



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

1. Approval of **Resolution No. 2023-019** as follows:

**RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR
PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS**

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

1. Recitals. The City of Cottage Grove, Minnesota (the “City”) proposes to use property tax abatements as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 through 469.1815 (the “Abatement Law”) to finance the construction of a park building at Glacial Valley Park (the “Project”). The City has requested in writing that the County also assist the Project pursuant to the Abatement Law.
2. Response to Request. The Board hereby declines, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1813, Subdivision 6(b), to grant an abatement for the Project, pursuant to the Abatement Law.

2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2023-020** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATIONS AND
ASSURANCES TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration consolidates all current federal requirements into its annual Certifications and Assurances, a single document to which each recipient of federal funds is required to certify compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorized the submittal of a proposal to the State of Minnesota for funding available through the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant in 2019 to improve access to provide transportation services and public transportation alternatives for people with disabilities, seniors, and others with special transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Washington County was awarded Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds which will be received and administered through calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota requires the timely annual submission of the Federal Transit Administration Certifications and Assurances as a condition for receiving Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the submission of the annual Federal Transit Administration Certifications and Assurances to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for each year throughout the Section 5310 grant period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington Board of Commissioners delegates authority to the Director of the Washington County Community Services Department to execute on behalf of Washington County.

3. Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. 15324 that allows the Washington County Sheriff's Office to provide fuel to the City of Oak Park Heights for law enforcement services.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Minnesota County Engineers Association Award

County Administrator Kevin Corbid announced that the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), at its annual meeting in January, awarded the Manning Avenue Interchange Project as the association Project of the Year for 2022. MCEA President Brian Pogodzinski and Public Works Director Wayne Sandberg presented the award.

Mr. Pogodzinski reported that each year the MCEA reviews projects that have been completed in the State of Minnesota, and selects one project for its Project of the Year award. The project must be worthy in one or more of these areas: unique design characteristics, environmental considerations, community relations and public involvement, construction management, unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions, and safety performance during construction. The Manning Avenue Interchange Project met all of these criteria.

Mr. Sandberg reported that the Manning Avenue Interchange has dramatically changed the landscape, improved connectivity, and eliminated a dangerous intersection. It has opened up possibilities for economic development and a future option for a regional trail connection that may someday link three regional parks and two regional trails. Mr. Sandberg acknowledged and commended many people who assisted in delivering this award-winning project, including construction and consulting companies, Brown's Creek Watershed District, local cities and their business communities, state and federal policymakers, county staff, and the County Board.

Mr. Sandberg concluded by thanking Mr. Pogodzinski for attending today's board meeting, and the MCEA for recognizing this transformative project.

National Recreation and Park Association Award

Mr. Corbid announced that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has recognized Public Works Senior Planner Connor Schaefer as one of its 2023 "30 under 30."

Mr. Sandberg presented the award to Mr. Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer has been with Washington County since 2016, and over the years has been the primary planner working with the Parks Division. Mr. Schaefer has led multiple park master plans, including Central Greenway Trail and Square Lake Park.

Each year, NRPA recognizes 30 recreation professionals who are making profound impacts in their communities and the field of parks and recreation. All nominees must be 30 years old or younger.

Mr. Schaefer intentionally and thoughtfully connects with communities of underrepresented populations — specifically people of color, first-generation immigrants, people with disabilities, low-income, and adults ages 65 and older — by tailoring engagement strategies to meet the needs and goals of the project and community. Mr. Schaefer also played a key role in establishing a regional Equity Grant Program. He worked with other regional parks and equity representatives to

design a new standard-setting funding approach to help park agencies address equity issues in parks and trails system.

Award winners are selected based on one or more of the following criteria: impact on the agency's community and service population; contributions to the professional development of the field of parks and recreation; and innovative ideas, programs, or research in the field of parks and recreation. Mr. Sandberg said it is clear to those who work with Mr. Schaefer that he excels in all three of these areas.

Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Corbid reported that the deadline to submit Community Project Funding to U.S. Representative Pete Stauber's office was last Friday. As directed by the board, staff submitted two projects, the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension project and the Public Safety Support project. Staff will be submitting requests to U.S. representatives Angie Craig and Betty McCollum's offices later this week, as well as submitting projects to U.S. senators. Mr. Corbid said that staff anticipates the Federal Transit Administration sending the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project to the Metropolitan Council soon.

State Legislative Update

Mr. Corbid reported that the first committee deadline is this Friday. There continues to be a fast pace with many bills that impact county governments being heard and debated. Staff continues to work with Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) and within professional associations to impact bills following the positions supported by the County Board, and by those larger county organizations.

There have been a number of election related bills that have either passed or are being considered. Staff will present a workshop today on elections and will touch on these new laws and proposals. Margaret Vesel from Larkin Hoffman noted this week that all of the county's priority bills now have been introduced in both bodies.

Mr. Corbid reported that the state's revenue forecast shows a decline in all the major transportation finance streams. This will certainly have an impact on the county's ability to complete the projects in the Capital Improvement Plan. For example, gas tax is projected to drop 1.2%, license tab fees are down 1.7%, motor vehicle sales tax is down 2.9%, and leased motor vehicle sales tax is down 11.4%.

Public Works Director Wayne Sandberg provided a summary of the discussions occurring around transportation funding. Mr. Sandberg reported that one of the key components in the Transportation Funding bill being discussed is the leased vehicle sales tax. This funding source originated in 2008, parallel to the development of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). When CTIB was created, suburban counties were supportive, but concerned that the money raised through the sales tax would primarily go to Hennepin and Ramsey counties. At that time, as a compromise, this funding source was allocated to the suburban Washington, Dakota, Scott, Carver, and Anoka counties.

Mr. Sandberg provided a chart showing performance of that fund. In 2012, revenue began to increase, with 2018 being the highest year of nearly \$8 million. This funding has since steadily declined. This fund is volatile, and it is dependent on the economy and vehicle leases, which makes it difficult to depend on. For 2023, the county's allocation is reduced to \$3.5 million.

Mr. Sandberg reported that during discussions of the transportation funding bill, state Representative Frank Hornstein and state Senator Scott Dibble indicated they would like to bring Hennepin and Ramsey counties into the leased vehicle sales tax equation, which would reduce allocations to the suburban metropolitan counties. The suburban engineers, working with AMC and MICA, have been identifying potential proposals that would allow for Hennepin and Ramsey counties to receive a portion of the revenue from the leased vehicle sales tax. A portion of that revenue stream would be shared by Ramsey and Hennepin, and the other metropolitan counties would divide the remaining share. To make up for the lost revenue, the suburban metropolitan would receive from a smaller share of the leased motor vehicle sales tax, and proposals are being reviewed that would move all of the state sales tax on auto parts to pay for transportation costs. Currently, a portion of the auto parts sales tax goes into the state's general fund. In order to fill the gap left from the leased vehicle sales tax change, metropolitan counties would receive 9% of auto parts sales tax and a portion of the new money that would go into the County State Aid Highway fund. If a proposal like this would be approved, the county would receive more funding for transportation than it currently does and is projected to receive in 2024. Mr. Sandberg concluded that the suburban engineers group will continue to work with AMC and MICA to protect the county's interest.

Appointments to Metropolitan Council

Mr. Corbid announced recent appointments to the Metropolitan Council for Washington County districts. Susan Vento was reappointed for District 11, and Gail Cederberg was a new appointment to District 12.

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, under "County Board."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session with Metropolitan Council members and staff regarding the goals and objectives in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to discuss election administration, including joint powers agreements for election services, 2023 updates, and 2024 preparations. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to review a request from the City of Woodbury for Land and Water Legacy Program funds. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Gary Kriesel

Gary Kriesel
County Board Chair