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Date: April 17, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 17, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves applications for liquor licenses at Withrow, Outing Lodge

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved applications for the renewal of liquor licenses for the Withrow Ballroom and the Outing Lodge April 17.

State law allows a county board to issue liquor licenses in townships. The Withrow Ballroom in May Township requested approval of an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license; the Outing Lodge also requested approval of an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license.

The county reviews the establishments' insurance, and the Sheriff's Office, Attorney's Office, and the Department of Public Health and Environment need to complete compliance/verification checks.

These requirements have all been completed. The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for administration, and compliance and verification checks.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Elections Division Manager, 651-430-8272

Contracts, agreements set Manning Avenue realignment project in motion

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a construction agreement with Schafer Contracting April 17, and approved a number of agreements with the City of Lake Elmo and Baytown Township to begin the Manning Avenue realignment and safety project.

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

The Manning Avenue (County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15) Corridor Management and Safety Improvement Project will improve operations and safety along the County Highway 15 Corridor between Interstate 94 and CSAH 14 (old Highway 5). A feasibility study was completed in 2013 that identified current and projected corridor deficiencies and solutions.

The realignment of CSAH 14, or old Highway 5, and CSAH 15 will result in a four-lane roadway with medians, multi-use trails, reconstruction, and transfer of Old Highway 5 to the City of Lake Elmo. There will also be a signalized intersection at CSAH 15 with CSAH 14, and a signalized intersection at CSAH 15 with Stillwater Way North, which is Old Highway 5.

The capital improvement project has been divided into several phases for construction. Phase 1 was completed in 2016, which included intersection improvements at CSAH 15 and CSAH 10.

Phase 2 is a realignment of CSAH 14 and CSAH 15 near the Washington County Fairgrounds. This intersection has served its useful life and needs to be reconstructed due to poor pavement and for the lack of pedestrian facilities and to improve the safety and the capacity for current and future projected traffic volumes.

Shafer Contracting, Inc., will be the contractor, after the County Board approved a \$9.8 million contract with the company. The board also approved a cost-share agreement with Lake Elmo, in which the city will contribute \$478,800 to the project.

Just more than 70 percent of the funding will come from county bond proceeds, with 11 percent coming from state aid funds, 2 percent from the City of Lake Elmo, 8 percent from Highway 5 turnback funds, and 8 percent from a state grant.

The board also approved an agreement with the City of Lake Elmo for a portion of CSAH 14 that will be transferred to the city. Upon completion of the project, the City of Lake Elmo will own and maintain, without cost to the county, a portion of the existing CSAH 14. The city has signed the agreement.

The board also approved a cooperative maintenance agreement between the City of Lake Elmo, Baytown Township, and Washington County for the traffic signals being constructed at CSAH 15 and CSAH 14 in the project.

Contact: Nathan Arnold, Engineer II, 651-430-4384

County Board proclaims April 27 as Arbor Day and May as Arbor Month

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed April 27 as Arbor Day and May as Arbor Month April 17.

The county will celebrate Arbor Day at Lake Elmo Park Reserve with a tree planting from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday April 27; people should meet outside the Nordic Center. Another tree planting will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 28, again, with people meeting outside the Nordic Center.

National Arbor Day and Arbor Month help bring awareness to the value and benefits that trees provide to communities. This is especially important to Washington County as emerald ash borer becomes more established and eliminates ash trees. This resolution will bring attention to the need for reforestation efforts to prepare for the impact of the emerald ash borer.

Contact: Sandy Breuer, Parks Director, 651-430-4371

County Board accepts gifts for first quarter of 2018

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted gifts to the county of more than \$1,800 April 17, received in the first quarter of 2018.

The Sheriff's Office received a donation for community engagement from Mary and Richard Fang, and a gift for the Explorers National Fund from Lawrence Flaherty, totaling \$350.

Gifts through donations at the Historic Courthouse for general donations or a tour donation were about \$280, and the libraries received more than \$1,200 from its donations boxes, and from a general donation of \$1,000 from Kimberly and David Schmitzer.

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