the first round of CDBG-CV funding of \$427,331 through a Substantial Amendment. On September 11, 2020, the County was informed of an additional allocation of CDBG-CV funding of \$692,440, for a total of \$1,119,771. The CARES Act also waived the funding limit for public service activities, normally capped at 15 percent of the total annual grant, and waived the public comment period from a minimum 30 days to a minimum 5 days for jurisdictions to respond to the health crisis quickly and effectively.

Ms. Schoeman reported the CDBG-CV funds will be added to Washington County's 2019 Annual Action Plan so that funds can be used as soon as the plan is approved by HUD. The additional funds and new activities are considered a substantial amendment to the annual action plan and require approval by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. If approved today by the County Board, the amendment will be submitted to HUD. Once HUD reviews and approves, the grant agreement will be executed for use of the funds.



Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-027** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY'S 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF SUCH GRANT REQUEST TO
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Washington County (County) is an Entitlement Community for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County 2019 Annual Action Plan establishes priorities for the use of CDBG funds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects in the 2019 Annual Action Plan are eligible projects and are priorities identified in the Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, three types of substantial amendments to the CDBG are permissible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): the creation of a new activity or cancellation of an existing activity with no funds expended; the increase or decrease of an activity budget by at least \$100,000 at one time; and a change to the location and/or national objective or beneficiaries of an activity; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2020 the County and the Washington County Community Development Agency were notified of an additional allocation of additional CDBG funding of \$692,440 for coronavirus aid and relief (CDBG-CV); and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Community Development Agency notified the public of the proposed uses of the CDBG-CV funds and provided an opportunity to comment February 5, 2021 through February 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County CDA held a Public Hearing on February 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, no public comments were received by the Washington County CDA; and

WHEREAS, upon final CDBG-CV allocation of funds, HUD will require execution of an Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424); and



WHEREAS, receipt of the CDBG-CV funds will require execution of a grant agreement between Washington County and HUD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, that the Washington County 2019 Annual Action Plan be amended to:

- Add \$692,440 of CDBG-CV funds;
- Add an additional \$346,220 to Washington County Community Services provide homeless prevention services (\$596,796 CDBG-CV) and emergency assistance (\$149,224 CDBG-CV) in Washington County for a total of \$746,220;
- Add an additional \$346,220 to Washington County Community Development Agency to provide foreclosure prevention services (\$46,953.00 CDBG-CV) and emergency assistance (\$326,598.00 CDBG-CV) for a total of \$373,551; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amendment is approved for submission to HUD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board Chair or their designee is authorized to execute and submit the Application for Assistance and Certifications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair or his designee is authorized to execute the Application for Federal (SF-424, SF-424D and Certifications), Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Agreement with HUD for the acceptance of the CDBG-CV funds upon final receipt of the documents.

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.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported on state and federal legislative updates. On Friday, February 26th, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) released its February budget forecast showing a projected surplus of approximately \$1.6 billion for the next two-year budget cycle. That is a nearly \$3 billion swing from the last budget forecast, released in early December 2020 that projected a nearly \$1.3 billion deficit. MMB credits increased tax collections, lower-than-expected state spending, and the federal COVID-19 stimulus package for the significant swing. This should help with several of the county's legislative platform items, including local property taxpayer protection, the substance use disorder payback to the federal government, and an increase in funding for the Community Corrections Act counties subsidy, or at least not losing ground on that subsidy. The county's five-state funding requests continue to be jacketed and co-authored. There are no deadlines for state bond requests.

Ms. Lucke highlighted that staff had its first mid-session update with the Washington County delegation last Friday. It was well attended and a good opportunity to update legislators on the county's vaccination efforts and its coordination with the state. Staff was also able to provide bill numbers for its funding requests and direction, and discussed two defensive positions counties are being forced to take to protect county funding for parks and transit.

The Governor's budget for transportation and public safety was introduced in the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee approximately a week ago. It included language that shifted operational costs and capital maintenance cost for transit in a dedicated guideway onto counties. Through government relations staff and consultants, the four counties with existing or proposed transit in a dedicated guideway – Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey – are taking a coordinated approach against this new language. There is a hearing in the House Transportation Committee this Thursday. All four board chairs are being called to testify. A draft letter was emailed to the commissioners for the four counties to sign as written testimony. Changes are expected to the letter today as counties review and comment.

Ms. Lucke continued with federal legislative updates. On February 27th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan COVID-19 response package. As previously reported, this package includes \$350 billion in support for state and local governments. The debate over the American Rescue Plan now moves to the United States Senate.

A new opportunity for the 117th Congress is emerging called Community Project Funding. County staff received word about this over the weekend from the Downs Government Affairs Team. Congresswoman Betty McCollum has requested a list of project ideas from Washington County by March 14th. This is funding directly awarded by Congress. The House Appropriations Committee is enforcing a series of reforms to guarantee that Community Project Funding is dedicated to genuine need and not subject to abuse, one of the factors including clear public transparency. All House members will need to submit their requests online for public view. Only projects with demonstrated community engagement and support will be considered.

There are other factors to be considered. Staff has a meeting with the Downs Governmental Affairs team later this afternoon to review a list of project ideas that staff has collected from the Public Works Department and the Public Health & Environment Department to make a recommendation of what would be most competitive.

At next week's County Board meeting on March 9th during the legislative update, there will be a letter transmitting project ideas to Congresswoman McCollum's office, as well as a resolution of support for the board's consideration.

Local Business Relief Grant Program

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported on funding for the County Local Business Relief Grant Program. Mr. Corbid received information from Washington County Community Development Agency's Economic Development Director Chris Eng, that more than \$5 million in funding has been disbursed to local businesses. Mr. Corbid acknowledged the Open to Business group that has been the county's vendor, and the county's Accounting and Finance Department, for their work in meeting the deadline.

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.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – PUBLIC WORKS

Board Chair Weik stated the next item on the agenda is the review of an appraisal related to the County's possible purchase of parcels identified as PIDs 05.031.20.33.0001 and 06.031.20.44.0001 for inclusion into Big Marine Park Reserve. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(c), this meeting may be closed to the public.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to convene to Executive (closed) Session. 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 Board met in Executive Session with Public Works to review the appraisal for the property located at PIDs 05.031.20.33.0001 and 06.031.20.44.0001 as it pertains to its purchase for inclusion into Big Marine Park Reserve, the time being 10:26 a.m. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson, and Miron. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator; Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator; Susan Tice, County Attorney Division Chief; Jessica Oertel, Assistant County Attorney III; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer; Sharon Price, Property Acquisition Manager; Sandy Breuer, Parks Manager; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant.

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 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 10:53 a.m.




BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session for an update on the MOVE Washington County Wayfinding Plan, which establishes a long-term vision for wayfinding signage along Washington County trails. 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.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

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Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

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Lisa Weik
County Board Chair