

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 25, 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.

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. Approve an amendment to grant Contract No. 15240 between Washington County and the Minnesota Department of Human Services, for Housing Supports for Adult with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI) program to add \$225,400 in grant funds and extend the term of the agreement to June 30, 2026.
2. Approve update to Post-Employment Health Care Savings Plan for the unrepresented Confidential Unit.
3. Approval to modify Personnel Rules and Regulations Section 20 - Employment Outside of County Service.
4. Approve MNLINK Agreement Contract No. 16600 between Minitex and Washington County for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029.
5. Approve Comcast Phone and Internet Agreement for the Valley Library Contract No. 16601 for \$5,001.75.

6. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-069** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SPORLEDER SETTLEMENT,
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE SETTLEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY
ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the settlement agreement negotiated in *Sporleder v. State, et al.*, Court File No. 62-CV-23-3405, which is funded by a legislative appropriation in Chapter 113 of the 2024 Session Laws, is approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Auditor to meet the requirements for participating counties outlined in Chapter 113 of the 2024 Session Laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Attorney to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the County.

7. Approve a grant application to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Grant program.
8. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-070** as follows:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE SEVERSEIKE
FAMILY FOR INSTALLATION OF A STEEL BENCH WITH
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT POINT DOUGLAS PARK**

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

WHEREAS, the Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Parks - Park Bench Donation Program allows an individual or group to donate funds to install and maintain a bench to be used on a trail or near a park facility; and

WHEREAS, for a donation of \$3,500, a steel bench with commemorative plaque may be placed along a paved trail or park facility and will be guaranteed for a minimum of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, The Severseike Family (Jeff) wish to place a steel bench at Point Douglas Park in memory of Dr. Odean and Arlene Severseike and the family's fond boating memories.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$3,500 from the Severseike Family for installation of a steel park bench at Point Douglas Park with commemorative plaque; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will maintain the bench site, including repair and replacement of the bench and plaque for a period of ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after ten years, Washington County has the option to dispose of, replace, or relocate the bench and plaque as needed.

9. Approval to add 1.0 full-time equivalent Special Project Inventory Specialist position in the Public Works Department Transportation Division.
10. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-071** as follows:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM LINDA CRAIG
FOR LAKE ELMO PARK RESERVE PAVEMENT
PRESERVATION**

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

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations, and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, Linda Craig wishes to support the maintenance and improvement of paved trails for Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Linda Craig for the Parks and Trails Pavement Preservation project at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

11. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-072** as follows:

DONATION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION TOOLS

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 of six fire suppression tools valued at approximately \$1,000 each, donated on behalf of St. John's #1 through St. Paul-Macalester #290 Masonic Lodge.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recognition of the 2024 Child Care Provider of the Year

Social Services Supervisor Michelle McIntosh presented the 2024 Washington County Child Care Provider of the Year Award to Kathy Bischel of Woodbury.

Ms. McIntosh stated that Kathy has been a dedicated provider to the families of Washington County for 25 years. While working a full-time job and attending school to earn an MBA, Kathy felt a call to be home with her two young children. Kathy researched ways to make this work for their family, and stumbled upon a lasting career. She was able to raise her three children, while caring for many other children, and now provides child care to her first grandchild as well. While providing child care as a full-time job, Kathy was able to finish her degree and provide the care she wanted for her family.

Kathy works to incorporate fun features into her child care program. She provides monthly themes, daily storytime, and activities focused on kindergarten readiness. She hosts birthday parties, and special dinners on Halloween and Christmas. As children prepare to go to kindergarten, she has a graduation potluck for all the families to celebrate the children crossing this milestone.

It is important to Kathy that both the family and she share the fundamentals of raising children, and keep open communication when there are questions or concerns. Kathy views the children as an extension of her own family. Her goal is to provide a safe, secure, and loving environment where children can grow and learn. She guides children as they learn social interaction skills, motor skills, personal health habits, and safety habits.

Ms. McIntosh concluded that Kathy has impacted many lives as a child care provider. Kathy received six nominations for this award, and Ms. McIntosh shared comments from some of the parents.

PUBLIC WORKS

Contract for the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Contact Station Upgrade Project

Building Services Project Manager Greg Miller presented a contract for the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Contact Station Upgrade Project. This project is part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded building modification project, which includes space reconfigurations throughout multiple county buildings. The Lake Elmo Park Reserve Contact Station was built in 1985 and was last remodeled in 2001.

Mr. Miller reported that four bids were received, and Dering Pierson Group is recommended as the lowest responsible bidder for the project. The scope of this project includes reconfiguring workstations to accommodate changes in workstyles, including telework, due to the pandemic. Reconfiguration of the staff area and front reception desk area will enhance safety between front desk staff and the public, and increase security in the building.

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve Contract No. 16572 with Dering Pierson Group for \$251,081 for the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Contact Station Upgrade Project. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

2024 Legislative Session Summary

Margaret Vesel, Larkin Hoffman, provided a summary of the 2024 Legislative Session. The Minnesota Legislature adjourned its 2024 session on May 20. Ms. Vesel reported the Tax Bill passed; and it included \$5 million for the anaerobic digester project. The Bonding Bill, which would have likely included other items in Washington County's legislative platform, did not pass. Ms. Vesel also reported there is a possibility of special session this summer related to flood relief and she will keep the board posted as that consideration develops.

Emergency Management Update

Emergency Services Manager Doug Berglund gave an update on planning and precautions being taken for potential flooding. Mr. Berglund has drafted an emergency declaration in the event it is needed for approval at an upcoming board meeting. Mr. Berglund reported that both the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers are currently at a no wake status.

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, 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 Miron moved to adjourn. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to discuss three maintenance and operations agreements for METRO Gold Line. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, Clasen, and Karwoski. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to consider a potential Land and Water Legacy Program conservation easement project on approximately 76 acres in the City of Scandia. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, Clasen, and Karwoski. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stan Karwoski".

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair