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

Date: April 24, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 24, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board comments on senior housing TIF in Oak Park Heights

The Washington County Board of Commissioners offered comments April 24 on a proposed tax increment financing (TIF) district in Oak Park Heights for affordable senior housing.

The city anticipates using the tax increment, or the increase in property taxes due to increased property value after development, generated by the district for site improvements, interest, administrative expenses, and other qualifying improvements. As required by law, the revenue derived from housing TIF districts must be used solely to finance the costs of housing projects.

By law, the city must provide a 30-day notice to the county and the county has the ability to provide comments to the city to be included in the public record of the public hearing. The county's comments noted that the project would not have an appreciable impact on the county's transportation system.

The county's comments added, "This support is consistent with the County Board's goals through the Community Development Agency (CDA) to support the efforts of cities within the county to increase the access to affordable housing options for our residents. The most recent housing study prepared for the county shows a need for 130 affordable, senior housing units in the next 15 years in this area of the county. The city's proposal addresses this need."

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

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

County will apply for grant to support programs to combat homelessness

Washington County will apply for a state Community Living Infrastructure grant through the Department of Human Services, after the County Board agreed to the application April 24.

The potential scope of work for the Community Living Infrastructure grant is in three areas:

- outreach to individuals who are homeless or living in institutions or facilities;
- hiring and training a housing resource specialist; and
- funding to counties and tribes for administration and monitoring of all housing support programs.

Outreach includes hiring a social worker to work in the county's Homeless Services Outreach Team (HOST) for the housing telephone line and front door walk-in hours. In addition, county staff will create "Housing 101" training for all county staff.

Administration and monitoring includes hiring a half-time policy analyst to create and monitor annual agreements and problem solving sites. In addition, funds will be used for a new full-time policy analyst to monitor Supplemental Services sites (group and scattered sites), ensure compliance with Housing Support Agreements, conduct annual site monitoring visits for housing sites, conduct quarterly check-in meetings with housing sites, and provide technical assistance with requirements, budgeting, and allowable expenses, and assist with problem-solving issues as they arise.

Contact: Sarah Tripple, Planning and Program Manager, 651-430-6480

K9 Rumble will retire to home of trainer

Washington County Sheriff's Office K9 Rumble was retired from active duty April 6, after eight years of service.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the transfer of the K9 to trainer, former Deputy Vupau Thao and his family April 24.

Thao resigned from the Sheriff's Office April 6, and had been assigned to K9 Rumble up to his resignation. Due to Rumble's age and years of service, it is not advisable to transfer to another deputy within the Sheriff's Office. Thao has agreed to accept ownership of Rumble at no cost to the county, and agrees to accept the full cost and care for Rumble and accepts liability.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-6001

Washington County Public Health Achievement Awards recognized by board

The Washington County Board of Commissioners noted the 2018 Public Health Achievement Awards April 24 that recognize and honor residents who devote their time, energy, and talents to improve the public health of individuals, families, communities, and environments in the county. National Public Health Week is celebrated during the first full week of April and is part of an initiative to create the healthiest nation in one generation. Each year, the event aims to highlight public health achievements and improve the general health of residents by educating the public about health issues.

During National Public Health Week April 2-8, the department of Public Health and Environment gave public health achievement awards to honor residents who devote their time, energy, and talents to improve the public health of individuals, families, communities and environments in Washington County.

The 2018 winners are:

Randy Hayne, Individual Category. Hayne is a dedicated volunteer who hand crochets and donates dozens of baby blankets each year to the Family Health and WIC programs, which serve families across Washington County. Public Health nurses share the blankets with clients who are pregnant and families with new babies or young children.

Briana Mullan, Youth Category. For three years, Briana has volunteered her time to teaching K-6 students about healthy living, alcohol and tobacco awareness, internet safety, citizenship, and fairness. Through this work, Briana discovered a passion for learning and leadership. For the 2017-2018 school year, she started and currently leads a "Youth Teaching Youth" club at Park High School, which has grown from four teen teachers to more than 40 teen teachers.

Forest Lake High School Environmental Club, Group Category. More than 90 students participate in the Forest Lake High School Environmental Club, which meets weekly to plan school and community events that promote environmental stewardship. The club has been actively working to reduce waste at Forest Lake High School by increasing the number of recycling bins in the building and starting a food share table in the cafeteria. Other projects have included planting a pollinator

garden with native plants, hosting an environmental film event, and providing education at an Earth Day celebration.

Contact: Shannon Eisentrager, Communications Specialist, 651-430-6672

Alliant Engineering, Inc., will do engineering for County Road 65 project

Alliant Engineering, Inc., will do the engineering for the County Road 65, or Oakgreen Avenue, improvement project, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$353,415 contract with the company April 24.

The objective of the capital improvement project is to increase the capacity and safety of the county road from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 (10th Street North) to CSAH 14 (40th Street North) in West Lakeland and Baytown townships. It is a three-mile road, with traffic of 3,000 vehicles each day.

This road was never constructed using best practices for roadway construction, and is comprised of a number of layers of substandard materials. One of the oldest roads in the county, it likely started as a field road. Portions of the road show up on a map from 1874. The result is a roadway not strong enough to handle current vehicle weights and demands. The subgrade does not drain well, and spring time heaves and shifts create an extremely rough road. In addition, narrow shoulders limit the ability of pedestrians and cyclists to safely navigate this road, and the roadway lacks turn lanes at intersections.

The contractor will do project coordination, stakeholder engagement, environmental documentation, utility coordination, drainage analysis, geotechnical evaluation, and preliminary design.

The contract is funded by County Program Aid from the Pavement Preservation Fund. Project construction is scheduled to begin in 2020.

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

County Board approves annual housing block grant program

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the 2018 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs April 24, and approved a grant request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Each year, the county must prepare an Annual Action Plan detailing its intended use of the CDBG and HOME funds granted by HUD. The funded activities must address the priorities identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

The County Development Agency solicited applications for the 2018 program year in January. The CDBG/HOME program year runs from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. The CDA staff and CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee reviewed the five applications received. The 2018 Annual Action Plan contains those programs and projects that are eligible for funding, are consistent with the funding priorities of the consolidated plan, and scored competitively. Those projects that will use \$783,365 of CDBG funds are:

- Family Service Worker and Crisis Fund Assistance, Washington County Community Services with \$117,505, which would reach 540 households;
- Home Improvement Program administered by the Washington County Community Development Agency, with \$206,428, which would be used for 10 owner-occupied units;
- scattered site acquisitions and rehabilitation, administered by Two Rivers Community Land Trust, with \$70,000, which will be used for one owner-occupied unit; and
- Woodland Park Rental Rehabilitation, which would be administered by the Washington County Community Development Agency, with \$242,770, which would be used for 184 rental units.

Program administration would use \$146,662.

HOME funds would be used for:

- scattered site acquisition and rehabilitation by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, with \$178,880, used for four owner-occupied units; and
- Community Housing Development Organization Consortium set-aside, which would be \$35,777.

Program administration would use \$23,850.

A public comment period was held from March 9 to April 17. No comments were received.

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