



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 23, 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
Holly Hess, 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 Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bigham, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the May 9, 2023, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of a \$126,000 budget amendment from the Property Records Technology Fund to implement the OnBase Homestead Application Project.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2023-056** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN
APPLICATION TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THROUGH
THE 2025 METRO LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently accepting candidate projects for the fiscal year 2025 Metro Local Partnership Program; and



WHEREAS, the Local Partnership Program (LPP) facilitates statewide transportation partnership opportunities with local agencies through a competitive selection process; and

WHEREAS, the program provides construction funding for highway improvements at locations where state highways are involved, where there are not currently any improvements programmed by MnDOT, and where the improvements are mutually beneficial to all partners; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works is proposing to submit one application for consideration for LPP funding:

1. Extension of a left turn lane on Highway 61 in Hugo between the two CSAH 8 intersections (Frenchman Road and Egg Lake Rd N); and

WHEREAS, the project will be of mutual benefit to MnDOT, Washington County, and the City of Hugo; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the project is selected as part of the fiscal year 2025 Metro Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing the project if selected, and funding is provided as part of the fiscal year 2025 Metro Local Partnership Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County Board approves of the application requesting funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation through the 2025 Metro Local Partnership Program, and the county is committed to completing the project identified above and providing the county share of funding if the applications for state funding are successful.

4. Reinstatement of Contract No. 13273 between Washington County and Kimley-Horn for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Phase 3 Design Services.
5. Approval of **Resolution No. 2023-057** as follows:

**ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM THE MANY FRIENDS
AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF JEROME DETVILER FOR
INSTALLATION OF A BENCH WITH COMMEMORATIVE
PLAQUE TO BE PLACED AT COTTAGE GROVE RAVINE
REGIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and



WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Parks - Park Bench Program allows an individual or group to donate funds to install and maintain a bench to be used on a trail or near a park facility; and

WHEREAS, for a donation of \$3,500, a steel bench with commemorative plaque may be placed along a paved trail or park facility and will be guaranteed for a minimum of 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the many friends and family members of Jerome Denviler wish to place a bench in honor of him at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$3,500 from the many friends and family members of Jerome Denviler for installation of a park bench with commemorative plaque at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will maintain the bench site, including repair and replacement of the bench and plaque for a period of ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after ten years, Washington County has the option to dispose, replace, or relocate the bench and plaque as needed.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution Proclaiming May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month

Connie Tanner, Senior Planner in Community Services (CSD), and Lisa Wong, Senior Community Health Specialist in Public Health & Environment (PHE), presented a resolution to proclaim May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Ms. Tanner reported that Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of mental health wellness and to celebrate recovery. Every year, during May, Washington County joins the national movement to raise awareness, decrease stigma, and recognize services that support people living with mental health concerns. Mental health challenges affect all people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status. Mental health wellness is essential for overall health.

Ms. Tanner reported that now, more than ever, mental health awareness is critical. Those who experience historical trauma and those targeted by racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and other forms of oppression and violence face even heavier mental health burdens because of these harms. The collective trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic has also significantly contributed to mental health challenges in all age groups and communities.

Ms. Tanner reported that government systems play an important role in responding to these needs and providing mental health care and access. People recover and thrive when provided accessible, culturally appropriate, person-centered services and supports in their communities.

Ms. Wong reported on data that was released in the 2022 Minnesota Student Survey, which included 761 students in Washington County (223 males and 538 females) in Grades 8, 9, and 11. Girls reported higher rates of anxiety symptoms and depression symptoms, suicidal thoughts and attempts, self-harm and long-term mental health, emotional, or behavioral problems. Rates of bullying, self-harm, and attempted suicides also are of great concern for Washington County youth. Mental and emotional conditions increase the likelihood that youth adopt health-risk behaviors, as well as make them more likely to face chronic illness later in life.

Ms. Wong reported that LGBTQ+ students were about three times more likely than heterosexual students to report seriously considering suicide and four times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual students. Transgender students in the 11th grade are most likely to attempt suicide and are more than four times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender 11th grade peers.

Ms. Wong reported that the county uses a variety of public health strategies to support the mental wellbeing and resilience of Washington County residents, such as the WellSpring Project and Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). Additionally, a growing list of cultural and identity specific resources have been integrated in this month's messaging on the county's social media.

Ms. Wong reported that Washington County has offered free, one-hour online QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention trainings to anyone in Washington County. Since January 2023, 91 people have completed QPR, overwhelmingly representing schools, specifically Stillwater schools. Since 2017, 927 people have completed QPR.

Ms. Tanner reported that there is no longer one door for mental health services, and people can access care through multiple points within the county's service delivery model. Access and engagement examples include Navigators, Crisis Response Unit, Jail Mental Health, Homeless Services Outreach Team (HOST), Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Program, and Community Engagement Team.

Commissioner Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2023-058** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2023
AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, mental health awareness is more important than ever and essential to our overall health; and

WHEREAS, mental health challenges affect all people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, mental health wellness is heavily impacted by social determinants of health such as: economic stability, education, stable housing, social and community support and access to health care; and

WHEREAS, communities who have experienced historical trauma and those targeted by racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and forms of systemic oppression and violence can face an even heavier mental health burden because of these harms; and

WHEREAS, the collective trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly contributed to mental health challenges in children, youth, adults and elders; and

WHEREAS, people recover when provided accessible, person-centered, culturally appropriate services and supports in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Washington County reaffirms its commitment to improve the conditions that influence quality of life and health outcomes of Washington County residents through supporting culturally appropriate mental health and well-being initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Washington County collaborates across departments, organizations, and communities to serve the mental health needs of all residents; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate all Washington County residents living with mental health conditions, and express gratitude to the loved ones and mental health professionals who are there for them every day; and

WHEREAS, everyone has a role to play in building supportive and resilient communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners declares May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Washington County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners continues its commitment to partner with our community members to ensure that all mental health services are accessible, person-centered, and culturally appropriate for all residents.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Contract for County Highway 28 at Trunk Highway 95 Approach Improvement Project

Engineer Erin Clarkowski presented a contract for County Highway 28 (110th Street South) at Trunk Highway 95 (Manning Avenue South) Approach Improvement Project in Denmark Township. This project is identified as #RB-2681 in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that in 2019, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reconstructed a five-mile portion of Trunk Highway 95 that is adjacent to County Highway 28. The trunk highway was lowered significantly to improve sight conditions and operations of the intersection with County Highway 28. Due to the lowering of the intersection, the eastern county Highway 28 section of the intersection was significantly steepened, creating difficulty for motorists approaching the intersection from the east to stop comfortably and safely. This project serves to address these concerns on County Highway 28, as well as to widen the existing paved shoulders to improve safety for motorized and non-motorized users.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that ten bids were received, and New Look Contracting Inc. was selected as the lowest bid. This contract will be funded by MnDOT Local Partnership Program grant funds and State Aid.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contract No. 15532 for \$780,968.75 with New Look Contracting Inc. for the County Highway 28 at Trunk Highway 95 Approach Improvement Project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Contract for County Highway 15 and County Road 61 Roadway Improvement Project

Engineer Eden Rogers presented a contract for County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) and County Road 61 (120th Street) Roadway Improvement Project in the City of Grant, May Township, and Stillwater Township. This project is identified as #RB-2204 in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Rogers reported that the pavement of this roadway is more than 22 years old, and the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is in the red zone. With the high volume of cars along County Highway 15 and the heavy truck vehicles that use County Road 61, this pavement is in need of repair. Along

with repair of the pavement, the county is also addressing the intersection alignment of County Road 61 and County Highway 15. Currently, this intersection is skewed and requires drivers to look past 90 degrees to see if cars are coming around the curves on Manning Avenue when waiting at the stop sign on County Road 61. With this realignment, the intersection will be easier to navigate, sightlines will improve, and space will be created for a surface water holding pond to be installed, which will increase surface water retention and treatment in the area.

Ms. Rogers reported that three bids were received, and Bituminous Roadways was selected as the lowest bid. This contract will be funded by Wheelage Tax and State Aid.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 15534 for \$1,766,020.45 with Bituminous Roadways for County Highway 15 and County Road 61 Roadway Improvement Project. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the 2023 Legislative Session concluded last night. Ms. Lucke presented a summary of the results.

Corrections

- Adoption of a new community supervision funding formula that results in a more transparent, needs-based, and equitable model
- Increase of \$43 million to base funding to be distributed through that formula
- Estimated \$1.5 million annually to Washington County
- Elimination of probation fees – phased approach

Licensing Center Fees/Revenue

- \$6 million in one-time direct compensation for all deputy offices, beginning July 15, 2023
- Driver's license filing fee increases effective October 1, 2023; additional \$3 for all renewals and \$8 for new applications
- Motor Vehicle Tabs and Titles
 - \$1 filing fee increase effective October 1, 2023
 - \$1 surcharge effective January 1, 2024

Transportation

- New $\frac{3}{4}$ cent metro area sales tax shared 83% to Metropolitan Council and 17% to metropolitan counties
- 50 cent delivery fee on purchases of more than \$100; 36% to metropolitan counties
- No change to the distribution of the leased motor vehicle sales tax
- Metropolitan Council takes over all operating costs for bus rapid transit and light rail
- Phases in the auto parts sales tax move from the general fund to the transportation funds
- Transportation bill includes \$5 million in cash and the bonding bill includes \$15 million in bonding for the interchange at Highway 36 and Lake Elmo Avenue

Parks

- \$16.6 million for acquisition and capital improvements, matched 2:3 by Metropolitan Council
- Operations and maintenance one-time boost and ongoing increase

Taxpayer Protection

- \$80 million annual increase in County Program Aid (CPA), beginning in calendar year 2024 (no inflator)
- Estimated \$3.5 million increase to Washington County
- Original CPA projected: \$11.3 million
Increase: \$3.5 million
New projection: \$14.8 million
- One-time public safety aid of \$3.3 million to Washington County

Human Services and Housing

- \$8.3 million for local affordable housing to Washington County (from ¼ cent metro sales tax)
- \$1.1 million increase in rental assistance to Washington County
- \$1.1 million for medical assistance renewals

Other Impacts Under Evaluation

- Paid Family Leave
- Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) changes
- Community Services grants and allocations
- Public Health grants and allocations
- Cannabis legalization
- MELSA funding
- Election administration
- Civil Commitment/48-Hour Rule (Jail)

Ms. Lucke reported that a board workshop is scheduled on June 13 to provide more in-depth information on legislative topics. Staff will also schedule workshops in July, prior to the budget workshops, to discuss specific areas.

Contract for the Washington County Strategic Plan

Joe Ayers-Johnson, Senior Planner in the Office of Administration, presented a consultant contract for a countywide strategic plan. The county's strategic plan will reflect internal and external trends and cultural shifts, and will develop strategic priorities, goals, actions, and evaluation metrics.

The key elements of the strategic plan will include:

- A refresh and update to the county's vision, mission, goals, and values;
- Plan background and context, including an environmental scan identifying progress since the last strategic plan, emerging external and internal trends, challenges, and opportunities;

- Identification of key stakeholders and decision-making process, including an overview of stakeholder groups, engagement activities, and process for developing strategic priorities and implementation steps;
- Strategic priorities and goals developed through stakeholder engagement process;
- Implementation plan which defines success, provides an outline for implementing next steps, describing procedures and timeline for follow-through and plan updates.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson presented an estimated timeline for this project. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on March 13, and the county received 11 proposals. Three consultants were interviewed, and BerryDunn was selected as the preferred consultant.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Contract No. 15539 with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC (BerryDunn) for an amount not to exceed \$89,400 as the consultant for the Washington County Strategic Plan. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Achievement Awards

County Administrator Kevin Corbid announced that Washington County has received 2023 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards for the following five programs: Beyond Diversity 101 Train the Trainer Program; Central Greenway Regional Trail Project; Free Outdoor Family Time Project; Highway 36 and Manning Avenue Interchange Project; and the Memorial Bench Donation Program.

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

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The board met in workshop session for commissioner software and security training. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session for an update on bids received and financial review for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 14 (47th Street) and CSAH 24 (Osgood Avenue) Improvement Project. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session to review current practices related to requiring prevailing wage on construction projects. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The board met in workshop session for an update on per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals and 3M settlement. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Gary Kriesel

Gary Kriesel
County Board Chair