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**Date:** Nov. 17, 2020  
**Contact:** Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager  
**Phone:** 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723  
**E-mail:** [yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Nov. 17, 2020, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County will receive money to shelter those who are homeless during pandemic**

Washington County will receive \$330,000 from the state Department of Human Services to provide emergency services for those who are experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

The County Board accepted the grant Nov. 17.

The money will be used to pay for emergency COVID hotel shelter through about September 2021. Funds will be used to pay for direct hotel costs, as well as services contracted through Stepping Stone Emergency Housing.

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

### **County Board will conduct public hearing Dec. 15 to consider selling parkland**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a Dec. 15 public hearing to consider selling almost 2½ acres of land that the county owns within the Big Marine Park Reserve and is no longer needed for park use.

The board set the hearing to accept comments from residents on the sale at its Nov. 17 meeting.

The hearing will be conducted in the Board Room at the Government Center at 14949 N. 62<sup>nd</sup> St. in Stillwater. The meeting will also be webstreamed on Webex. For those who wish to join electronically, call the Office of Administration at 651-430-6001 for assistance. Comments will also be received via email at [administration@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:administration@co.washington.mn.us).

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**Contact: Sharon Price, Right of Way Specialist-Property Manager, 661-430-4391**

**SRF will do final design, project coordination for Manning/36 overpass**

SRF Consulting Inc. will do final design, project coordination, and construction support for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 and Highway Interchange Project for \$338,838.

The planned overpass is where Stillwater, Lake Elmo, Grant, and Oak Park Heights meet.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the contract Nov. 17.

The signalized intersection of Manning Avenue and Highway 36 needs be rebuilt with a modern interchange to improve safety and movement of all transportation modes - from cars to pedestrians.

The need for this interchange escalated with the opening of the St. Croix River Crossing bridge.

In 2019, a preliminary design was completed and the layout has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. A recent legislative special session provided the final piece of state funding needed for project final design and construction.

The construction of the grade-separated interchange will be during 2021 and 2022. The contract will be funded though state grants.

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

**Washington County, Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care recognized for efforts to end veterans homelessness**

Washington County and the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (CoC) have been recognized for their efforts toward ending veterans homelessness.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received the recognition Nov. 17.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs confirmed Oct. 29 that the Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Scott, and Carver counties' Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (CoC) has effectively ended homelessness among veterans.

Effectively ending homelessness means that there is no waitlist for veterans who may lose housing, also referred to as "functional zero." The infrastructure and systems the region has built will ensure

that any veteran experiencing homelessness in the region will get the support needed to quickly obtain a permanent home.

The Washington County Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) and the Veteran Services Division has been an instrumental part of achieving this designation.

**Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532**

### **County will pay additional money to support financial software**

Washington County will pay an additional \$168,000 to Collier IT to continue to support the county's financial system, after the County Board agreed to a contract amendment with the company Nov. 17. Oracle JD Edwards Enterprise One (E1) supports the financial software for Washington County. The software is provided by Oracle and is licensed by the size of the county budget. The increase of a \$168,000 payment will cover a one-time catch-up of the licensing to match the county's 2019 operating budget of \$193 million.

**Contact: Renee Heinbuch, Information Technology Director, 651-430-6421**

### **Public Works department employees recognized**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized two Public Works employees Nov. 17 who have received awards from their professional organizations.

The Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA) named Wayne Sandberg, deputy Public Works director and county engineer, the 2019 Outstanding Minnesota County Engineer of the Year. MCEA members are county engineers from each of Minnesota's 87 counties who work to promote their profession and uphold the engineering code of ethics. This past year, Sandberg served as the association's president. He has been an active member serving and promoting MCEA over the years. He is active in the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, where he is frequently called on to testify at the state capitol and advocate for Minnesota transportation. Sandberg has always stepped up to help beyond the borders of his county.

Sandberg is a civil engineering graduate from the University of Minnesota and has a Master of Public Administration from Hamline University. He started at Washington County in 1999 as the traffic engineer and was appointed county engineer in 2010.

The Minnesota National Institute of Government Purchasing (MN NIGP) named Nicki Castro, contract specialist, 2019 Procurement Professional of the Year.

MN NIGP is a professional organization dedicated to promoting professionalism in procurement and contracting for public agencies throughout Minnesota. In awarding the Procurement Professional of the Year, the association evaluates the nominee's work in five categories: contributions to the procurement field, contributions to their organization, contributions to the MN NIGP, work toward professional certifications, and contributions to the national organization.

Castro is a certified public procurement buyer and has served on the MN NIGP Board of Directors since 2018. She has been employed by Washington County since 2014 as a contract specialist.

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



**Public Works employees who received awards this year are recognized by Washington County commissioners Nov. 17. Commissioners Fran Miron, District 1, and Lisa Weik, District 5, are with Wayne Sandberg, county engineer and deputy public works director, and Nicki Castro, public procurement buyer, along with Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4.**

**Commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, and Gary Kriesel, District 3, attended the meeting remotely.**