



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

Date: May 22, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the May 22, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves comments on draft comprehensive plans for neighbors, Newport

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved staff comments prepared following reviews of draft comprehensive plans for the City of Newport, Dakota County, and the City of St. Paul May 22.

All local government units within the seven-county metropolitan region must prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 10 years. The Metropolitan Council is charged with reviewing local comprehensive plans.

Before formally submitting local comprehensive plan updates to the Met Council, local governments must provide adjacent and affected jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan during a mandatory six-month review period. Comprehensive plans must be submitted to the Met Council by Dec. 31.

In commenting on Newport's plan, Washington County asked that the city consider the Recycling and Energy Center as a regional asset. Other comments center on updating the city's trail plans, as well as plans for the Red Rock Corridor transitway.

Washington County commented on Dakota County's contributions to joint transitway planning efforts, on the Red Rock Corridor. Washington County also stated it is encouraged by Dakota County's recognition of the "physical environment as a component for influencing the health of all

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residents and the vitality of the community,” and asked that other aspects of growth planning include consideration of residents’ health.

Washington County also commented on St. Paul’s contribution to joint transitway planning, this time on the Gold Line bus rapid transit line; and expressed its support for the city’s strong policies and strategies to foster the preservation and growth of affordable housing.

Contact: Colin Kelly, Senior Planner, 651-430-6011

Carufel re-appointed as county’s Veterans Service Officer

Ryan Carufel was re-appointed as the Washington County Veterans Service Officer May 22.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made the re-appointment for a four-year term; Carufel has been serving for the past four years.

State law requires county boards to appoint a Veterans Service Officer to assist veterans in the county with securing a broad range of services.

Carufel leads a team of three assistant county veteran service officers that provides services to the more than 14,400 veterans residing in Washington County. The county veterans services office provides assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in applying for federal, state and local benefits.

Contact: Chris Sorenson, Community Services Director, 651-430-6461

Stillwater Elks apply for temporary liquor license for event at Kissing Birch Farm

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the application for a temporary on-sale liquor license for the Stillwater Elks No. 179 May 22 for a special event at Kissing Birch Farm in Stillwater Township June 16.

The Sheriff’s Office has been notified of the event, the requirements for issuing this license have been met, and the appropriated fee has been paid.

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

County will use grant funds to prepare for health emergencies

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health May 22 overseeing a grant of \$177,412 to be used for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and a Cities Readiness Initiative.

State law requires local public health agencies to prepare for and respond to health emergencies in the community, including outbreaks of infectious disease whether naturally occurring or caused by terroristic acts.

The county has received grant funds for a number of years through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's federal program administered by the state to assist in preparation to respond to health emergencies. The grant funds will continue to allow the county to plan, train, and exercise to be ready and able to respond in the event of a health emergency. The activities are extended to community partners, such as local medical providers, school districts, police, fire and EMS, and non-profit organizations.

The new grant will extend to June 30, 2019.

Contact: David Brummel, Public Health and Environment Deputy Director, 651-430-6662

County will request state funds for road projects

Washington County will send a request for funding to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for potential road construction projects after the County Board approved the request May 22.

MnDOT is accepting candidate projects for the fiscal year 2020 Metro Municipal Agreement Program. The program provides funding for construction projects that are developed and administered by local agencies and provide a benefit to both the local community and the state highway system. Principles of the program that apply include leveraging public investments to achieve multiple purposes, focusing on low cost/high benefit solutions, integrating safety, and using partnerships.

Washington County will request funds for:

- traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of Interstate 694 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 14, including adding flashing yellow arrows and pedestrian accommodations in the City of Oakdale; and

- rerouting the frontage road on the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Highway 36 and CSAH 24 (Osgood Avenue) in the City of Oak Park Heights.

The projects were selected based on the program criteria as having the best chance of receiving funding. If selected, funds from MnDOT will become available July 1, 2019.

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

Sheriff's Office receives donation of 'bang pole' for SWAT Team

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a "bang pole," a flashbang deployment tool, after the County Board accepted the gift May 22.

Deputy Matt O'Hara asked to donate the flashbang deployment tool to the Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics Team. The value of the tool is \$1,000.

The "Bang Pole" is a tool used to safely and effectively deploy a Noise Distraction Device. This tool would allow the SWAT Team to approach a target location and breach a window, limiting the risk of injury to operators with the glass, and allow the team to deploy the device higher to limit the risk and potential injury to the occupants of the residence than if deploying on the ground near their feet or near animals closer to the ground level.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County will use \$100,000 to make emergency repair to collapsed manhole, roadway in Afton

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed May 22 to approve the use of \$100,000 from the county's fund balance to repair a collapsed manhole and roadway on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 in Afton.

A storm sewer manhole collapsed approximately 200 feet south of the intersection with River Road, leaving a large opening in the roadway in the lane of southbound CSAH 21, requiring immediate action to repair. The manhole was constructed on top of an existing 66-inch storm sewer mainline that collects large amounts of rain water in the area, and discharges to the St. Croix River. Immediate action is necessary to prevent further erosion and collapse of CSAH 21 and/or the storm sewer system, which could happen if there is a large rainfall.

As soon as county staff was notified of the collapse, they shifted traffic away from the collapse, removed debris from the area, and covered the hole with a heavy steel plate. Repair will require excavation of structure, a determination of the overall condition of structure and the mainline sewer pipe and whether there is additional deterioration. The process will require partial closure of roadway, and may require a special order of precast concrete pipe sections.

The County Board will receive a report on the repair's final cost after it is complete.

Contact: Don Theisen, Public Works Director, 651-430-4304

North Valley, Inc., will do County Road 52 pavement preservation project in Scandia

North Valley, Inc., will do a pavement preservation project on County Road 52 in Scandia, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.1 million contract with the company May 22.

The project will be on 2.4 miles of County Road 52, or Oakhill Road, from Highway 97 to Highway 95 in Scandia. Roadway improvements include pavement removal, bituminous mill and overlay, curb and gutter repair, storm sewer cleaning and repair, and the replacement of a portion of a sidewalk and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

The project will be funded with a combination of County Program Aid and wheelage tax revenue.

Contact: Allan Brandt, Engineer, 651-430-4348

Hardrives, Inc., receives contract for Osgood Avenue project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.6 million contract May 22 with Hardrives, Inc., to perform the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 24 (Osgood Avenue North) Traffic Safety and Pavement Improvement Project.

The project is on CSAH 24, or Osgood Avenue North, north and south of Highway 36. Work includes pavement, pedestrian, and safety improvements. The project complements the completion of the St. Croix River Crossing and the Highway 36/South Frontage Road Alignment Project. CSAH 24 is a popular truck route and currently pedestrians do not have a separate sidewalk and are forced to walk on the road or in the grass boulevard. This poses a barrier for many, including those with disabilities.

The roadway carries about 11,000 vehicles each day, and has inadequate pedestrian facilities. The project will replace pavement and curb and gutter, as well as a concrete retaining wall. It will also add concrete sidewalk on both sides of Osgood north of Highway 36 and on the east side of Osgood south of Highway 36, as well as a push-button activated traffic signal at 62nd Street and a pedestrian activated flasher at 58th Street. A two-way center left turn lane will be added between Upper 55th Street and Upper 56th Street, as well as for opposing left turns at 62nd Street. The signal at 62nd Street will also be upgraded.

The board also approved cost share and maintenance agreements related to the project with the cities of Oak Park Heights and Stillwater. Highway state aid will pay for 87 percent of the project, with the City of Stillwater paying for 3 percent of the project, and the City of Oak Park Heights paying for 10 percent of the project.

Contact: Allan Brandt, Engineer, 651-430-4348

County Board reviews 2017 performance measurement report

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received the 2017 Performance Measures and Indicators Report May 22, along with an update on countywide performance measurements and quality improvement efforts.

Since the mid-1990s, Washington County has tracked, reported, and monitored performance measures to support decision-making and to drive continued improvement in its core functions and the services it provides.

Performance measurements from the current report highlighted for the board are absences of repeat maltreatment of children within 12 months; unemployment and food support; and jail beds saved through the Sentence to Service program. The quality improvement project highlighted was user provisioning, or the management of information about a user's access to the county's systems and applications, such as email, network storage folders, and our financial system.

The complete report can be found at www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures.

Contact: Amanda Hollis, Senior Planner, 651-430-6021