

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JULY 8, 2025**

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 Bethany Cox, District 3
Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4
Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
John Ristad, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for July 8, 2025. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the June 17, 2025, and June 24, 2025, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Conner Sager to a first term on the Workforce Development Board as a Business Representative starting July 9, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2028.
3. Approval to appoint Cynthia Larson to a first term on the Workforce Development Board as a DEED Representative starting July 9, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2028.
4. Approve revisions to countywide Policy #2106 - Audit Advisory Committee.
5. Approve revisions to countywide Policy #2107 - Internal Audit Policy.

6. Approve revisions to countywide Policy #2108 - Capital Assets.
7. Approval to delete countywide Policy #1019 - Annual Campaign for Combined Charitable Funds.
8. Approve revisions to countywide Policy #6009 - Out-of-State Travel for Elected Officials.
9. Approve revisions to countywide Policy #1020 - Travel Policy for staff, including airline travel credit.
10. Approve Contract No. 17528 between Washington County and Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for a term starting on the date of signature, through December 31, 2026.
11. Approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 17410 between the City of Lake Elmo and Washington County, related to city watermain improvements as part of the County Highway 13 (Inwood Ave N) Improvement Project in Lake Elmo.
12. Approve a budget amendment to increase city contribution revenue and construction costs by \$57,300 for RB-2204 Pavement Preservation & Rehab Budget for City of Lake Elmo cost participation, related to city watermain improvements as part of the County Highway 13 (Inwood Ave N) Improvement Project in Lake Elmo.
13. Approve Contract No. 17445 with TurnKey Corrections for a five-year period to provide inmate phone and communication services within the Washington County Jail.
14. Approve Contract No. 17278 with Whelen Engineering Company, Inc., for a term of up to five years for the Whelen Cloud Platform.
15. Approve Grant Agreement No. 17527 with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, in the amount of \$236,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recognition of the 2025 Child Care Provider of the Year

Senior Social Worker Rebecca Knighton presented the 2025 Washington County Child Care Provider of the Year Award to Jennifer Sterner of Lake Elmo. Ms. Knighton reported that Ms. Sterner was nominated by several parents for being an exceptional child care provider, who is delivering outstanding care to the young people in the community.

Ms. Sterner runs Sunrise Nature Preschool in Lake Elmo and works with young children while combining her passion for environmentalism, outdoor recreation, and play. She has an outdoor

classroom and a fully devoted indoor preschool space, filled with opportunities for art, movement, music, building, dramatic play, reading, cooking, baking and more. Sunrise Nature Preschool is next to Lake Elmo Park Reserve, which offers additional land for exploration. Ms. Sterner follows the natural curiosity and interests of the children, as well as the seasons in Minnesota as their learning guide. Ms. Sterner nurtures curiosity, builds character, and offers each child a safe place to grow into who they were meant to be.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Washington County Community Survey Results

Senior Planner Kelli Matzek introduced Erin Caldwell, Survey Research Principal at Polco/National Research Center, who summarized the key findings of the 2025 Washington County Community Survey.

Ms. Caldwell reported that surveys were mailed to 4,500 households, 900 from each commissioner's district, and a total of 673 households (15%) completed the survey. The survey was available both as a paper survey and online, and Washington County provided the survey online in English, Hmong, and Spanish.

Ms. Caldwell reported that Washington County community members report a much higher quality of life than most other counties across the nation, with its rating improving since 2022. Tax concerns have risen, while concerns about crime have decreased. Community concerns about overweight children and adults, along with water quality, top the list of health and environmental issues. Washington County services and government performance are rated positively by community members. Community members' experience with county employees and Service/License Centers have improved since 2022. A full copy of the 2025 Washington County Community Survey is available on the county's website.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) Annual Report

MCIT Executive Director Gerd Clabaugh provided a summary of MCIT's 2025 Annual Report. MCIT provides Minnesota counties cost-effective coverage with comprehensive and quality risk management services. The report was included in today's meeting agenda packet and includes key MCIT developments and financial status, claim trends, coverage enhancements, and membership services.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Resolution for Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week

Director Terry Thomas presented a resolution to proclaim July 20-26, 2025, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. Mr. Thomas reported that the American Probation and Parole Association has named this year's national theme *Heroes Behind the Mission: Transforming Lives, Enhancing Public Safety*.

Mr. Thomas reported that in 2024, Community Corrections staff served 8,762 clients, guided 108 people through cognitive skills interventions, and completed 3,579 individual cognitive behavioral change interventions. Mr. Thomas reported that Community Corrections staff facilitated 42,976 hours of Sentence to Service, completed 985 pre-sentence investigations for court, and conducted more than 1,000 risk assessments.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-068** as follows:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JULY 20-26, 2025
AS PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROLE SUPERVISION WEEK**

WHEREAS, Washington County probation and parole officers are an essential part of the public safety system; and

WHEREAS, they are responsible for supervising adult and juvenile probationers in the community; and

WHEREAS, Washington County probation and parole officers uphold the law with dignity, while recognizing the right of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, Washington County probation and parole officers are trained professionals who work in partnership with community agencies and groups; and

WHEREAS, Washington County probation and parole officers intervene with offenders to change behavior; and

WHEREAS, Washington County probation and parole officers provide cost-effective services to the citizens of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, all Community Corrections staff play a vital role in supporting the work of probation and parole officers; and

WHEREAS, Community Corrections professionals are a true force for positive change in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim July 20-26, 2025, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, and encourage all to honor these community corrections professionals and to recognize their achievements.

Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Cox, Bigham, Clasen, and Karwoski. Nays, none.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Authorization to Transfer Ownership of K9 Jake to Deputy Chris Majeski

Sheriff Dan Starry presented a request to transfer ownership of Washington County K9 Jake to Deputy Chris Majeski. Sheriff Starry reported that K9 Jake has been serving the communities of Washington County for nearly 10 years. K9 Jake has been an invaluable resource to the community by taking dangerous drugs off the streets, locating individuals involved in crimes, and locating missing and vulnerable people. Deputy Majeski and K9 Jake have also been a part of the two-time national champion K9 team for the last two championships. K9 Jake is now moving into the next phase of his life, which is retirement. Deputy Majeski has agreed to take on the responsibility of caring for K9 Jake, so he can enjoy the remainder of his life.

Sheriff Starry presented Deputy Majeski with a recognition of thanks from the U.S. Police Canine Association Region 18. Sheriff Starry also recognized Deputy Majeski's 20 years of service with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Miron moved to transfer ownership of K9 Jake to his handler, Deputy Chris Majeski. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was approved.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

County Administrator Kevin Corbid noted two upcoming events, a ribbon cutting at the new play area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve on July 16 at 9:30 a.m., and the Community Ice Cream Social at the Historic Courthouse on July 17 from 5-8 p.m.

Mr. Corbid provided the commissioners with a report for Washington County from Downs Government Affairs LLC, with the key provisions in the reconciliation bill H.R. 1 "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which was passed last week.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county's website washingtoncountymn.gov under "County Board of Commissioners."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The County Board meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.



Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Stan Karwoski

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair