

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 23, 2026**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:20 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 Bigham asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for June 23, 2026. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the June 2, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to reappoint Jonathan Pritchard to a first full term on the Community Development Block Grant advisory starting July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029.
3. Approve Contract No. 18273 with OpenGov, Inc. for a budget management system for the four-year period June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2030, in the amount of \$322,753.
4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-074** as follows:

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney's Office is authorized to enter a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections, Facilities Division for reimbursement of prosecution expenses related to criminal cases involving inmates at state correctional facilities for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney's Office is hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of Washington County.

5. Approve Agreement No. 18362 between Washington County and the City of Oakdale Police Department to embed a social worker with law enforcement for the period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.
6. Approval of an application for a 1–4 day temporary on-sale liquor license from the Washington County Agricultural Society for the Washington County Fair from July 29, 2026, through August 1, 2026, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, located in Baytown Township.
7. Approval of an application for a 1-4 day temporary on-sale liquor license from the Washington County Agricultural Society for the Washington County Fair on August 2, 2026, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, located in Baytown Township.
8. Approval of a property tax abatement for property located at 14830 58th Street North in Oak Park Heights.
9. Approval of a property tax abatement for personal property located at 6895 Bailey Road in Woodbury.
10. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-075** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION
TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR THE
SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature established the Solar for Public Buildings Grant Program in the 2023 legislative session to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings in Xcel Energy Electric Service Territory; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the Minnesota Department of Commerce will distribute \$650,000 in grants through its Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, grants will be competitively awarded to local governments in Xcel Energy Electric Service Territory to build solar energy-generating systems on or adjacent to publicly owned and operated buildings; and



WHEREAS, Washington County is an eligible grant recipient for Solar on Public Buildings funding; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program for a Solar System on Park Grove Library; and

WHEREAS, Washington County will submit a complete and accurate application; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to securing funding for the remaining cost of the project if selected; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing the project, if selected, and funding is provided as part of the Solar on Public Building Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is requesting funding from the state government through the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program and the county is committed to completing the project identified above and securing funding for the remaining cost of the project.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Coordinated Response Team Presentation

The Washington County Coordinated Response Team (CRT) is a partnership between law enforcement and social workers that provides in-progress and post crisis follow-up to mental health calls. The CRT began in 2020, and following the County Board's approval of a three-year expansion project in 2024, the CRT expanded from three jurisdictions to six jurisdictions: Washington County Sheriff's Office, Woodbury, Stillwater, Cottage Grove, Oak Park Heights, and Oakdale joining summer 2026. Members of the CRT presented an overview.

Washington County Sgt. Michelle Folendorf reported that the role of law enforcement provides crisis intervention, de-escalation, and trauma-informed responses, and promotes safe resolution through communication, assessment, and collaboration. Law enforcement provides critical support and establishes scene safety, and balances public safety with empathy, dignity, and respect. They engage in proactive outreach, building relationships with individuals with recurring mental health challenges.

Hannah Driver, Senior Social Worker-Clinical, reported that the role of a social worker provides clinical insight into mental health crisis, brings a social work perspective to complement law enforcement response, and connects individuals and families to resources and services. Social workers provide information regarding mental health with law enforcement, and serve as a liaison

with social services and community partners. They provide gap services, an opportunity to connect with residents quicker, meeting people where they are, and provide stabilization services for individuals who may not qualify for or engage in traditional services.

Kevin Jacques, Social Worker II, serves as one of the embedded social workers in the Woodbury jurisdiction and responds to in-progress calls. They support patrol and the community in both first response calls (Active Response: First On-Scene Dispatched) and second response calls (Patrol First On Scene: Requests CRT Assist). They assist with many calls, such as mental health, homelessness, substance abuse, civil commitment revocations, probation violations, and domestic violence, and work to provide the best support in each situation.

Stillwater Police Department Det. Chyrise LeMoine spoke about how the CRT has made a difference in the community. Having embedded social workers in police departments has changed the in-depth and personalized help that they can provide when reaching the community. The CRT connects residents to local resources and support, and provides personalized, community-based assistance. The CRT creates positive interactions with police officers, and strengthens knowledge within the local departments. Det. LeMoine also reported that the CRT has a presence at local events for community engagement, which normalizes seeking help and creates approachable opportunities for connection, and reaches people who may not seek support on their own.

Kibbie Claflin, Social Worker-Clinical, serves as the embedded social worker in the Oak Park Heights jurisdiction, and spoke about how the CRT is benefitting law enforcement. The CRT has the ability to leverage the skills and the relationship between law enforcement and social services to provide the best possible intervention for mental health crises, and provide proactive, gap-based support to connect people to mental health resources sooner.

Cottage Grove Police Department Det. Scott Shaver reported that there are three therapy dogs with Coordinated Response, Otis, Riggs, and Penny. The canines are calming for individuals in a crisis and use their body pressure to provide touch therapy for people. Cottage Grove Police Department Therapy K9 Riggs was present at today's meeting, and Det. Shaver reported that Riggs has been brought to active calls and has a 100% success rate with deescalation.

Traci Thompson, Social Services Supervisor-Clinical, provided data for referrals by jurisdiction. Ms. Thompson reported that there were 1,980 referrals in 2025. This is a 65.3% increase from 2024, in which there were 1,198 referrals. There were 11,238 contacts made in 2025, an increase of 35.5% from 2024, in which there were 8,291 contact made. Ms. Thompson concluded that all the partnerships mentioned today have made Coordinated Response a success, and the outreach continues to grow and expand.

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution for Park and Recreation Month

Parks Manager JJ Williams presented a resolution proclaiming the month of July as Park and Recreation Month in Washington County parks and trails, and proclaiming the first non-holiday Tuesday of every month a Free Tuesday, waiving the vehicle permit required to enter Washington County parks. Mr. Williams provided an overview of county parks, park programs and events, benefits of parks, and equity initiatives.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-076** as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT PROCLAIMING JULY 2026 AS
PARK & RECREATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Washington County; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities, aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those with mental or physical disabilities, and improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Washington County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has traditionally endorsed the first non-holiday Tuesday of the month as Free Tuesday; during this time a vehicle permit is not required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes July 2026 as Park and Recreation Month in Washington County and set the first non-holiday Tuesday of every month as a Free Tuesday, a day when vehicle permit fees are waived, allowing the public to enter Washington County Parks and Trails for free.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Nays, none.

Minnesota Recreation and Park Association Award

Jared Flewellen, on behalf of Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA), presented the MRPA 2025 Award of Excellence to Washington County for the Permitted Foraging Program project. Mr. Flewellen reported that the MRPA Award of Excellence program was created to recognize agencies and their staff for outstanding and unique projects from the past year. Mr. Flewellen stated that the Permitted Foraging Program is a great example of a project in Minnesota that meets the criteria of excellence.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported that the county was notified by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that Washington County was selected for five achievement awards. The five programs that have been awarded are the Go Washington website, the Emergency Housing Services Building, the Equity in Parks and Recreation Playground Equipment, the Gold Line Joint Powers Board, and Community Services' Mental Health in Motion.

Mr. Corbid provided a document to commissioners related to the county's role in planning and zoning and how that relates to the issue of data centers. The document identifies the statutory authority for cities for municipal planning, Chapter 394 as providing county statutory authority for planning. It does not allow the county to provide planning in municipalities or townships unless the local entity requests it and there is a contract for those services.

Mr. Corbid reported that in 2019, the county board voted to transfer the zoning authority it currently had in townships back to the townships. The county, at that time, retained zoning authority for properties surrounding bodies of water and mining in the townships. The document also notes that in the areas where the county has retained the zoning authority, data centers are not an allowable use under county code. The document does contain the list of allowable uses within those shoreline and mining areas, and those uses that could be done with a conditional use permit. Based on this review, a county-passed moratorium would only be binding in the areas that we control, shoreline and mining areas, and data centers are already not allowed in those areas.

Mr. Corbid stated that the board could have the opportunity to ask townships if they would like to reverse the 2018 action and give the county back their zoning authority. Mr. Corbid noted that that process took a number of years to complete, and there was a tremendous amount of discussion and engagement with the townships and other interested parties. Moving forward on this issue in this area would be a project that would take a significant amount of staff and time, and likely some expense, Mr. Corbid asked the board for direction on this issue in the future. Mr. Corbid also noted that there has been much work done at the state level on legislation for activities around planning and zoning and the impacts of data centers, and the Association of Minnesota Counties has prepared some information, as well as the Department of Commerce, and that information is available as well.

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 County Board, Board Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS – MANDATES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

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

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions for the Public Health & Environment Department. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to discuss election security and early voting updates. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to discuss Park Grove Library exterior wall options. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to discuss the Climate Action Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair