



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 13, 2026**

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

Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public.

There were several people who provided public comments regarding opposition to an ICE detention center in the City of Woodbury, and generally raising concerns regarding immigration enforcement actions within the county, and made suggestions on actions that the County Board should take related to these issues.

Janet Carlson, Lake Elmo
Martha Winslow, St. Mary's Point
Sven Risom, Afton
Patricia Isaacs, May Township
Phillip Williams, Mahtomedi
Kathy Kuchar, Cottage Grove
Ruth Jones, Cottage Grove
Nick Gorski, Stillwater
Patti Blair, Woodbury
Jim Wolfewood, Stillwater
Kristine Olson, Stillwater
Nancy Millard, Lakeland
Ryan Brandt, Woodbury
Theresa Hughes, Woodbury
Kris Killian, Lake Elmo
Katherine Noble, Oak Park Heights

Nicole Sauer, Woodbury
Jennifer Scully, Woodbury
Lynn Renee, Stillwater
Eileen Weber, Denmark Township
Bruce Weeks, Stillwater Township
William Tice, Woodbury
Carol Iwata, Afton
Valerie Stoehr, Afton
Jennifer Vitale, Woodbury

Comments cards were also received from the following:

Tara Christou, Grant Township
Paolo Tagliaferri, Afton
Jacquelin Tagliaferri, Afton
Sally Ryan, Stillwater
Jack Evert, Stillwater
Gene Coffman, Lake Elmo
Mary McNellis, Stillwater
Laura Nichols, Woodbury
Steve Vitale, Woodbury

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for January 13, 2026, with moving item 6, Commissioner Reports, to item 4. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners provided their comments regarding the ICE detention center issue and thanked those who provided today's public comments. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county's website washingtoncountymn.gov under "County Board of Commissioners."

Chair Bigham called a recess at 10:12 a.m.

The County Board reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval to re-appoint Temmy Olasimbo to a second full term on the Washington County Community Development Agency as a District 5 Representative starting January 14, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2028.

2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-007** as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR WESTLAW SUBSCRIPTION

WHEREAS, the County Attorney's Office has identified a need for a more efficient solution for comprehensive digital legal research materials essential to the operation of the office; and

WHEREAS, this software packet includes office-wide access to comprehensive digital legal research materials essential to the operation of a public law office. The digital subscription, also known as, Westlaw Advantage with CoCounsel, combines the power of Westlaw's premier legal research platform with CoCounsel's advanced AI document analysis and drafting skills to help legal professionals conduct time-consuming legal work more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, that this comprehensive subscription allows unlimited access to identified legal materials, allowing for cost efficient and time efficient legal research. Use of these legal materials, allow attorneys to conduct more accurate, thorough, and comprehensive legal research to obtain optimal litigation outcomes. The new CoCounsel feature aids an attorneys to properly review and analyze complex legal issues and prepare accurate legal memos with strict formatting requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney's Office is authorized to enter a Software Subscription Agreement with West Publishing Corporation to the extent that products or services will be provided by West Publishing Corporation, and/or Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH to the extent that products or services will be provided by Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH for the purpose of utilizing its West Proflex products within the County Attorney's Office for the period of February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2029.

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.

3. Approval of 1.0 FTE Special Project Senior Social Worker for Opioid Response.
4. Approve licenses for the use of real property in the cities of Mahtomedi and Stillwater for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator.

5. Approve comment letter regarding Valley Branch Watershed District 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Washington County 2026 Legislative Platform

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke presented the 2026 legislative platform. Ms. Lucke reported that each year, the County Board adopts position statements on state funding requests and legislative issues specific to Washington County. Ms. Lucke reported that the board reviewed the legislative platform at a board workshop on December 16, 2025.

- Washington County Wood Recovery and Utilization Project – requesting \$4 million
- East Metro PFAS Biomonitoring – requesting \$1.1 million
- County Highway 10, 17, and 17B Intersection Improvements – requesting \$2 million
- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive) Intersection Improvements – requesting \$500,000
- County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment Project – requesting \$22.5 million
- CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown’s Creek State Trail Connection Project – requesting \$3 million
- Protect County Transportation Funding – supports legislation to protect the current formula for distributing Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) funds and Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax (RSUT)
- Sales Tax Exemption for 2027 Washington County Regional Public Facility Investments – requests special legislation granting a sales tax exemption under Minn. Stat. §297A.75 for construction materials, supplies, and equipment for two major regional public facility projects scheduled for construction in 2027: R.H. Stafford Library and Public Works South Shop
- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Trail Lighting – requesting \$3 million
- State Bonding for Metropolitan Regional Park System – requesting \$20 million

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt the 2026 legislative platform. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to discuss a letter to federal delegates regarding a federal detention center. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. 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 for an update on the Transit Needs Study and Community Circulator. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair