

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

**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 Karla Bigham, District 4  
Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

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

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF THE 2024 WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD CHAIR**

Board Chair Gary Kriesel asked for nominations for 2024 County Board Chair.

Commissioner Bigham nominated Commissioner Stan Karwoski for 2024 County Board Chair. Chair Kriesel asked for further nominations; none were heard. Nominations were closed.

Chair Kriesel asked all those in favor of electing Commissioner Stan Karwoski as 2024 County Board Chair to signify by saying Aye. All commissioners were in favor, and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Stan Karwoski was elected as 2024 County Board Chair.

**ELECTION OF THE 2024 WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD VICE CHAIR**

Board Chair Karwoski asked for nominations for 2024 County Board Vice Chair.

Commissioner Kriesel nominated Commissioner Fran Miron for 2024 County Board Vice Chair. Board Chair Karwoski asked for further nominations; none were heard. Nominations were closed.

Board Chair Karwoski asked all those in favor of electing Commissioner Fran Miron as 2024 County Board Vice Chair to signify by saying Aye. All commissioners were in favor, and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Fran Miron was elected as 2024 County Board Vice Chair.

## **RECOGNITION OF THE OUTGOING 2023 BOARD CHAIR**

Board Chair Karwoski presented outgoing chair Commissioner Kriesel with a plaque thanking him for his service as the 2023 County Board Chair. Commissioner Karwoski reflected on the many successes that occurred in the county, done in conjunction with county employees and under the leadership of Board Chair Kriesel to support the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

There was a successful legislative session in 2023, working with local and statewide legislators to secure funding for the Lake Elmo Avenue and Highway 36 interchange, as well as additional funding for Corrections programs, and County Program Aid.

The county broke ground in the fall on the Northern Environmental Center, a project that the county has been working toward for many years, to provide responsible leadership in caring for the environment and providing equitable service to residents throughout the county.

A plan was created for using funding from the opioid settlement for the highest benefit of the community.

After the Gold Line METRO Transit groundbreaking more than a year ago, substantial physical progress is now seen on the Gold Line. Several construction milestones have been reached, including the opening of the Bielenberg Bridge crossing Interstate 94 between Oakdale and Woodbury near the end of last year.

The county has taken steps to meet the needs of those who need emergency housing in the community.

The Community Engagement team, the combined work of Community Services and Public Health & Environment Departments, created successful community outreach programs.

The Historic Courthouse has undergone renovation that will assure that this architectural treasure stands long and proud in our county.

Board Chair Karwoski concluded that this past year also began the work to update the county's Strategic Plan. Staff began creating the plan in the latter part of 2023, and look forward to completing and beginning implementation of the Strategic Plan in 2024.

## **SET 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES**

The proposed 2024 board meeting dates indicate that the County Board will meet on Tuesdays, with 34 official board meetings scheduled in 2024, and five workshop only meetings. The board will not meet on any Tuesday which is a legal holiday. The County Board meetings will continue to begin at 9:00 a.m., with the exception of two meetings per year that are required to be evening meetings, per statute. The Board Chair can call an evening meeting or later start time, when necessary, to conduct business. County Board meetings may be added or canceled, as necessary, with proper public notice.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the 2024 board meeting dates as presented. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Approval of the December 12, 2023, and December 19, 2023, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approve 2024 Memorial Day appropriations of \$100 each, upon request, for military service organizations.
3. Approve revisions to Policy #6008 regarding a general expense allowance and approval to delete Policy #6010.
4. Approval to appoint Karen Keller to the Community Corrections Advisory Board as a District 1 representative to a first term beginning January 1, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2026.
5. Approval to reappoint Faith Myers to the Mental Health Local Advisory Committee as a Consumer Representative to a third term beginning January 1, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2026.
6. Approve Grant Agreement No. 16115, Response Sustainability Grant, with the Minnesota Department of Health for the amount of \$211,637.52 annually, starting January 2024, through June 30, 2027.
7. Approve Grant Agreement No. 16103 with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for \$387,244, for Child and Teen Checkup Administrative Services for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.
8. Approve Contract No. 16080 with Washington Conservation District for \$291,200, for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
9. Amend Option Agreement to initialize the acquisition of Phase I within the Option Agreement to purchase approximately 240 acres of vacant land in the southeast quadrant of 170th Street and Manning Avenue in May Township for inclusion into Big Marine Park Reserve.
10. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Land Lease Agreement for Hugo Yard Waste Collection Site.

11. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement for Hugo Yard Waste Collection Site with the City of Hugo.
12. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-001** as follows:

### **DERRICK COMPANIES 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 the donation in the amount of \$1,500 from Derrick Companies to support the Water Recovery team.

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

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **2024-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreements**

Deputy Director Paula Graff presented the 2024-2025 tentative agreements with AFSCME Exempt and Non-Exempt unions, the Association of Supervisors, and wage and benefit increases for non-represented employees that follow the pattern for the county's unionized employees.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve the 2024-2025 tentative agreements with AFSCME Exempt and Non-Exempt unions. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the tentative agreement with the Association of Supervisors for 2024-2025. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve wage and benefit increases for the county's non-represented employees that follow the pattern for the county's unionized employees. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **2024 Legislative Priorities**

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke presented Washington County's priorities for the 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session.

- Trunk Highway 36 and Trunk Highway 120 (Century Avenue) Grade Separated Interchange Design – requesting \$3 million
- County Road 19A and 100<sup>th</sup> Street Realignment Project – requesting \$12.5 million
- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail Connection Project – requesting \$3 million
- Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension – requesting \$1 million
- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Trail Lighting – requesting \$2 million
- Washington County South Public Works and Environmental Center Campus – requesting \$10 million
- East Metro Food Waste Digestion Project - Ramsey/Washington County requesting \$30 million
- Increase the number of beds from 226 to 500 in the Housing Support Metro Demonstration Project – 7 metropolitan counties requesting \$4.5 million/year
- Emergency Housing Services Building – requesting \$5 million

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Washington County's 2024 legislative priorities. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Lucke reported that Washington County will be hosting a legislative reception on January 23, 2024, at the Oakdale Discovery Center. The Minnesota Legislature convenes on February 12, 2024.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports at [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://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 Kriesel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

## **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS**

The board met in workshop session to review and discuss the impact of authorizing pets in county campgrounds. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

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

Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Karwoski".

Stan Karwoski  
County Board Chair