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Date: Dec. 20, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Dec. 20, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Regional Railroad Authority recommends alignment for Gateway Corridor

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) Dec. 20, recommended a locally preferred alternative alignment for the Gateway Corridor, which will be sent to the Metropolitan Council.

The Gateway Corridor, or Gold Line, is a proposed bus rapid transit corridor that would run from the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul through the east side of St. Paul, through Oakdale to Woodbury. The alignment roughly follows Hudson Road after leaving downtown St. Paul. A number of options were considered for the alignment in both Oakdale and Woodbury. The current plan shows the line following Fourth Street to Helmo Avenue in Oakdale, and then turning south on Bielenberg on a new bridge to the current Woodbury Theatre Park and Ride.

Five factors outlining the need for the project are:

- limited existing transit service;
- a policy shift toward travel choices and multimodal investments;
- population and employment growth in the corridor;
- needs of people who depend on transit; and
- local and regional objectives for growth and prosperity.

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Through a series of public meetings and other opportunities for public comment, the route was determined. In addition, the communities through which the corridor runs have signed off on the alignment plan.

Contact: Lyssa Leitner, Senior Planner, 651-430-4314

County will continue to work with Tubman to serve victims of domestic abuse

Washington County will continue to work with Tubman to provide services to victims of domestic abuse, after the County Board approved an agreement with the organization Dec. 20.

Tubman provides shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, assistance with Orders for Protection, and community presentations. Tubman works with the county as the community point of contact for the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program, a risk assessment tool used by law enforcement officers in Washington County to help identify the most dangerous offenders in cases of intimate partner violence and to connect victims with services. Information is used to aid the criminal justice system in allocating resources.

Through October 2016, Tubman has worked with 496 criminal cases and assisted with 93 Orders for Protection. The board's action renews the terms and conditions of the 2016 contract through 2017.

Contact: Terry Thomas, Jr., Community Corrections Deputy Director, 651-430-6951

County Board approves contracts for day training, habilitation services, home services, case management

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts Dec. 20 with agencies in the county that provide services to residents with disabilities.

Opportunity Services, ESR, Inc., and Phoenix Alternatives will provide day training and habilitation (DT&H) services to Washington County residents with disabilities, after the County Board approved two-year contracts with the agencies.

The agencies will provide DT&H and related employment services from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2019. Washington County also has a contract with a fourth provider, Midwest Special Services, through Dec. 31, 2017.

DT&H services assist adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve and maintain the highest level of independence, productivity, and integration in the community. The day programming provides services related to employment, self-care, communication skills, socialization, physical mobility and cognitive development.

The county is required by the state to protect the health and safety of vulnerable adults, which includes providing supervision and care for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the day when their caregivers are not present.

Opportunity Services, ESR, Inc., and Phoenix Alternatives also provide related services, which includes supported employment (paid employment in community settings for individuals with disabilities) and transportation to and from the work sites.

In addition, the County Board approved a contract with REM Minnesota Community Services to provide in-home services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The county contracts with several agencies to provide services for persons with disabilities. Services are provided both in the family home and in the community.

Contracts are developed with several agencies to ensure that persons with disabilities will have the opportunity to live, work, and participate in recreation activities in the communities of their choice. REM Minnesota Community Services is an agency that provides Semi-Independent Living Services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the community.

The programs are paid for with a combination of state and county funds.

Meridian Services and Country Services, Inc., will provide contracted case management for county residents with developmental disabilities. Washington County is responsible for providing case management services to more than 1,300 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The case management for these individuals is performed by county social workers or contracted through private agencies.

Meridian Services, Inc., and Country Services, Inc., are two agencies that provide contracted case management services for Washington County clients with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The services are paid for through county funds and Medical Assistance.

Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532

County Board approves group residential housing agreement

Hometown Senior Living will provide group residential housing (GRH) for Washington County residents, after the County Board approved a contract with the organization Dec. 20.

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 the county. The current rate for GRH is \$891 per person per month.

GRH providers may offer an array of services, but at a minimum they must include housing, utilities, household furnishings, toiletries, 24-hour plan of care, medication management, and food.

The service provided by Hometown Senior Living is designed for persons in need of regular supervision and assistance with daily activities such as medication administration, personal care, and housekeeping. These individuals are assessed by county staff and are determined not to need the level of care provided in a skilled nursing home, but are unable to remain safely in their own homes. Each client receives individualized services based on their level of need.

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

County Board approves contract with county supervisors

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a tentative labor agreement with the county's Association of Supervisors for 2017 and 2018 Dec. 20.

The tentative agreement includes:

- a two-year agreement from Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2018.
- 2.5 percent general adjustment effective the first full pay period in January 2017, and a 2.5 percent general adjustment effective the first full pay period in January 2018.
- for 2017 and for 2018, on their classification anniversary dates, employees below the maximum of the compensation range shall be eligible for a 4 percent range movement not to exceed that year's salary range maximum.
- for 2017 and 2018, employees whose salary would otherwise exceed the maximum of the salary

range when the range movement is applied to their base salary are eligible for merit pay of 0 percent to 5 percent of the employee's salary. The merit is applied to first bring the salary up to the maximum of the salary range, and the remainder of the merit pay is paid in a lump sum.

- association participation on an upcoming committee to review and recommend options to create a hybrid range movement system that is based on years of service as well as performance.

The contract includes specifics on the county's contribution to health insurance payments.

Contact: Jan Webster, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075

Washington County Library will continue to provide services to Stillwater, Bayport libraries

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an annual agreement between the Washington County Library and the Stillwater Public Library and the Bayport Library Dec. 20.

The two libraries preceded the creation of the Washington County Library, so are not part of the county's library system. However, the libraries and Washington County Library have had contractual arrangements since at least 1975 to share services.

Washington County provides support services, such as cataloging, to the libraries, and shares access to its collection to residents of Stillwater and Bayport at no charge. The County Library also offers the libraries the option to participate in the purchase of certain services, such as electronic databases. Both libraries reciprocate by providing Washington County residents access to their collections.

This contract also makes Stillwater and Bayport associate members of the Metropolitan Library Service Agency, an alliance of more than 100 public libraries in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area, working together to provide library services and programs to residents.

Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501

City of Marine will receive funds from Jordan bequest for materials, services at library

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a request from the City of Marine on St. Croix Dec. 20 for \$6,000 from the Jordan bequest to be used for materials and services at the Marine Community Library.

In 2001, Elizabeth Jordan made a bequest in her will to the Washington County Library to be used for

the Marine Library branch. When the branch was closed by the county in 2012, an agreement was reached between the City of Marine and the county that, upon request of the city, the county would disburse funds from the bequest to support the Marine Community Library. Through a joint powers agreement between the city and the county, the city residents have maintained access to the county library system and continue to pay the county library tax.

A separate non-profit organization, the Marine Library Association (MarLA), maintains a community library, which includes privately purchased materials as well as materials and services provided by the county library.

The request from the city follows directives related to disbursements made to the Jordan bequest as specified in the joint powers agreement.

Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501

County will receive funds to continue home visiting program

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement Dec. 20 with the Minnesota Department of Health to receive Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant funding to continue the Healthy Families America evidence-based home visiting program.

Washington County has been a recipient of the federal MIECHV Grant since 2013. The current grant award ends on Feb. 28, 2017. This grant is used for home visiting in the Healthy Families America model, which contains interventions and other services that have been researched to achieve positive outcomes for families facing significant stress. Goals of the program include school readiness, positive parent-child relationships, improved parent/child attachment, healthy pregnancies, and normal child growth and development.

The county uses the Healthy Families America home visiting model with approximately 85 families. With additional grant money, the county should be able to serve more than 100 families. The county should receive about \$92,000 more than originally budgeted for 2017, providing \$222,400 for the program in 2017.

Contact: Jill Timm, Senior Public Health and Environment Program Manager, 651-275-7286

County Board will conduct public hearing Jan. 24 on the implementation of waste designation plan

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a public hearing Dec. 20 for Jan. 24, 2017, to hear testimony on implementing the Ramsey and Washington Counties Joint Waste Designation Plan and authorize publication of a Notice of Public Hearing in the official county newspaper.

The public hearing will be during the regular County Board meeting at 9 a.m. in the fifth floor board room of the Government Center in Stillwater.

Waste designation allows counties to enact an ordinance that requires all or a portion of solid waste to be delivered to a designated waste management facility. The process of waste designation is outlined in state law, and includes several steps that occur over a period of about 18 months. Ramsey and Washington counties have prepared a Joint Waste Designation Plan, which has been approved by the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The next step in the process is to conduct a public hearing on the subject of implementing waste designation. State law requires a public hearing to take testimony on the designation. A notice of the hearing will be publicized, and mailed to political subdivisions, facility operators, and licensed waste haulers who may use the Recycling & Energy Center. More information regarding waste designation and waste management in Washington and Ramsey counties is available at

www.morevaluelesstrash.com.

Contact: Judy Hunter, Senior Environmental Program Manager, 651-430-4031

County Board invites public comment on use of body cameras by deputies

The Washington County Board of Commissioners invited the community to comment on policies and procedures for the use of body worn cameras by Washington County Sheriff's Office licensed peace officers Dec. 20.

The purpose of the community proceeding was to accept input on the policy and procedures that may be implemented as the technology is deployed. One residents spoke at the comment period.

A working group from the Sheriff's Office has been studying the issue since the middle of this year, reviewing camera options, policies, and state law. State law, enacted Aug. 1, addresses the retention

of the video captured by the cameras, and whether that video is confidential. It also states that deputies are allowed to view the video prior to making a report.

The working group also researched the cameras themselves and the software that manages them. Visual Labs, Inc., was chosen as the vendor that will provide the software, which will be installed on Android cell phones, which will act as the cameras. That way, in addition to using the devices as body worn cameras, they will also be used as cell phones, digital cameras and recorders, and GPS locators, and will be available for other cell phone applications and text alerts.

Video captured by the cameras will be stored on Microsoft's Government Cloud, which is approved by state agencies.

The proposed Sheriff's Office policy has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office, and calls for all video to be retained for 180 days, which is double what is required by state law.

The policy will require activation for:

- all enforcement and investigative contacts, including field interviews;
- traffic stops;
- self-initiated activity; and
- any other contact that becomes adversarial.

The policy also states that video should remain on continuously until the situation no longer fits the criteria for activation, and that no Sheriff's Office member without authorization can access or release recordings. It also calls for an inventory and audit of the video.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

County Board receives update on CDA activities

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received an update on the county's Community Development Agency (CDA) Dec. 20.

The CDA, which was formed after special legislation allowed the county's Housing and Redevelopment Authority to take on economic development tasks, has been working to promote Washington County to potential employers, developers, and builders and businesses.

Part of the work done by the CDA has involved data mining, or assembling data to understand the needs of the county, and how to develop economic development policy and programing. Work has

also been done to introduce Washington County to metro area realtors, brokers, site selectors, developers, builders and businesses. Other efforts have been to develop a “business brand,” build community partnerships, and provide technical assistance.

CDA staff have attended 24 city or township meetings to inform community partners about new business development opportunities and commercial property availability.

The county has seen continued labor force growth since 2010, in a variety of industries and occupations, all of which could be attractive to industries that would locate in the county. At the same time, the county is home to 17,847 self-employed businesses, with 86 percent of the county’s businesses having 20 or fewer employees, all of which present business opportunities.

The CDA staff reported on a number of promotional activities in which they have taken part, including business expos and conferences, and media opportunities. The CDA has also been working to promote opportunities in the county, including prime land ready for development, and employers who are seeking to hire new employees.

Plans for the future include working with the county’s Workforce Development Board, local chambers of commerce, and cities and townships to promote business opportunities in the county.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003

County Board receives update on Marine Library

The Marine Library is doing well, serving its community.

That was the message delivered by Mary Burke of the Marine Library Association to the Washington County Board of Commissioners Dec. 20.

The Marine Library will be celebrating its fifth anniversary next month. The community library is staffed 100 percent by volunteers, Burke said. It is doing well, providing one or two adult programs each month, most notably a series of documentary films, author talks, and a poetry crawl. The library also provides programming for children, which will be expanded with MacPhail Center for the Music programs next year.

The library recently launched a newsletter, with 700 recipients, to expand its communications efforts. It has also created a fundraising committee to allow it to expand its programs, and a future strategy committee to explore the library’s next five years.

The library is open 20 hours each week, with volunteers staffing the library in three-hour shifts. It has issued 806 library cards, had 4,500 checkouts during the past year, with 8,000 patron visits.

The library will celebrate its five-year anniversary with a program Jan. 20.

Law Library receives \$2,075, library receives \$1,000

The Washington County Bar Association donated \$2,075 to the Washington County Law Library to renew materials used in the Law Library.

Delores Sundbye, a long-time library patron, also donated \$1,000 to the Washington County Library.

The County Board accepted the donations Dec. 20.

Contact: Pauline Afuso, Law Library Librarian, 651-430-6954, and Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501

Library celebrates 50 years

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Washington County Library Dec. 20.

In 1966, the Washington County Board of Commissioners established the Washington County Library, and a Library Board, with the newly-appointed board meeting for the first time on December 20, 1966. Throughout 2016, the Washington County Library has celebrated its 50th anniversary with the community with events throughout its branch libraries.

Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501

Photo: Library staff joined the Washington County Board of Commissioners in celebrating the Washington County Library's 50th anniversary. Those celebrating were Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4, Amy Worwa, Tina Kaple, Dawn LaBrosse, Joyce Schneider, Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1, Amy Stenftenagel, Brian Kraft, Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, Martha Riel, Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, Angie Noyes, Library Director Keith Ryskoski, and Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5.

Board sets salaries for elected, appointed officials for 2017

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set salaries for 2017 for several elected and appointed officials Dec. 20, including salaries for the board members.

Commissioners set their salary at \$52,713 for 2017, which is what the commissioners' salaries have been since 2009.

The board also set salaries for:

- Attorney Pete Orput, at \$159,609, a 3 percent increase over 2016.
- the First Assistant Attorney, who will receive \$143,548, which is a 3 percent increase and 90 percent of the attorney's salary.
- the Attorney Executive Assistant, who will receive \$61,529, a 3.7 percent increase.
- Sheriff Bill Hutton, at \$159,609, a 3 percent increase over 2016.
- the Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy, who will receive \$143,648, which is a 3 percent increase and 90 percent of the sheriff's salary.
- Administrator Molly O'Rourke, at \$167,978, a 1.6 percent increase over 2016. O'Rourke's salary was raised to the allowable limit on local government salaries in Minnesota.

Commissioners also added an additional week of paid time off for O'Rourke.

Contact: Molly O'Rourke, Administrator, 651-430-6002

County Board will conduct public hearing on renaming lake in Forest Lake

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing Jan. 24 to consider a petition to rename a lake in Forest Lake to Sylvan Lake.

The board set the hearing Dec. 20.

A petition signed by registered voters in the City of Forest Lake was received by the City of Forest Lake asking for the renaming of a lake, currently named Halfbreed Lake, but known as Sylvan Lake for quite some time. The petitioners request an official name change to Sylvan Lake.

By law, the petition must be signed by 15 registered voters, which has been received and the names verified by the county. A letter has been sent to the City of Forest Lake and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources notifying them of the petition and upcoming public hearing, and asking them to provide any comments on the proposed name to the county prior to the public hearing. The public hearing will be during the County Board's regular meeting at 9 a.m. in the fifth floor Board Room of the Government Center in Stillwater.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003