



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 11, 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
 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

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

Commissioner Johnson moved that Consent Item B be pulled from today's Consent Calendar for comment. 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.

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

- A. Approval of the April 27, 2021, County Board meeting minutes.
- B. (Item pulled)
- C. Approval to reappoint Pamela Skinner, Oakdale, to a tenth term as Manager on the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District expiring February 23, 2024.
- D. Approval to reappoint Wade Johnson, May Township, Paul Richert, Marine on St. Croix, and Andrew Weaver, May Township as Managers on the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District with terms expiring June 21, 2024.
- E. Approval to appoint Holly Johnson, Mahtomedi, to a partial first term expiring December 31, 2023, as the District 2 Representative on the University of Minnesota Extension Committee.
- F. Approve a grant application not to exceed \$750,000 to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP).
- G. Approval of 1.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) Correctional Health Nurses for the Correctional Health Nursing team in the Jail Medical Unit.
- H.
 1. Approval of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) continuation of Special Project Public Health Program Coordinator.
 2. Approval of 1.0 FTE Public Health Emergency Preparedness Special Project Office Specialist position.
- I. Approval of an application for a 1-4 day temporary liquor license for Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce for an event to take place on June 19, 2021.
- J. Approval of a temporary liquor license for the VFW Post 323 for an event to take place on August 4-8, 2021, during the Washington County Fair.



- K. Award bid and authorize execution of Contract No. 14061 in the amount of \$2,693,826.86 with Valley Paving, Inc. for roadway rehabilitation of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 (Olinda Trail N) in the City of Scandia, Minnesota.
- L. Approval of Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$8,800.00 to Contract No. 13957 with Valdes Lawn Care & Snow Removal, LLC for the Trunk Highway (TH) 36 and Manning Avenue Tree Clearing Project.
- M. Approval to set a public hearing on June 1, 2021 to review and consider amendments to the Washington County Development Code to enable coordination of membership between the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BAA) as recommended by the Planning Advisory Commission.
- N. 1. Award bid and authorize execution of Contract No. 14026 in the amount of \$7,499,993.38 with Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 (Woodbury Drive) Mobility and Safety Improvement Project.
- 2. Approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 13358 and Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 14027 between the City of Woodbury and Washington County for CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive) Mobility and Safety Improvement Project.

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

Resolution for Apraxia Awareness Day

Commissioner Johnson spoke to this resolution personally, and stressed the importance of early diagnosis and understanding of this speech disorder. Commissioner Johnson appreciates the recognition of apraxia and the community services available to help parents in navigating assistance for children who have this speech disorder.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve **Resolution No. 2021-060** as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, May 14 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day, during which awareness will be raised throughout Minnesota about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children; and

WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and

WHEREAS, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years to learn to speak; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will have diminished communication skills, but are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and

WHEREAS, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved; and

WHEREAS, public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Washington County and Minnesota is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice; and

WHEREAS, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 14 is “Apraxia Awareness Day” and residents Washington County and of Minnesota are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

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.

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution to Award Bid to Shafer Contracting Co. Inc. for Trunk Highway 36 and County State Aid Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) Interchange Project

Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer Wayne Sandberg presented construction bid awards and agreements for the Trunk Highway (TH) 36 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15/Manning Avenue Interchange Project.

Mr. Sandberg acknowledged Public Works staff who have been heavily involved in this project: Project Manager/Engineer Nathan Arnold; Design Engineer Frank Ticknor; Communication Specialist Allie Berndt; Construction Engineers Gerritt Bangma, Steve Wagner, and Randy Tetzlaff; and Right-of-Way Specialist Sharon Price.

Mr. Sandberg reported the TH 36 and CSAH 15/Manning Avenue intersection has been controlled by a stoplight for nearly 30 years. This project has been in discussion since the early 2000s, and with the opening of the St. Croix Crossing, traffic growth has increased dramatically, and intensified the need for improvements. Overall traffic growth in the region resulted in this intersection experiencing congestion and delays, along with safety issues. There have been access management issues with the frontage road being very close to the intersection, as well as a lack of pedestrian facilities and drainage issues.

Mr. Sandberg summarized the goals of this project: to improve capacity, safety, and operations; maintain/improve local access; constructability and fiscally responsible; maintain federal requirement for funding (northwest frontage road connection and maintain multiuse trail connection); community and agency acceptance; and maintain long-term transportation goals. This project meets these goals. This project is a community-based design and will operate extremely well and into the future.

Mr. Sandberg reported the project has a two-year construction timeframe and presented a financial review. Shafer Contracting Co. Inc. submitted the lowest bid at \$21,158,251.35, and with \$1,481,077.59 (7% construction contingency) the construction expenses are \$22,639,328.94. Project expenses include preliminary and final engineering costs of \$2,620,153.00, construction engineering costs of \$2,116,025.14, and right-of-way costs, which includes an Xcel tower relocation and the Brown's Creek Watershed District Reuse Project, of \$4,120,000.00. Total project expense is \$31,495,507.08. Ninety-three percent (93%) of construction funding sources for this project will be paid by external funds.

Mr. Sandberg commended the County Board for its work and support to prioritize this project. This project will create 230 jobs, and 17.9% of those jobs will be committed to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Goals include 5 trainee/2,000 hours of On the Job Training (OJT) and Equal Employment Opportunity of 22% people or color and 15% women.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-061** as follows:

**BID AWARD – HIGHWAY 36 AND MANNING
INTERCHANGE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in order to construct an interchange at Trunk Highway 36 and Manning Avenue/County State Aid Highway 15, the county solicited bids for this project; and,

WHEREAS, on April 6th, 2021 bid for the project were open and it was determined that Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the bid from Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$21,158,251.35 in order to complete the above described interchange project and authorized the county to enter into a



contract with Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. pursuant to the rights and obligations contained in the county's bid specifications and the Shafer Contracting Co. Inc. proposal thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract between the county and Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. be executed through the signatures of the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Washington County Administrator without further action of the County Board conditioned upon compliance with all bid specifications requirements and approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney's office.

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.

Cooperative Cost Agreements and Maintenance Agreements for Trunk Highway (TH) 36 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 (Manning Avenue) Interchange Project

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 13755 and Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 13757 between the City of Stillwater and Washington County for the Interchange project on TH 36 at CSAH 15. 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.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 13753 and Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 13754 between the City of Lake Elmo and Washington County for the Interchange project on TH 36 at CSAH 15. 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.

Set Public Hearing to Consider an Update to the County's Current Transportation Sales, Use and Excise Tax

Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer Wayne Sandberg presented a request to set a public hearing for June 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to consider an update to the county's current Transportation Sales, Use and Excise Tax, to include funding the development and construction of county Road & Bridge projects, as well as increase the tax to 0.5%.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve setting a Public Hearing for June 1, 2021, to consider an update to the county's current Transportation Sales, Use and Excise Tax to include funding the development and construction of county Road & Bridge projects, as well as increase the tax to 0.5%. 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.

Letter to Metropolitan Council Chair Regarding METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project

Public Works Director Don Theisen presented a letter for the board's approval, to send to the Metropolitan Council Chair, providing direction to remove Joint Development from the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to authorize the letter be sent to the Metropolitan Council. Commissioner Weik 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.

Update on West Central Service Center Project

Mr. Theisen presented an update on plans for a West Central Service Center. The objectives of this project include:

- Provide public-facing service space in the west-central area of the County;
- Meet demand today with a plan for the future;
- Enhance access to underserved communities by locating near public transit facilities;
- Utilize County Workplace Guidelines to develop flexible workspaces and technology to support employee engagement, safety, wellbeing, and enhance diversity and inclusion;
- Maximize space utilization and collaboration between departments;
- Enhance the user experience with clear wayfinding and efficient customer service counters and spaces;
- Deliver a facility that emphasizes energy efficiency, sustainability, and wellbeing;
- Maintain fiscal responsibility within long-range financial plan.

The county's Strategic Facility Plan was adopted in 2019 and identified that access to services was a challenge for customers in the west-central area of the county. The current service center in Woodbury needs to be replaced, but cannot be expanded. Three location options were identified along the METRO Gold Line, and the Interstate 494 Park and Ride site (METRO Gold Line station) was determined as the best option for location.

A joint development concept was developed, and unfortunately, financial objectives blocked the path to a successful lease-term agreement. The county took action today to provide written notification to not include joint development.

Mr. Theisen reported current efforts now include an architect working with the Building Services team to update the square footage needed for a new Service Center. This will frame what size of a building the county will need. Site searches of available properties in the METRO Gold Line area continue as well.

Mr. Theisen reported the City of Woodbury is requesting that Washington County build a new Service Center at the Stafford Library/Central Park campus, and vacate the current Woodbury Service Center in 2023. The city would purchase the property from the county per a 1983 agreement.

The benefits of a Service Center at Stafford Library/Central Park would be expanded partnership with the City of Woodbury by having a single location for county services at a familiar location. Some of the challenges are limited options to add square footage, and that the bulk of space would be above the Stafford Library, and the library would have to shut down for 18 months. County services would be disjointed, with a significant increase in vehicle traffic to an already busy site. In addition, this building is not on a current or proposed transit line.

Mr. Theisen concluded with the next steps, which is requested board support for the Office of Administration to notify the City of Woodbury that Stafford Library/Central Park will not be the location for the new Service Center. The county will explore what limited services could be at the site, and will work with the city on alternative sites to meet the 2023 schedule.

The County Board was in agreement to move forward with the next steps.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

State Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported seven days remain until the constitutional end to regular Legislative Session. All major policy bills have now been passed by the respective chambers, and conference committees have begun to sort out the differences. County staff awaits House and Senate leadership decisions on universal spending targets for all major budget areas.

Federal Legislative Update

Ms. Lucke reported the federal guidance for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was released from the U.S. Treasury yesterday. Washington County is receiving nearly \$51 million in federal funding from ARPA. The Accounting and Finance Department is interpreting the guidance in partnership with colleagues at the National Association of Counties (NACo), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA). Staff will meet with the county's federal legislative liaison, Downs Government Affairs, on Monday. A board workshop is planning for May 25th to discuss the funding guidance.

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.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – PUBLIC WORKS

Board Chair Weik stated the next item #9 on the agenda is listed as an Executive (Closed) Session to review an appraisal related to the county's possible purchase of parcels identified as: part of PID 22.031.20.14.0001, PID 23.031.20.23.0002 and part of PID 23.031.20.22.0002 for inclusion into Square Lake Special Recreational Feature Park. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, subdivision, 3(c) this meeting may be closed to the public.

Commissioner Miron moved to convene in Executive (Closed) Session. 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 Board met in Executive Session with Public Works, the time being 11:11 a.m., under Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, subd. 3(c) in order to review and discuss the appraisal and potential purchase of parcels identified as part of PID 22.031.20.14.0001, PID 23.031.20.23.0002 and part of PID 23.031.20.22.0002, for inclusion into the Square Lake Special Recreational Feature Park. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson, and Miron; County Administrator Kevin Corbid, Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Wagenius, Assistant County Attorney III Jessica Oertel; Public Works Director Don Theisen, Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer Wayne Sandberg; Public Works Right-of-Way Specialist Sharon Price; Parks Director Sandy Breuer.

The County Board reconvened at 11:44 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Johnson 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 11:45 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Board met in workshop session for an update on the current Section 5310 Grant activities and the Transportation Consortium, and the proposed activities included in the application for Minnesota Department of Transportation Section 5310 funding for 2022 and 2023. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.


BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session to discuss Washington County Historical Society funding request. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

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Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

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Lisa Weik
County Board Chair