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

Date: Oct. 18, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Oct. 18, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Lucas will continue to serve on Valley Branch Watershed District Board of Managers

Jill Lucas, Afton, was reappointed to the Valley Branch Watershed District Board of Managers to a three-year term expiring Nov. 13, 2019.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made the appointment Oct. 18.

Watershed district governance, required by state statute, helps to control or alleviate damage by flood waters; improves stream channels for drainage or navigation; reclaims or fills wet or overflow lands; oversees water supply for irrigation; regulates the flow of streams; diverts or changes water courses; provides and conserves water supply; and provides for the protection of groundwater and regulation of groundwater use.

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County adds options for group residential housing

The Washington County Board of Commissioners added four agencies to the county's list of group residential housing (GRH) providers Oct. 18.

Victory Through Faith Recovery Services, which has 10 beds to provide small group site housing; Pinnacle Services, Inc., which has 12 beds to provide both small group site housing and scattered site housing; Minnesota Care Counseling Services, which has 10 beds to provide scattered site housing;

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and Skyline, Inc., LLC, which has 10 beds to provide scattered site housing, were added to the county's list of providers.

The county identified a need for additional supportive group residential housing for individuals with disabilities receiving services through the county, and solicited qualified applicants to apply for the opportunity to provide the housing.

GRH is a state-funded income supplement program that pays for room and board costs for low-income adults with a disabling condition who have been placed in a licensed or registered setting that holds a formal agreement with a county.

The current rate for GRH is \$891 per person per month for room and board, and \$482.84 per person per month for supplemental services. The funds from the supplemental service will pay for support services for each individual, which may include help with transportation, arranging meetings/appointments, arranging medical/social services, medication reminders, and up to a 24-hour plan of care.

Contact: Sarah Tripple, Planning and Program Manager, 651-430-6480

County will request funds from County Transit Improvement Board

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will request \$135,000 from the County Transit Improvement Board to do station area planning for Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park for the Red Rock transit corridor, and \$225,000 for project development in the Gateway Corridor.

The board adopted resolutions of support for the requests Oct. 18.

The Counties Transit Improvement Board is a consortium of five counties – Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington – that use a quarter-cent sales tax and a \$20 a motor vehicle sales tax, permitted by the Minnesota Legislature, to invest in and advance transitway projects by awarding annual capital and operating grants. The Counties Transit Improvement Board works in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council and Carver and Scott counties.

Through its agreement with the other member counties, Washington County is guaranteed to receive 1 percent of total revenue collected in 2009 through 2010, and 3 percent of total revenue collected in 2011 through 2013. The county must provide a 10 percent local match for those expenditures.

Thus far, Washington County has received \$11.8 million of the total guaranteed funds, with a remaining balance of \$2.8 million. The funds have been spent on the Newport Transit Station, planning for the Red Rock and Gateway corridors, as well as for Rush Line demonstration bus service.

The local match for the new funds will be \$15,000 for the Red Rock work, which will be paid for by the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, and \$25,000 for the Gateway Corridor work, which will be paid by the 2017 Gateway Corridor Commission member dues.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/Transportation Planner, 651-430-4316

County Board accepts gifts to county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted gifts to the county received in the third quarter of 2016 Oct. 18, valued at \$3,368.54.

The Sheriff's Office received \$600 from the City of Landfall to support its "Fish With A Cop" program. The Library received \$468.78 from a number of donors to provide books for the branch libraries. The Historic Courthouse received more than \$1,700 from people taking tours of the building, or as a donation for fitness hikes that started at the courthouse.

The Historic Courthouse also received in-kind donations to support an ice cream social in July, including petting zoo sponsorship from Edina Realty – Stillwater Branch, and supplies from Lift Bridge Brewery and Candyland, for a total of \$1,650 in-kind gifts.

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