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Date: Feb. 28, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 28, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Gamnis will serve on Washington County library board

Gina Gamnis, Cottage Grove, was named to the Washington County Library Board Feb. 28, representing Commissioner District 4.

Gamnis, who will fill a term expiring Dec. 31, 2019, was appointed by the County Board.

The Washington County Library Board is advisory to the Washington County Board of Commissioners, which is the governing board of the library.

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

Springsted, Inc., will continue as county's municipal advisor, Kennedy & Graven will continue as bond counsel

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended a contract with Springsted, Inc., Feb. 28, designating the company as the county's municipal advisor.

The contract is for Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2021.

The board also approved an extended five-year contract with Kennedy & Graven as its bond counsel Feb. 28.

The county retains expert municipal advisor and bond counsel services to protect its financial interests and expedite debt issuance transactions. Springsted and Kennedy & Graven both have

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significant resources to represent the county's best interest in bond market transactions and to ensure that the county's actions comply with federal and state regulations.

Since the county's current bonding strategy for the Capital Improvement Plan includes major bond issues at four-year intervals, it is efficient to have a five-year contract with the firms, to provide bond sale planning and closing activities under the new contracts.

Contact: Tabatha Hansen, Accounting and Finance Director, 651-430-6027

Community Involvement Programs will continue to provide mental health skilled nursing services in county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended a county contract Feb. 28 with Community Involvement Programs for community mental health skilled nursing services.

The agency is the current provider of the services; the contract was extended through 2018.

The county added funding for two additional years in the amount of \$27,000 per year for two years.

The services are funded through the Minnesota Department of Human Services Adult Mental Health Initiative Grant.

Contact: Therese Gilbertson, Social Services Supervisor, 651-430-4129

CIVICTechnologies will continue working with library to implement strategic plan

CIVICTechnologies will add to its tasks to implement the Washington County Library's strategic plan, after the County Board approved an extension to the company's contract Feb. 28.

Washington County Library contracted with CIVICTechnologies for demographic studies and marketing plans to help the library with the continued implementation and assessment of its strategic plan. The original contract with the company was for \$60,000. The addition to the contract, for \$85,000, will provide services addressing organizational development.

To implement the strategic plan, every staff member is assigned to work on one of 11 specific initiatives. Staff members will receive training and support for their initiative work. The training will include career development and planning, communication skills development, project management skills, learning to lead from any level, and engaging in new work processes.

The additional work will be funded by donations to the library.

Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-274-8501

County Board approves liquor licenses in townships

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved liquor licenses for the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp and Stoneridge Golf Club Feb. 28

The County Board oversees liquor licenses granted in townships.

The Veterans Rest Camp in May Township requested an on-sale and Sunday liquor license, and a consumption and display permit.

The Stoneridge Golf Club in West Lakeland Township requested an on-sale and an on-sale Sunday liquor license.

The county assures that all permits are in order, and the County Sheriff's Office, Attorney's Office, and Department of Public Health and Environment complete compliance checks. Applicant fees pay for the compliance checks.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-8272

County Board receives report on Metropolitan Mosquito Control District work

Steve Manweiler, executive director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, reported on 2016 activities of the organization to the Washington County Board of Commissioners Feb. 28.

Washington County is one of seven member counties of the agency, which is governed by a board of 18 elected county commissioners, and oversees a 2,900 square-mile service area, with a population of 2.7 million. The focus of the agency is on larval control of mosquitos.

The report includes information on the agency's 2017 budget, set at \$18.78 million. Of that, \$17.4 million will come from a tax levy. Washington County will contribute \$1.48 million.

Manweiler described the common mosquitos that populate the area, and carry viruses that cause illnesses. Distributing pellets in mosquito breeding grounds is used to combat mosquito larva, whereas spraying is used to combat adult mosquitos.

Manweiler noted the mosquito-borne diseases that the district combats:

- La Crosse virus, which is found primarily in children. Three incidents were reported last year, with only one in the control district;
- West Nile virus, which caused 66 illnesses in Minnesota last year, 80 percent of which were outside of the district; and
- Zika virus, which is has not been found in Minnesota.

The agency also monitors the distribution of deer ticks in the metropolitan area. Manweiler said public education is the main focus to reduce the risk of tick-transmitted diseases.

Black flies, or gnats, are another focus of the agency, which does larval surveillance and control in area streams, focusing on the Rum, Crow, Mississippi, and Minnesota rivers.

Manweiler discussed the Mosquito Control District's plans for 2017, which include:

- managing the budget and expenditures with a goal of maintaining service levels while minimizing impact on metro taxpayers;
- emphasizing disease risk reduction services, including responding to new vector-borne diseases;
- evaluating how the district's control programs can respond more flexibly to increased weather variability; and
- evaluating how the district's sustainability program can be integrated with other district functions; and implement long-term succession planning and key employee retention.

InSite Contracting, Inc., will do signal improvements on CSAH 13

InSite Contracting, Inc., will do traffic signal improvements on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 in Woodbury, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$98,163,163 contract with the company Feb. 28.

The County Board also approved a cooperative agreement with the City of Woodbury to work together on the project.

The capital improvement project is on CSAH 13 from Third Street North in Oakdale to Hudson Road in Woodbury. The project includes overhead sign improvements to reduce driver congestion as drivers approach the Interstate 94/Radio Drive interchange from the south. The county worked with

the City of Woodbury to improve the city's signs directing motorists to the interchange on Hudson Road east of CSAH 13.

The project will replace two overhead signs on Hudson Road west of CSAH 13 and on CSAH 13 south of the interchange ramps. There will be a new overhead sign on CSAH 13 just north of Hudson Road.

The county has already accepted quotes for sign support steel, for \$45,521, for a total construction cost of \$143,684. Woodbury will pay \$27,820 of the cost, which is 16.8 percent of both the construction cost and the design engineering. The county's portion of the project will be paid for with state aid funds.

Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer, 651-430-4330

County Board will conduct public hearing on implementation of transportation sales tax

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a public hearing Feb. 28 for March 21 to gather input on the implementation of a transportation sales tax.

The tax would replace the current sales tax being collected under the state law that allowed for the creation of the County Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). State law allows the sales tax to be collected by any county that is not participating in the transit improvement board.

Washington County is currently a member of the CTIB joint powers agreement, along with Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. As a member of that organization, the county imposes a 0.25 percent of 1 percent sales tax to fund transit projects. The members of CTIB are considering options for the possible dissolution of that joint powers agreement.

As required by law, the County Board will conduct a public hearing to review a transit funding plan and to consider a transportation sales tax under a different state law. The new transportation sales tax could only be considered if CTIB is dissolved and the tax would replace the existing sales tax currently imposed.

The CTIB will meet March 3 to consider a proposed action to dissolve. CTIB dissolution is contingent on member counties assuming existing CTIB obligations for capital and operating costs for transitways, including the Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project. That project is in its

development phase with a \$15 million obligation of CTIB in Ramsey and Washington counties. CTIB dissolution is also contingent on counties re-implementing a 0.25 percent of 1 percent sales tax to continue the buildout of the CTIB Phase 1 Program of Projects, including Gateway and Red Rock corridors.

The state law under which Washington County would collect the re-implemented sales tax is used by 27 Minnesota counties to implement a sales tax to fund transportation and transit projects. It allows for up to a one-half of 1 percent sales and use tax, and an excise tax of \$20 per motor vehicle. The re-implemented tax would be enacted by the County Board by resolution following a public hearing.

The earliest that the County Board could take action would be March 28.

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