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Date: March 20, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the March 20, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board conducts public hearing to fill District 4 vacancy

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing March 20 to interview people interested in filling the commissioner District 4 vacancy on the County Board, and to hear from other interested residents.

The District 4 seat was vacated by the resignation of Commissioner Karla Bigham after she was elected to the state Senate District 54 seat in a special election Feb. 12. Her term on the County Board would have concluded Dec. 31.

The county's Office of Administration received letters from those interested in the commissioner seat, which were reviewed by the board. From the letters of interest, the board identified to interview, in alphabetical order, Dan Dolan, Woodbury, and Jack Lavold, Cottage Grove, during the public hearing. Steven Gallagher, Newport, removed himself from consideration Tuesday morning.

The board heard from each person, and three other residents spoke regarding the open seat.

The decision on who to appoint will likely be made at the next regularly scheduled board meeting March 27. The applicant selected to fill the vacancy is tentatively scheduled to be sworn in and take office April 3.

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

County Board approves application for Afton Alps liquor license

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an application March 20 for on-sale and Sunday liquor licenses for Afton Alps in Denmark Township.

The county processes all liquor licenses for the townships within the county. That includes a review of the applicant's liquor insurance. In addition, the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, and the Public Health Department complete compliance/verification checks. The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for administration, and compliance and verification checks.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651430-6183

County Board approves loan for improvements at Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the expenditure of \$414,450 March 20 to make improvements to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center in Newport.

The Recycling and Energy (R&E) Board is authorized by a joint powers agreement to manage and oversee the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center). While replacing the bulky waste residue load-out area, it became apparent that the work offered an opportunity to build a two-story enclosure for storage and finished space.

Constructing the new space in conjunction with the bulky waste residue load-out area project will save at least \$200,000 compared to constructing the space at a later date.

The estimated cost of the enclosure project is \$1.53 million, with 73 percent coming from Ramsey County, or \$1.12 million, and 27 percent coming from Washington County, or \$414,450.

Along with Ramsey County, Washington County will loan its share of the project expense to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board for the term of five years at 0 percent interest.

Contact: Judy Hunter, Senior Environmental Resource Manager, 651-430-4031

County will make requests of MnDOT's 2018 Corridors of Commerce program

The Washington County Board of Commissioners stated its support March 20 for transportation projects in Washington County to be considered for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Corridors of Commerce program.

Five projects in Washington County have been recommended for consideration:

- the conversion of the signalized intersection to an interchange at the intersection of Highway 36 and Manning Avenue in Stillwater, Grant, Lake Elmo, and Stillwater Township;
- the conversion of the signalized intersection to an interchange at the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 120 (Century Avenue) in Oakdale and North St. Paul;
- improvements to the Interstate 494, I-694, and I-94 interchange, including a southbound I-694 to I-94 east bound flyover ramp in Oakdale and Woodbury;
- the expansion of the roadway from two to four lanes and intersection control to maintain local access on Highway 97 between I-35 and Highway 61 in Forest Lake; and
- the expansion of the roadway from two to four lanes and intersection control to maintain local access on County Road 8 between Highway 61 and Karmel Avenue in Forest Lake and portions of Chisago County.

The 2013 Minnesota Legislature created the Corridors of Commerce program, authorizing the sale of up to \$300 million in trunk highway bonds for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of trunk highways for projects not already in the State Transportation Improvement Program. This was to provide additional highway capacity on segments where there are currently bottlenecks in the system, and improve the movement of freight and reduce barriers to commerce.

The Legislature has put additional money in the fund since then, and MnDOT has decided to select \$400 million of projects in the next round of grant requests from the Corridors of Commerce program.

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

Sheriff's Office receives grant from Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will received a \$41,125 grant from the Office of National Drug Control after the County Board approved the grant March 20.

The grant runs through Dec. 31, 2019.

The grant is for participation in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. The HIDTA program is designed to provide resources to federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to coordinate activities to address drug trafficking in specifically designated areas of the county. The program helps to identify and disrupt/dismantle drug trafficking organizations and money laundering organizations; reduce drug-related crime and violence; and identify and respond to emerging drug trends.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County Board conducts public hearing on solid waste ordinance

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing March 20 on the county's solid waste ordinance, and approved changes.

No residents spoke during the hearing.

The ordinance governs the adoption of state standards, licensing, illegal dumping, solid waste designation, and enforcement. Since 1993, the county was a member of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, which coordinated solid waste hauler licensing across the metro area. Now, hauler licensing is coordinated under the Regional Hauler Licensing Board, and the change created the need to amend the ordinance, which, in turn, created an opportunity to review and edit the ordinance.

The new ordinance removes redundant and obsolete sections, simplifies the ordinance for readability, reduces the length from 68 to 37 pages, and updates definitions, e.g., adding compost, compost facility, and compostable bag, not in wide use in 1991. The new ordinance does not add additional regulations.

A draft of the ordinance has been shared with city and township officials for comment. County licensed haulers and solid waste facilities have also been provided the draft ordinance, and a public notice of the ordinance hearing was published in the official county newspaper.

Contact: Gary Bruns, Environmental Program Supervisor, 651-430-6691

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., will provide engineering services for County Road 5 project

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., will provide engineering services for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project in Stillwater, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$358,885 contract with the company March 20.

The road project involves pedestrian and safety improvements along CSAH 5 from Pine Tree Trail to the south junction of Sycamore Street. There are two segments to the project: the northern half-mile will be reconstructed with a sidewalk or trail on both sides; the remaining one mile will consist of pavement rehabilitation. The project will include striping left turn lanes at Brick Street improving pedestrian accessibility and safety.

The consultant will be responsible for project coordination, preliminary and final design, stakeholder engagement, utility coordination, parking analysis, drainage analysis, and geotechnical evaluation.

The project funding is from highway state aid funds. The City of Stillwater will be responsible for some of the cost of the project.

Construction is expected to be in 2019.

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