



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 3, 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 Lisa Weik, District 5

Absent: Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4

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 Vice Chair Gary Kriesel asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval to add a 1.0 FTE Senior Planner - Adult Mental Health Initiative Coordinator in the Community Services Department.
2. Approval of 1.0 FTE Social Worker I and 2.0 FTE Case Aide Special Project positions in the Community Services Department.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-050** as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION
TO THE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM THROUGH
THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
POINT DOUGLAS PARK TRAILHEAD AND RECREATION
IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the National Scenic Byways Program provides grants and technical assistance for projects that protect the scenic, historical,

recreational, cultural, natural, or archaeological integrity of a byway or adjacent areas; and

WHEREAS, Point Douglas Park serves the Great River Road, which is designated as an All-American Road; and

WHEREAS, Point Douglas Park serves the St. Croix Scenic Byway, which is designated as a State Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, the Point Douglas Park improvements were identified in the Point Douglas Regional Trail Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Point Douglas Park improvements were identified as a top priority in the Long Range Facility Study; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit a grant funding request of \$1.2 million to the National Scenic Byways Program through the Minnesota Department of Transportation, for the design and construction of a beach and trailhead facility, improved parking lot, and other site improvements at Point Douglas Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the application listed above through the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funding from the National Scenic Byways Program.

4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-051** as follows:

THE TOLVA FAMILY DONATION

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve and accept a donation from the Tolva Family in the amount of \$1,000.

The motion was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, and Weik. Nays, none.

COMMUNITY SERVICES and PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Resolution Proclaiming Mental Health Awareness Month in Washington County

Social Services Supervisor Connie Tanner and Senior Community Health Specialist Natalie Vasilj presented a resolution to recognize May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Washington County.

Ms. Tanner reported that each May, Washington County joins the national movement in celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month. This work happens 24/7/365 days a year, and May is highlighted as a time to continue efforts to reduce stigma and raise awareness about mental health. Half of all people in the United States will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition at some point in their lives. Washington County Community Services (CSD) and Public Health & Environment (PHE) work to break down barriers to accessing services, strive to provide person-centered services, and offer hope to those who are struggling.

Ms. Tanner continued that as the county prioritizes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, it is also important to recognize that communities who are targeted by racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and other forms of systemic oppression and violence, can face an even heavier mental health burden because of these harms. CSD and PHE work hard to provide welcoming, equitable, and accessible services to all.

Ms. Vasilj reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of people of all ages. In the first year of the pandemic alone, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25%. Mental health challenges among youth are also acutely impacted due to disruptions in routines, increased social isolation, and learning loss. For example, in the past year, emergency department visits for attempted suicide among girls increased 50%.

Ms. Vasilj continued that despite these disturbing trends, less than half of Americans with mental illness receive the treatment they need. To support its communities, Washington County strives to provide a continuum of mental health care to all residents across the lifespan, striving to stay current and innovative in serving people with mental health conditions and by reaching underserved residents.

Ms. Vasilj said on May 2, 2022, PHE launched the communication campaign for the WellSpring Project, a community-driven effort that uses upstream public health strategies to promote resilience and healthy development at every stage of life. The campaign provides unique well-being messages and resources for youth, adults, families, and older adults, and helps people connect with themselves, each other, and their larger community. This work is part of a larger plan to address community recovery in Washington County. More information will be shared about the WellSpring Project during a board workshop in June.

Ms. Tanner reported that CSD has partnered with several other county departments to develop and implement programs that reach and serve people in non-traditional settings and spaces, linking people to the care that they need. CSD and PHE will continue to strive to provide welcoming,

equitable, accessible services that meet people where they are at, provide access at the right time and place, and offer hope for recovery and wellness.

Ms. Vasilj concluded that county employees and mental health providers have a duty to support Washington County residents living with mental health conditions. It is our responsibility to ensure that people have access to compassionate, culturally responsive, and respectful mental health services, and all have a role to play in building supportive and resilient communities.

Commissioner Weik moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-052** as follows:

MAY 2022
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, communities who are targeted by racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and other forms of systemic oppression and violence can face an even heavier mental health burden because of these harms; and

WHEREAS, prevention and access for all is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions and support community resilience; and

WHEREAS, with early and effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Washington County collaborates across departments, organizations, and communities to serve the mental health needs of all residents; and

WHEREAS, everyone has a role to play in building supportive and resilient communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby recognize the role that health promotion and awareness plays in achieving mental wellness of all residents by recognizing the month of May as "Mental Health Month."

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, and Weik. Nays, none.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Engineer Kevin Peterson presented seven contracts for approval, related to the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 project in the City of Mahtomedi. This project is identified in the county's Capital Improvement Plan as RB-2664.

Mr. Peterson reported that the CSAH 12 project consists of improvements to County Highway 12, which was formerly known as Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Trunk Highway 244. This project extends from Century Avenue on the west, to Stillwater Boulevard, near downtown Mahtomedi and Willernie on the east. This 1.3-mile project includes replacement of long-term infrastructure needs, such as new pavement, curb, gutter, culverts, and safety improvements. The improvements were developed through a community-based design process that began shortly after the county accepted jurisdiction of the highway from MnDOT.

Community engagement consistently identified the desire to improve stormwater quality and the county is planning to build a stormwater infiltration basin that is larger than required for this project. The Rice Creek Watershed District saw such value in this project that it awarded grant funding for the infiltration basin.

The total project cost is \$5,271,900, which includes 7% construction contingency. Bids were posted on March 29, 2022. This project is funded by a combination of State Highway 244 Turnback Fund Balance, Highway State Aid, Highway State Aid Flex Account, a Rice Creek Watershed District Grant, and the City of Mahtomedi.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Contract No. 14717 with Forest Lake Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$4,927,047.34 for the County State Aid Highway 12 project in the City of Mahtomedi. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement No. 14740 with the City of Mahtomedi. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 14741 with the City of Mahtomedi. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Signal Maintenance Agreement No. 14742 with the City of Mahtomedi. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Cooperative Culvert Maintenance Agreement No. 14750 with the Rice Creek Watershed District. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Cooperative Stormwater Basin Maintenance Agreement No. 14751 with the Rice Creek Watershed District. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Grant Agreement No. 14770 with the Rice Creek Watershed District. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Resolution Proclaiming Correctional Officers Week in Washington County

Washington County Jail Administrator Commander Roger Heinen presented a resolution to proclaim May 1, 2022, through May 7, 2022, as Correctional Officers Week in Washington County.

Commander Heinen said that correctional officers have a difficult and often dangerous assignment of ensuring the custody, safety, and well-being of inmates, staff, and visitors. This job, although often difficult and stressful, is an integral part of the criminal justice system. Commander Heinen acknowledged the partners who work with the Jail Division, such as nurses, social workers, Building Services, food service contractors, probation officers, and volunteers. Commander Heinen said the jail is like a little city and it does not function well without everyone working together. Correctional officers are in their profession to be public servants and to help those who are often the most in need of assistance, guidance, and care, and they believe those in custody should be treated with respect and dignity.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-053** as follows:

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY MAY 1, 2022 – MAY 7, 2022

WHEREAS, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced the first week in May as National Correctional Officers Week; and

WHEREAS, this week we take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the individuals who work in the Washington County Sheriff's Office Jail Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of May 1, 2022, through May 7, 2022, to be National Correctional Officers Week in Washington County, and extends its appreciation to these officers for the vital contribution they make in the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, and Weik. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

County Administrator Kevin Corbid announced that Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry was selected to participate in the National Sheriff's Institute weekly training. Sheriff Starry was the only Minnesota Sheriff who was selected to attend the event.

Federal Legislative Updates

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that Senators and Representatives had a deadline of April 29th to submit their community project funding requests to the various appropriations committees. The projects that were submitted are not posted and staff hopes to have news on this next week.

State Legislative Updates

Ms. Lucke reported that the biggest news of the week is that on Thursday night, the House and Senate agreed on a frontline worker pay and unemployment insurance replenishment package. By late Friday evening, Governor Tim Walz signed the proposal into law, making it the first major piece of legislation to be signed into law this year.

The legislation includes \$2.7 billion to refill the Unemployment Insurance Trust fund and \$500 million for pandemic frontline workers, such as nurses, long-term care employees, and others who continued to work in-person at the height of the pandemic. Those bonus checks would amount to roughly \$750 a person if all 667,000 eligible workers who qualify apply. A qualified worker is someone who was employed for at least 120 hours in one or more of qualified frontline work sectors from March 15, 2020, to June 30, 2021; was not able to telework due to the nature of their work; meets certain income requirements; and did not receive unemployment insurance benefits for more than 20 weeks during the timeframe.

Some of Washington County employees will be eligible and staff is working with the Human Resources Department on the notification. Washington County's role is limited to notifying employees.

Ms. Lucke shared an updated document with commissioner that tracks Washington County's high-priority legislative proposals. All of the state funding requests are waiting for a bonding bill. There is still no word on it and Minnesota Senator Thomas Bakk, Chair of the Senate Capital Investment Committee, is not accepting any meetings on the topic. The Brown's Creek Trail request was presented but misplaced as it got passed around. Larkin Hoffman is working on sending it again. Other bills are currently included in various omnibus bills that have been introduced by either the House or the Senate and are slow in making their way to conference committees. With assistance from Larkin Hoffman, staff continues to watch closely and look for opportunities to advocate through the delegation.

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

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Weik moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Kriesel".

Gary Kriesel
County Board Vice Chair