



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 16, 2026**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 2:00 p.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

Absent: 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 Bigham asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for June 16, 2026. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Bigham pulled item 5K from the Consent Calendar for discussion, regarding modifications to Policy #1005, Code of Ethical Conduct.

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

1. Approval to appoint Diane Kass to a partial term on the Workforce Development Board as a Business Representative starting June 17, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2028.
2. Approval for 1.0 FTE Senior Social Worker in the Emergency Communication Response Center (ECRC).
3. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Joint Powers Agreement No. 17796 with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for Washington County to receive



additional Cost Neutral Transfer funds in an amount of \$714,515.16 and extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2027.

4. Approve Contract No. 18326 between Washington County and Dungarvin Minnesota, LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for case management services for a term starting on the date of signature, through December 31, 2028.
5. Approve the 2026-2028 Tentative Agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local #215 Deputy Sheriff Sergeants Unit.
6. Approval to modify Personnel Rules & Regulations, Section #5 - Compensation.
7. Approval to modify Personnel Rules and Regulations, Section #23 - Performance Evaluations.
8. Approval to modify Human Resources Policy #5027 – Background Checks related to Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS).
9. Approval to delete Human Resources Policy #5013 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
10. Approval to create Administration Whistleblower Policy #5037.
11. Approve Grant Agreement SG-25P4-10-01 between the Metropolitan Council and Washington County for Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Grant Program for construction at Square Lake Park.
12. Approve Cooperative Design Cost Agreement No. 18297 between the City of Oakdale and Washington County for trail improvements on CSAH 13 (50th Street North) from Helmo Avenue to Olson Lake Trail.
13. Approval to delete three Countywide Policies and Procedures:
 - Policy 1803/1803P – Bulletin Board (Employee Lunchroom);
 - Policy 1804/1804P – Zip Codes Plus 4 Coding;
 - Policy 1806/1806P – Business Cards.

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

Policy #1005 – Code of Ethical Conduct

Commissioner Miron moved to return Policy #1005 back to the Personnel Committee for further review. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Nays, none.

PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Local Public Health Association of Minnesota – Spotlight Program Award

Jill Timm, PHE Deputy Director, and Alicia Rodriguez, Project Manager/Member Engagement Coordinator with the Local Public Health Association (LPHA), announced that the Jail Parenting Program at Washington County Public Health & Environment has been awarded the LPHA Program Spotlight Award. Ms. Timm presented a video about the program.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that this award recognizes programs or initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact and innovation in local public health and shares impactful strategies and success stories throughout the LPHA network. The Washington County Jail Parenting Program strives to help incarcerated parents maintain meaningful connections with their children—promoting family well-being, mitigating the trauma of family separation, and reducing recidivism upon release. Through this program, staff thoughtfully evaluated community needs and leveraged staff expertise to deliver a program that is both effective and replicable with minimal resources. In this way, the program strongly aligns with LPHA’s strategic priority of enhancing public health system capacity.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that in 2024, the family home visiting team used prior evaluation data to reassess services provided within the county jail, shifting to a cohort model and implementing a new curriculum better aligned with participant needs. They then went a step further by adapting the Circle of Security curriculum specifically for the jail setting—recognizing that participants may not immediately be able to apply new parenting skills. These thoughtful modifications emphasize reflection, group discussion, and practical application in future interactions, including limited or brief visits with children.

The program is also making a lasting impact. Between 2013 and 2025, more than 250 parenting groups have been held at the Washington County Jail, reaching 629 fathers and 305 mothers. It is estimated that this work has positively impacted up to 2,500 children, with nearly 50 parents participating in Circle of Security groups since their launch in 2024.

On behalf of LPHA, Ms. Rodriguez presented the award certificate to Tyler Roenicke, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Heather Naughton, Public Health Nurse II, and Deana Olson, Public Health Nurse II, in recognition of their leadership implementing this innovative and effective program.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

2026 Minnesota Legislative Session Reports

Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) staff provided an end-of-session report on the outcomes of the 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session and its impact on Washington County. MICA Executive Director Nathan Jesson summarized end-of-session results, and MICA legislative liaisons Nancy Silesky, Amber Backhaus, and Rachel Sosnowchik provided summaries on bills and funding results for transportation and bonding, environment, and health and human services.

Margaret Vesel, Larkin Hoffman Public Affairs, presented the 2026 Minnesota Legislative Review, a comprehensive report of the issues that Larkin Hoffman engaged with or monitored during the 2026 session, on behalf of Washington County.

Washington County Community Development Agency

Chris Eng, Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) Economic Development Director, and Abbi Wittman, Forest Lake Community Development Director, presented a resolution to approve the City of Forest Lake's application to the Opportunity Zones program and priority ranking of the census tracts as requested by the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Eng reported that Opportunity Zones are designated areas aimed at stimulating economic development by offering tax incentives to investors who fund projects within these zones. The program was created in 2017 and reauthorized in 2025. Investors can defer, reduce, or eliminate capital gains taxes by reinvesting in Qualified Opportunity Funds that support real estate or business development in these areas. Minnesota will designate 73 of its 289 eligible low-income census tracts as Opportunity Zones. One major change in the law at this time is that rural areas are provided with greater tax advantages. The City of Forest Lake has the only eligible census tracts in Washington County, and the application period opens July 1.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-072** as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMISSION OF OPPORTUNITY ZONE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, Congress established the Opportunity Zones program through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and reauthorized the program in 2025 to encourage long-term private investment in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Zones program provides a federal tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds that are dedicated to investing into Opportunity Zones; and

WHEREAS, each Governor is authorized to designate 25% of the eligible census tracts as Opportunity Zones in their state. In Minnesota, this means the Governor can designate 73 census tracts as Opportunity Zones out of an eligible 289 low-income census tracts; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walz is asking counties to prioritize and recommend which eligible census tracts in their county should be designated Opportunity Zones; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the eligible census tracts as included in the map provided by Minnesota, the Washington County Board of Commissioners is



recommending submitting a response for the designation of an Opportunity Zone for census tract #701.03 as the top priority and census tract #701.04 as the second highest priority both located in the city limits of the City of Forest Lake, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the two census tracts in the City of Forest Lake, within Washington County identified above have also similarly been ranked and recommended by the City of Forest Lake Economic Development Authority and City Council for redevelopment investments of new commercial and housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby support the submittal of census tract #701.03 as the highest ranked and #701.04 as the second highest ranked census tracts in Washington County to Governor Walz for designation of an Opportunity Zone.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

County State Aid Highway 17 and Trunk Highway 36 Intersection Improvement Project

Engineer Andrew Giesen presented a contract and two cooperative agreements for the CSAH 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue) and TH 36 Intersection Improvement Project. This project is within the City of Lake Elmo and the City of Grant, and is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2674.

Mr. Giesen reported that the project scope includes a grade-separated crossing of TH 36, ramps to provide access between CSAH 17 and TH 36, retaining walls, storm water treatment facilities, pedestrian facilities, frontage road addition on the south side, and intersection controls. A critical piece of this project was the full acquisition of River Valley Church. This project will be funded by Local Contributions, State and Federal Grants, and State Aid.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contract No. 18215 in the amount of \$27,313,659.44 with Ames Construction for the CSAH 17 and TH 36 Intersection Improvement project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 18223 between the City of Lake Elmo and Washington County for the CSAH 17 and TH 36 Intersection Improvement project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 18224 between the City of Lake Elmo and Washington County for the CSAH 17 and TH 36 Intersection Improvement project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Resolution for State Standard Measures Program

Eleanor Hahn, Planner I in the Office of Administration, presented a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to file a declaration with the Office of the State Auditor to participate in the 2026 Performance Measurement Program. The annual Performance Measurement Review is available on the county's website.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-073** as follows:

PARTICIPATION IN THE 2026 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation in 2010, setting it in state law; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Local Results and Innovation released a standard set of performance measures for counties that will aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials to determine the effectiveness of counties in providing services and measure residents' opinions of those services; and

WHEREAS, the County Board began the county's participation in the voluntary standard measures program in 2011; and

WHEREAS, a county that chooses to participate in the standard measures program for 2026 may be eligible for a reimbursement of 14 cents per capita in county government aid, not to exceed \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, counties must file a report with the Office of the State Auditor by July 1, 2026, with a declaration adopting and implementing performance measures developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation; and

WHEREAS, the county has a longstanding commitment to performance measurement and continuous improvement that focuses on outcome goals and performance results; and

WHEREAS, the county has implemented a local performance measurement system, including the use of measurement and reporting to help plan, budget, manage, and evaluate programs and processes; and

WHEREAS, the county is implementing an internal continuous improvement plan with a framework for countywide continuous improvement work, which includes setting targets, measuring progress, reporting on progress, and making improvements; and



WHEREAS, the county will report the results of the 10 adopted measures from this program to residents by posting the results on the county’s website; and

WHEREAS, the county will continue to communicate the results of its continuous improvement program with the community through the use of public meetings, news releases, website postings, and an annual report to the County Board and Washington County community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts 10 Model Performance Measures for Counties and authorizes the County Administrator to file the declaration to participate in the 2026 Performance Measurement Program and to file the Performance Measurement Review with the Office of the State Auditor by July 1, 2026.

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

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 washingtontcountymn.gov under “County Board of Commissioners.”

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Board Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS – MANDATES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions for the Community Services Department. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions for the Sheriff’s Office. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.



Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair