
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: June 14, 2016
Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager
Phone: 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723
E-mail: yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the June 14, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Residents join Mental Health Advisory Board, community development committee

The Washington County Board of Commissioners appointed two residents to county advisory committees June 14.

Diane Knoll, Lake Elmo, was appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Board, to a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2018.

Clare Lillis, Hugo, was appointed to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Committee, filling a vacancy for District 1, to a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. The Mental Health Advisory Committee, established by state law, brings a community perspective and provides advice or makes recommendations to the County Board on issues presented to the committee. The committee reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations regarding the local mental health system; arranges for input from the regional treatment center review board regarding coordination of care between the regional treatment center and community-based services; arranges for input from local system of care providers regarding coordination of care between services; and identifies for the County Board the individuals, providers, agencies, and associations to receive information on predictors and symptoms of emotional disturbances, where mental health services are available in the county, and how to access the services.

The CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee provides public input to and increases the accountability of the CDBG and HOME programs in Washington County. The purpose of the CDBG program is to

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

develop strong urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

County Board extends WorkForce Center agreement with DEED

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended the county's agreement June 14 with the state Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) through June 30, 2021, to support the county's WorkForce Center.

The WorkForce Center receives funding from many state and federal sources to provide services. One of these sources is the Master Grant between the center and DEED. The Master Grant is the overriding contract between Washington County and DEED that recognizes Washington County as the provider of training and employment services for the county.

In accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and as a provision of the funding, the WorkForce Center has developed a Local Plan, which covers operation through June 30, 2018.

The plan, in part, outlines the services provided by the WorkForce Center for adult, youth, seniors, and dislocated workers. All services provided under this grant agreement are administered using federal and state funding. In addition, the WorkForce Center must track participants' progress using the states technology information system.

Contact: Robert Crawford, WorkForce Center Division Manager, 651-275-8660

County Board approves temporary liquor license for Habitat for Humanity fundraiser

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a temporary on-sale liquor license June 14 for Habitat for Humanity to conduct a fundraiser in Stillwater Township June 25.

The applicant will contract with Rush River Brewing for the liquor service, which will also carry the liability insurance. The Sheriff's Office has been notified of the event. The requirements for issuing this license have been met, and fees paid.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Elections Division Manager, 651-430-8272

County will work with Mercury Technologies of Minnesota for fluorescent lamp, bulb recycling

Washington County will work with Mercury Technologies of Minnesota to dispose of fluorescent lamps and bulbs, after the County Board approved a contract with the company June 14.

The Washington County Environmental Center accepts fluorescent lamps and bulbs from households at no charge. Lamps and bulbs are shipped to Mercury Technologies of Minnesota and recycled.

The contract complements the agreement with Xcel Energy that provides the county with reimbursement for costs incurred for lamp and bulb recycling.

Contact: Jeff Travis, Senior Environmental Program Manager, 651-430-4033

County Board to submit comments on watershed plans

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved comment letters for watershed management plans June 14 for the Browns Creek Watershed District and the South Washington Watershed District.

Washington County received the 60-day review notice from the watershed districts for their respective Watershed Management Plans. Plans are updated every 10 years.

The comment letters commended the districts for working as partners with the county in water resources management, and their support for county programs, such as well sealing and septic system management.

Contact: Stephanie Souter, Planner II, Public Health and Environment, 651-430-6701

Kraus-Anderson will manage upgrade of county fueling stations

Kraus-Anderson will provide professional construction management services for an upgrade of Washington County's fueling infrastructure system, after the County Board approved a contract with the company June 14.

The county uses more than 275,000 gallons of various fuels annually, with the fuel stored and dispensed at five locations around the county, the Public Works North and South shops, the Law Enforcement Center, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

The fuel infrastructure involves the installation of fuel tanks, pumps, and canopies at all five fueling stations, the integration and upgrade of a fuel tracking system known as GasBoy, and developing spill prevention and countermeasures plans. The county is required to track and report fuel usage to the Minnesota Department of Revenue within 1 percent accuracy, and is audited by the department on its fuel management.

The county has more than 20,000 fuel transactions per year, and fuels county vehicles, maintenance equipment, snow plows, Sheriff's Office vehicles, and other vehicles.

Kraus-Anderson has worked on county building programs, and its employees are familiar with county facilities. The overall project is budgeted at \$1.3 million, with the proposed construction management services from Kraus-Anderson contract costing \$185,000. The funds are coming from proceeds from 2011 bonds that the county sold.

Kraus-Anderson will provide on-site supervision, project management, and cost control, and establish the overall project budget. Construction is expected to occur this summer, with completion in November.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer and Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

County Board meets as board of appeal, equalization

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met as the County Board of Appeal and Equalization June 14, to hear concerns from property owners regarding the 2016 estimated market value of their property.

The 2016 assessments, which will be used to levy 2017 property taxes, are based on the analysis of residential "arms-length," meaning not lender mediated, sales between October 2014 and September 2015.

Overall, residential values are up 1.3 percent from 2015, with the median value of residential property in the county at \$246,100. A total of 99,243 valuation notices were mailed to property owners in March; 437 property owners contacted the county's Assessor's Office regarding their assessments, and 77 attended meetings already conducted in their communities to discuss their assessments.

The board heard from a few property owners at the June 14 meeting, and will act on each appeal at its June 21 meeting.

Contact: Jennifer Wagenius, Director Property Records and Taxpayer Services, 651-430-6182