



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room.

Present: Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1
Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3
Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4
Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Johnson asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Weik moved, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the January 18, 2022, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-007** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AMENDING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
PROJECT PLAN**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, The United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which provides fiscal relief funds to State and Local Governments, and other programs areas aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, ARPA provided \$65.1 billion in direct aid to counties and allocated hundreds of billions of dollars for public health assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is a direct recipient of \$50,975,893.00 under ARPA, of which \$25,487,946.50 was received after providing the required certification to the federal government on May 10, 2021, to address the expenditures and impacts of COVID-19 and to replace revenue shortages related to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, through the certification signed by the county, the county agrees to spend the funds as required in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub L. No. 117-2) and agrees to regularly report its spending as required by the United States Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, county staff reviewed ARPA eligibility and potential spending options with board members individually and in board workshops on April 13, 2021, to overview ARPA funding for local governments, on May 25, 2021, to review ARPA funding guidance, and on July 27, 2021, to discuss ARPA planning; and

WHEREAS, county staff reviewed the requirements as outlined in ARPA and the Interim Final Rule provided by the United States Department of Treasury (authorized on May 17, 2021), as it developed a plan for recommendation to the county board; and

WHEREAS, the county board, by resolution, accepted the ARPA funds and adopted a county project plan on August 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the county board wishes to amend a project description, with no dollar amount change, in the county project plan to change the scope of the ARPA project plan. To include language regarding consulting costs within the "Payroll and Benefit Costs of those directly responding to the Pandemic" project. Currently, there is minimal language to include consulting costs under this project. Including language to add consulting to the scope would allow departments more flexibility in utilizing these funds in efficient ways; and

WHEREAS, the county board wishes to split the "County Emergency/Transitional Housing Capital Program" into two separate projects. The department wants to change the "County Emergency/Transitional Housing Capital Program" budget from \$6,800,000 to \$6,000,000. This project would support the purchase of a 50-75 bed hotel to be converted into a 30-bed shelter. The cost includes remodeling of the purchased shelter. The Center for Evidence-based Solutions to Homelessness guide the county's strategy and approach regarding homelessness within our jurisdiction. The \$800,000 would then be allocated to a new project titled, "County Emergency/Transitional Housing Program" and would support the housing of homeless until the Washington County ARPA funded 30 bed shelter is operational in the

Spring of 2023 and provide one special project position to assist with the hotel shelter program with a term of one year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt these amended projects under the following category as authorized in ARPA and the interim final guidance:

- Amending the scope of ARPA Project “Payroll and Benefit Costs of those directly Responding to the Pandemic” to include consulting costs.
- Amending the “County Emergency/Transitional Housing Capital Program” to create a separate project that would support housing the homeless until the shelter is operational in the Spring of 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the county administrator or his designee to prepare necessary budget amendments authorizing ARPA expenditures as identified in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the county administrator or his designee to execute sub-recipient agreements necessary to authorize ARPA expenditures as identified in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the county administrator or his designee to prepare and submit all required reporting under ARPA.

3. Approve Contract No. 14562 with Timothy Lindwall, for multi-systemic therapy services, in the amount of \$105,000 annually, for the period of February 01, 2022, through December 31, 2026.
4. Approve Contract No. 14584 with Corin Johnson, for multi-systemic therapy services, in the amount of \$105,000 annually, for the period of February 01, 2022 through December 31, 2026.
5. Approve Contract No. 14559 with Stepping Stone Emergency Housing for the amount of \$190,000 with a term of February 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023, to provide services to individuals served in the Washington County hotel shelter program.
6. Approve licenses for the use of real property for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 373.02.

7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-008** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DECLARATION FOR RECEIVING
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S STATE CAPITAL
PROJECTS GRANTS-IN-AID COUNTY AND LOCAL
PRESERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDS FOR
IMPROVEMENTS MADE AT THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE**

WHEREAS, Washington County is recipient of certain state general funds under Minnesota Laws of 2020, Fifth Special Session, Chapter 3, Section 24 for the purpose of assisting in the preservation of outstanding historical properties; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2022, the Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted said funds known as MNHS Grant No. 2105-25902 as reflected in the minutes thereof; and

WHEREAS, under Section II, Item E of said Grant, Washington County represents it will record a Declaration on the improved property for the use of these general funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its Chairperson and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County the Declaration and any other documents necessary for the County to complete the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant.

8. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-009** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR
RECONSTRUCTION ON COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY
(CSAH) 15 AND 30th STREET INTERSECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Washington County proceed to purchase the permanent right-of-way, permanent road easements, permanent drainage and utility easements, and temporary easements necessary to improve the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 and 30th Street in the City of Lake Elmo, Baytown Township, and West Lakeland Township, as shown on the attached map; located in Washington County, Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the officers of said County, including the County Engineer, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney, shall proceed and are hereby authorized to proceed to acquire, by negotiations and purchase and if necessary, the exercise of eminent domain; right-of-way to establish said permanent right-of-way, permanent easements, and temporary construction easements. Such officers are



specifically authorized to take such action and execute such instruments and plats if any be necessary, to acquire said right-of-way and associated easements.

9. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-010** as follows:

**GRANT CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Office of Justice Programs for the Violent Crime Enforcement Teams Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff, Dan Starry, is hereby authorized to execute and sign this agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the 2022 Legislative Session started yesterday, January 31st. The Legislature has announced significant deadlines for the session. Bills will need to be passed out of the policy committees by April 1st. Bills providing funding must be complete by April 8th. There will be a 10-day break around Passover/Easter on April 9th through April 18th. The Legislature must adjourn by mid-May.

Governor Tim Walz and the leaders of the Senate and House, both in the majority caucus and the minority caucuses, announced key initiatives or support for certain initiatives. The Governor's bonding recommendations were announced. A record level of bonding was recommended, with nearly \$2 billion in general obligation projects. Unfortunately, none of the three Washington County projects were recommended.

The Senate bonding tour completed its visit to the Historic Courthouse and staff were able to highlight the interchange project and Historic Courthouse project.

The legislative delegation will be changing with retirements of representatives Ami Wazlawik and Michelle Christiansen, and senators Chuck Wiger and Susan Kent.

Ms. Lucke will continue to provide state and federal legislative updates throughout the Legislative Session to apprise the board with updates on Washington County's 11 priority legislative positions, and any key developments under the county's general positions. Staff are working with the delegation to arrange a meeting mid-session.

Ms. Lucke reported the House intends to have committee hearings virtually. Members will meet in-person for floor sessions; however, a virtual option will be available as well. The Senate intends to operate in a hybrid fashion. Committee hearings will take place in-person, as will floor sessions. Virtual options will also be available for members of the Legislature, as well as the public for providing testimony.

Ms. Lucke reported that Washington County participated in a field hearing convened by U.S. Representative Betty McCollum about how counties and cities are implementing American Rescue Plan Act funding. Commissioner Johnson was a key presenter at this event with supportive comments from Commissioners Karwoski and Kriesel. Feedback was received from Rep. McCollum that Washington County shined in this field hearing.

COVID Loan Program

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported that the board approved an 80-hour emergency paid COVID Loan program for employees in March 2020. The loan was intended for employees who have exhausted all other paid leave, and are in need for additional paid leave for their own illness related to COVID-19, or to care for children or family members who are sick or quarantined related to COVID-19. The loaned hours are required to be paid back with future accruals. The COVID Loan program was extended once, and continued through June 30, 2021.

Mr. Corbid stated the COVID Loan program is being recommended for reinstatement to help ensure that when county employees are ill with the COVID-19 virus, that they stay home for the recommended isolation and quarantine periods. For example, a newer employee may not have accrued enough paid leave to equal the time needed away from the office and is currently asking for leave without pay. Another example are county positions that are not able to work remotely if they test positive, and are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms.

Staff recommends the COVID Loan program provide up to 40 hours of paid leave. This number of hours coincides with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on number of days needed to isolate or quarantine, if an employee contracts COVID-19, or has had close contact and exhibiting symptoms.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to direct the Human Resources Department to reinstate an employee COVID 40-Hour Loan leave option through December 31, 2022, for employees in need of additional paid leave for their own illness related to COVID-19, or to care for children or family members who are sick or quarantined related to COVID-19. These hours must be paid back with future accruals, or with payment if the employee leaves the county workforce prior to paying the hours back. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.



Mr. Corbid added that the county has seen more resignations recently and many new employees are being hired. Commissioner Johnson asked about turnover in county staff. Human Resources Director Angie Nalezny addressed Commissioner Johnson's question. Ms. Nalezny indicated that there are certain sectors of the county's workforce, including public-facing positions, with high turnover.

Commissioner Johnson asked if departing employees indicate what the county is or is not doing. Ms. Nalezny said there are various reasons, including job availability in the evolving workforce. Potential employees may be wanting to work from home, which is not always feasible, and employees are retiring early.

Mr. Corbid concluded that many organizations are impacted by turnover. The county will continue to make sure it is competitive in wages and benefits, and to allow flexibility, such as the county's Telework Policy and today's approved COVID Loan program.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived web streaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports at www.co.washington.mn.us, under "County Board."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Miron moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Weik, and it was adopted unanimously. The County Board meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session for an update on fund balance usage authorized in 2021. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Johnson, Weik, Miron, Karwoski, and Kriesel. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Wayne A. Johnson

Wayne A. Johnson
County Board Chair