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

**Date:** Jan. 17, 2017  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Jan. 17, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **MZA+Co will continue to provide communication services for Gateway Corridor**

MZA+Co will continue to provide communication services for the Gateway Corridor, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCRRA) Jan. 17, approved a \$150,000 contract extension with the company.

The WCRRA, on behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission, entered into a contract with MZA+Co for consultant services to provide strategic communications for the Gateway Corridor last February. Dec. 8 the Gateway Corridor Commission unanimously approved its 2017 work plan and budget, including a scope of work and budget for strategic communications services, with approval of an extension of the MZA+Co contract to provide those services.

The amendment to the original contract calls for the company the company's work to continue to Jan. 31, 2018. Services include:

- project management and strategy;
- strategic message development;
- media relations;
- community and business engagement;
- social media and website content development; and
- government relations.

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

Washington County is the fiscal agent for the Gateway Corridor Commission.

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

## **2 agencies will provide services for county residents with intellectual, developmental disabilities**

Thomas Allen, Inc., and Outcomes, Inc., will provide services to Washington County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities after the County Board approved contracts with the agencies Jan. 17.

Washington County contracts with several agencies to provide services for persons with disabilities, provided both in the family home and in the community. Contracts are developed with several agencies to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to live, work, and participate in recreational activities in the communities of their choice.

Thomas Allen, Inc., and Outcomes, Inc., are two agencies that provide Semi-Independent Living Services (SILS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the community. SILS can provide training and assistance in managing money, preparing meals, shopping, personal appearance, hygiene, and other activities to maintain and improve the capacity for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live in the community.

The SILS program is based on client choice. When an individual is determined to be eligible to receive SILS services, a case manager will assist in finding a provider that best meets the needs. They are given a list of potential providers and have an opportunity to meet with and select the provider of their choosing. The services are evaluated on an ongoing basis between the individual, the family, and the case manager.

Thomas Allen has previously contracted with Washington County for these services. This is a new contract for Outcomes. Prior to this contract, Washington County used Ramsey County's host county contract to access SILS through Outcomes.

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

## **County Board approves tentative labor agreement with correctional officers, 9-1-1 dispatchers**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a two-year tentative labor agreement with the county's correctional officers and 9-1-1 dispatchers Jan. 17.

The groups are represented by the Minnesota Public Employees Association.

The agreement:

- is for two years, Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2018;
- has salary ranges adjusted to conform with the market of comparable counties;
- has a 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;
- allows 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;
- for 2017, health insurance plans and contributions will follow the county's proposed pattern;
- strengthened grievance arbitration language with deadlines and authorizations for grievances and arbitrations;
- a uniform allowance for Correctional Officers that increases to \$615 in 2017, and to \$635 in 2018; with no change to others' uniform allowance; and
- a collective bargaining agreement that was reviewed and updated for clarity and accuracy. The changes are meant to make it easier for employees and supervisors to understand and administer.

The contract also outlines the county's contributions for employees' health insurance.

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

### **County Board approves Sheriff's Office agreement for Lake Elmo law enforcement**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will continue to provide law enforcement services for the City of Lake Elmo, after the County Board approved an agreement with the city Jan. 17.

The county will furnish and supply all necessary labor, supervision, equipment, communication facilities, dispatching and supplies necessary to provide the services required by the agreement. The City of Lake Elmo will pay the county the direct costs and expenses of providing the city with the full-time services of one sergeant and four full-time officers. The direct costs and expenses include salaries and fringe benefits of the employees performing the services at an estimated cost of \$648,356.79 for 2017.

The agreement is for Jan. 1, 2017, through Jan. 1, 2019.

**Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601**

### **Sheriff's Office will continue to work with St. Croix County for squad installation services**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will continue to work with St. Croix County, Wisconsin, to commission and decommission law enforcement vehicles, after the County Board approved an agreement between the counties Jan. 17.

The Washington County squad installer will perform the commission and decommission of law enforcement vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, and investigator vehicles for the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office.

The work on the vehicles will be done at the Washington County Sheriff's Office, except when another location is mutually agreed upon. St. Croix County will pay Washington County \$15,500 for the commission and decommission of up to 15 St. Croix County emergency vehicles. The cost for any additional marked vehicles are \$1,750 and \$310 for unmarked.

The term of this agreement is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017.

**Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601**