
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: Sept. 27, 2016
Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager
Phone: 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723
E-mail: yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Sept. 27, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Thatcher named to Parks and Open Space Commission

Jyneen Thatcher, Hugo, was named to the Washington County Parks and Open Space Commission by the County Board Sept. 27.

She will fill a District 1 vacancy in a term ending Dec. 31, 2019.

The purpose of the commission is to bring citizen perspective to the operation of Washington County Parks. It reviews current operation policies, capital improvement programs, parkland preservation, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts for parkland and facilities for county parks. The commission also provides citizens' perspectives on the administration of the Land and Water Legacy Program.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

County submits report on progress made on affordable housing in past year

Washington County will submit a report to the federal government on its accomplishments in providing affordable housing to county residents, after the County Board reviewed the report Sept. 27.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) details Washington County's progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the county's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and projects undertaken with 2015 Community Development Block Grant and the HOME program funds.

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

The full report can be viewed on the Washington County Community Development Agency's (CDA) website at www.wchra.com.

The CAPER details accomplishments, including:

- funds invested in projects and activities;
- households and persons assisted;
- actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing; and
- grant-funded projects that meet housing and community development needs in Washington County.

The goal of Washington County's CDBG and HOME funds for 2015-2019 is to provide decent affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents of Washington County. Projects included rehabilitation of rental units, development of new owner-occupied and rental units, and acquiring and rehabilitating existing owner units.

Accomplishments in 2015 included the renovation of 42 rental units in St. Paul Park, rehabilitation of nine owner-occupied units, and construction of eight owner-occupied townhomes. Funds were also used for land acquisition for construction of a food shelf in Hugo and to prevent homelessness by providing public services for households with housing emergencies.

Washington County, as a member of the Fair Housing Implementation Council, provided funding for tenant rights and responsibility videos.

The draft of the report was released for public comment and published on the CDA's website with instructions on how to comment, starting Sept. 2. The public comment period ended Sept. 20, with a public hearing conducted by the CDA that day. A second public hearing was in Dakota County the same day. No one from the public commented.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

County will sell tax-forfeited property at public auction Oct. 28

Washington County will sell tax-forfeited property at a public auction Oct. 28 after the County Board set the auction Sept. 27.

The county will conduct a public auction at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Conference Room LL14 at

the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater. The properties will be sold to the highest bidders. The county will publish a notice of sale for two consecutive weeks in its legal newspaper, Lillie Suburban Newspapers. In addition, a notice of sale will be mailed to all owners of land adjoining each parcel to be sold. Sale information will also be available on the county website at www.co.washington.mn.us, by searching “tax forfeited land.”

State law provides for the appraisal and sale of land that has forfeited to the state for nonpayment of property taxes. The county has identified 14 tax-forfeited parcels to sell by public auction as five sale items. Vacant land parcels have been determined to be buildable or having the potential to be buildable lots.

The county will conduct open houses for viewing of a house in Stillwater for interested buyers to view the house and garage.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayers Services Division Manager, 651-430-8272

Minnesota Food Association receives 1-day temporary on-sale liquor license for event

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a one-day temporary on-sale liquor license for the Minnesota Food Association Sept. 27 for a special event Oct. 16 in May Township. The event will take place near Marine on St Croix in May Township. The Sheriff's Office has been notified, and the fees have been paid.

State law requires counties to issue liquor licenses in townships.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayers Services Division Manager, 651-430-8272

Wenck Associates, Inc., will work with county on water resource engineering services

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Wenck Associates, Inc., Sept. 27 for water resources engineering services for 2016-2019.

Washington County contracts for water resource and drainage engineering services for projects county wide on an as-needed basis. Services also include permit acquisitions and permit compliance as it pertains to laws, standards, and guidelines from regulatory agencies.

The contract will be for three years at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each 12-month period.

It will be paid with county funds in the annual pavement preservation program.

Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319

CBM will continue to provide food service to Washington County Jail, cafeteria

CBM Managed Services will continue to provide food service for the Washington County Jail and the Government Center cafeteria after the County Board approved a renewal of the company's contract Sept. 27.

CBM Managed Services provides food service for the Washington County Jail and Government Center cafeteria. The company has requested a contract renewal for an additional year, with a 2.7 percent increase in prices for the contract starting Nov. 1 and ending Oct. 31, 2017.

The current price per inmate meal is \$2.11; with the increase, the new price per meal will be \$2.17.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

Sheriff's Office will receive Toward Zero Deaths grant

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a Toward Zero Deaths grant from the state Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, after the County Board accepted the \$198,575 grant Sept. 27.

The Toward Zero Deaths grant dollars will be used to reimburse overtime costs associated with assisting the state with coordinated patrol saturations.

The saturations will include Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), distracted drivers, speed, move over, and seat belt enforcement. The overtime costs will cover work performed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the police departments of Stillwater, Bayport, Woodbury, Forest Lake, Oak Park Heights, Cottage Grove, and St. Paul Park.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will act as the fiscal agent for the grant, which will run from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2017.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

County Board conducts public hearing on Community Development Agency authority

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing Sept. 27 and adopted a resolution spelling out the economic development authority powers of the Washington County Development Agency (CDA).

No residents spoke at the hearing.

In 1980, Washington County created the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), empowering the agency with all housing and redevelopment powers detailed by state law. In 2016, the Washington County HRA's enabling law was amended by the state Legislature, and both the County Board and the HRA adopted resolutions approving the special law. The new law added economic development authority powers and renamed the HRA to the Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA).

An Economic Development Work Group is working with the CDA with the purpose of embracing the diversity of Washington County, and has as its top priorities marketing, a façade improvement loan program, business loans, labor and market studies, and predevelopment seed grants.

The powers given to the CDA by state law include its ability to establish economic development districts, acquire, use, and dispose of real property; enter into contracts; and bond and loan money, among powers.

After the hearing, the County Board took the next step to finalize the new law and enable the CDA with the economic development authority powers available in state law. The new law allows the CDA to use its existing special tax levy for housing, redevelopment, and economic development.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

County will assist in installing waste/recycling bins at Bielenberg Sports Center

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed Sept. 27 to assist the City of Woodbury to purchase exterior waste and recycling bins at the city's Bielenberg Sports Center.

The program, which will include related educational materials for the program, has a cost cap of \$70,000. The money will come from the County Environmental Charge funds.

The county's waste management plan allows the county to provide technical and financial assistance to businesses, schools, and municipalities to facilitate recycling opportunities. Also, a joint recycling grant program with Ramsey County and Bizrecycling targets businesses.

Steps to improve recycling opportunities for the outdoor area include purchasing new containers and pairing all trash cans with a single-stream recycling option and adding organics recycling to the centralized pavilion where most food is served and often consumed. In all, 87 waste stations need to be purchased for the outdoor spaces.

Working with the City of Woodbury, and with technical assistance from MN Waste Wise, the sports center conducted two waste sorts targeting indoor and outdoor areas of the sports center.

The indoor waste sort was completed in December 2015. The baseline data gathered during the waste sort revealed that, while cardboard recycling is done well at the sports complex, single-stream recycling was underutilized. As a result of the waste sort, Woodbury established organics collection throughout the indoor areas of the facility and purchased additional three-stream (trash/recycling/organics) bins to place throughout the indoor spaces.

Educational materials, including signs, labels, and posters, were developed alongside public education campaigns distributed by the city. A waste sort will be conducted in December 2016 to determine the results of the expanded indoor recycling program.

In June 2016, a waste sort for outdoor areas was conducted. Total waste for a week for the outdoor area was 2,213 pounds. Current recycling diversion is 12 percent, whereas, if all organics recycling, single-stream recycling, and reusable materials were diverted into their appropriate recycling or reuse streams, diversion could be 71 percent.

The public awareness campaign will be extended to include the outdoor grounds by improving signage on new bins, displaying posters and signs outlining the program and acceptable materials. Room rental agreements will be updated to require renters to use only recyclable or compostable single-use disposables.

Total estimated cost to implement the project is \$83,521.90, with the City of Woodbury paying for \$13,521.90 of the cost.

Contact: Danielle Lesmeister, Senior Environmental Specialist, 651-430-6683

Lake Elmo Rotary donates \$1,500 to update LEPR archery range

The Lake Elmo Rotary Club donated \$1,500 to Washington County to update the archery range at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The County Board accepted the gift Sept. 27. Rotary members Lisa Boone, current president, Tedi Carlson, president elect, and Tony Haider, past president, were instrumental in providing the gift. The Lake Elmo Rotary Club successfully applied for a Rotary International grant to be used for the project. The archery range is operated year round, weather permitting, and is an activity area for summer youth day camp groups. The donation will benefit not only the youth in these programs, but also the general public using the archery range.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer, Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

Cutline for photo attached: Representatives from the Lake Elmo Rotary visited the Washington County Board of Commissioners Sept. 27 to present a gift to be used to upgrade the archery range at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4, Rotary President-elect Tedi Carlson, Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1, Rotary Past President Tony Haider, commissioners Gary Kriesel, District 3, and Lisa Weik, District 5, and Wayne Sandberg, county engineer, celebrated the gift.

County Board approves projects to receive mission directed budget funds

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved projects from around the county to receive mission directed funds Sept. 27.

The county's Mission Directed Budget (MDB) savings program identifies 25 percent of the year-end revenue over expenditures to be used for projects of countywide benefit that increase efficiencies and support the county's mission and goals. The amount of 2015 MDB savings available to allocate to projects is \$1,036,500. Twenty projects, totaling \$912,400, are being recommended for approval. The balance of available MDB funding will be held pending further discussion.

Under the program, overall MDB funds are allocated 50 percent to the county's fund balance, 25 percent to a countywide pool, and 25 percent to departmental MDB accounts. The programs that will be funded this year are training for members of the Performance Measurement and Improvement

Team on facilitation, quality improvement, and results-based accountability, and a website upgrade with responsive design and a library subsite. Other projects include technology upgrades to improve wireless signals at the county's North Shop and South Shop to allow the continued use of these sites for Sheriff's Office deputies to download squad video data, web, and other technology security upgrades, including increased computer storage.

Other programs include a portable recharging cart and computing devices for the library to provide the opportunity for the library to work with county departments, businesses, organizations, and patrons to train on and with current technology, and a hazardous waste assessment of county operations to ensure regulatory compliance and management of a wide range of hazardous waste produced. The program will also pay to replace training equipment in the Sheriff's Office that has reached its end of life for both functionality and safety, and for a statewide radio system upgrade, planned for 2020.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003