



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 3, 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

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for February 3, 2026. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-012** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM
TRACINDA YAW FOR INSTALLATION OF A CEDAR BENCH
WITH COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
AT LAKE ELMO PARK RESERVE**

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, the Washington County Parks - Park Bench 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 \$2,500, a cedar park bench with commemorative plaque may be placed along a turf trail and will be guaranteed for a minimum of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, Tracinda Yaw has requested to place a cedar park bench at Lake Elmo Park Reserve in commemoration of the many memories they have shared with their children within the park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from Tracinda Yaw for the installation of a cedar park bench at Lake Elmo Park Reserve 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 five years; and

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

2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-013** as follows:

USPCA AKC REUNITE K9 GRANT

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 authorize the Washington County Sheriff's Office to accept funding in the amount of \$7,500 from the USPCA AKC Reunite K9 Grant Program to support the K9 Unit.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Resolution for Black History Month

Henok Fanta, Co-Chair of the Black Employee Network Employee Resource Group, presented a resolution proclaiming the month of February 2026 as Black History Month in Washington County. Mr. Fanta reported that the Black Employee Network and the Anti-Racism Workgroup Employee Resource Groups will host an event on February 26 to celebrate Black History Month.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-014** as follows:

2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1925, Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and conceived and announced Negro History Week to be celebrated during the week encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas in February 1926; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, then President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration to a month and urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every endeavor throughout our history”; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a month-long commemoration of the history and achievements of Black Americans in the United States celebrated annually in February; and

WHEREAS, we honor Black people's rich history and contributions, including those who identify as African Americans and across the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Black American communities celebrate with events and educational programs that focus on the past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, all Washington County employees and community members should be aware of the rich history and contributions of Black people in Washington County and across the United States; and



WHEREAS, Washington County’s Black Employee Network and the Anti-Racism Workgroup Employee Resource Groups are hosting a Black History Month celebration on Thursday, February 26, centered on the theme, “*Our Roots, Our Voices.*”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of February 2026 to be Black History Month in Washington County to recognize the amazing and everlasting efforts and accomplishments of Black descendants of the African diaspora; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners extends its appreciation to the employees of the Black Employee Network and Anti-Racism Workgroup Employee Resource Groups for hosting the Black History Month event of “*Our Roots, Our Voices.*”

Commissioner Karwoski 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.

PUBLIC WORKS

County State Aid Highway 5, County Road 55, and County State Aid Highway 96 Intersection Improvement Project

Engineer Andrew Giesen presented a contract, resolution, and budget amendment requests for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Stonebridge Trail), County Road (CR) 55 (Norell Avenue), and CSAH 96 (Dellwood Road) Intersection Improvement Project. This project is in Stillwater Township, and is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2807.

Mr. Giesen provided a summary of the project schedule, which began in January 2025. Mr. Giesen reported that the next steps are final design and acquisition of the necessary right-of-way. Mr. Giesen reported that three proposals were submitted for the final design contract, and TKDA Associates was selected for the contract. This project is funded through Turnback Funds and Local Contributions.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contact No. 17977 with TKDA Associates in the amount of \$580,500 to provide final design services for the CSAH 5, CR 55, CSAH 96 Intersection Improvement Project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-015** as follows:

RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AT THE INTERSECTION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY 5, COUNTY HIGHWAY 96, AND COUNTY ROAD 55 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER

WHEREAS, the intersection improvement of County Highway 5, County Highway 96, and County Road 55 is programmed in Washington County's Capital Improvement Plan under RB-2807; and,

WHEREAS, the acquisition of right-of-way and associated easements is necessary to make said road improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County proceed to purchase the permanent right-of-way, permanent road easements, permanent drainage & utility easements, and temporary easements necessary to improve the intersection of County Highway 5, County Highway 96, and County Road 55 in the Township of Stillwater as shown on the attached map, located in Washington County, Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of said County, including the County Engineer, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney, shall proceed and are hereby authorized to proceed to acquire, by negotiations and direct purchase, and if necessary, the exercise of eminent domain; right-of-way to establish said permanent right-of-way, permanent easements, and temporary construction easements. Such officers are specifically authorized to take such actions and execute such instruments and plants if any be necessary, to acquire said right-of-way and associated easements.

Commissioner Miron 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.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve a budget amendment to move \$50,000 from Right-of-Way budget to Planning & Design budget. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Contract with CentralSquare Technologies

Commander Andrew Ellickson presented a contract with CentralSquare Technologies LLC, to provide migration of the Sheriff's Office public safety system from on-premise hosting to a cloud environment. This system supports public safety agencies throughout the county, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. A board workshop was held on December 16, 2025, to discuss this project.

Commander Ellickson reported that moving to the cloud allows for the applications to be maintained on the latest version, supported seamlessly by the vendor, and eliminates the need for IT staff to maintain the nearly 50 servers.

Commander Ellickson provided a cost breakdown, and noted that CentralSquare has extended a financial incentive to support the county's transition to a cloud-based platform by reducing the 2026 annual maintenance cost by approximately \$200,000.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Contract No. 17920 with CentralSquare Technologies LLC in the amount not to exceed \$4,761,161 over a five-year period. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Federal Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke provided information on Congressionally Directed Spending. Ms. Lucke reported that the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill was signed into law on January 23, and included \$1,031,000 for the Body Worn and Squad Fleet Camera Integration Project for the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Lucke reported that there are five remaining appropriations bills to pass. One of them is the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill and it includes two projects for Washington County: \$5 million for the CSAH 32 Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project in Forest Lake; and \$250,000 for the CSAH 18 and Settlers Ridge Parkway Reconstruction in Woodbury.

Ms. Lucke reported that a partial federal government shutdown began over the weekend after federal funding related to the remaining appropriations bills expired at the January 30 deadline. This means funding lapsed for key agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, and others not covered by existing appropriations.

The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan funding plan that would reopen most of the government and extend Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding through February 13 to allow more time for negotiation on that specific appropriations bill. The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to take up that funding package, with a vote expected today. Passage would end the partial shutdown. Following that House vote, the President is expected to sign the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill into law, which would secure federal funding for CSAH 32 and CSAH 18.

Ms. Lucke concluded that there will be a board workshop next week to begin discussions on the next round of Congressionally Directed Spending.

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, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to introduce the County Transportation Sales Tax financial analysis. 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