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

**Date:** March 7, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the March 7, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **Tjernlund to serve on county planning advisory commission**

Andrew Tjernlund, Hugo, will serve on the Washington County Planning Advisory Commission as a Commissioner District 1 representative.

He was appointed by the County Board March 7 to a first partial term expiring Dec. 31, 2017.

The Washington County Planning Advisory Commission's role is to promote the proper planning and development within the county. The commission makes recommendations on amendments to the development code and comprehensive plan, issues certain permits, conducts hearings, and issues conditional use permits. The commission is comprised of 10 members, a majority of whom must reside within townships, and one county commissioner.

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

### **County Board amends block grant program to support Habitat for Humanity, rental project program**

Funds from the Washington County Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership will be redistributed to a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity project in Hugo and a countywide rental project as other planned projects are delayed.

The County Board approved the changes March 7.

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The county's use of the funds is described in an Annual Action Plans based on July to June program years. From time to time, it is necessary to amend those plans when more funds become available or when designated activities do not move forward in a timely manner.

The changes mean that the 2015 plan shall be amended to cancel the Two Rivers Community Land Trust Ivy Estates Project, new construction of six single-family homes in Forest Lake, and reconsider the project in 2017 when the project is ready to break ground.

That allows for the creation of a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Generation Acres Project, new construction of four townhome units in Hugo, with a budget of \$64,433, and the possibility of the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties Rental Project to acquire and rehabilitate two rental units in Forest Lake with a budget of \$245,283.

The amendment will also allow for the Habitat for Humanity Generation Acres to receive \$160,085 from the 2016 plan.

The proposed amendment was released for public comment and published on the Washington County Community Development Agency's website for comment, and no comments were received.

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

### **County Board approves agreement with Afton Care West for group residential housing**

Afton Care West will serve Washington County residents in group residential housing after the County Board approved an agreement with the agency March 7.

Group residential 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 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.

This service of 24-hour customized living is a service designed for persons in need of regular supervision and assistance with daily activities, such as medication administration, personal care, and

housekeeping. The 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 level of need.

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

### **Oak Park Heights, Bayport police will purchase fuel through Sheriff's Office**

Police departments from Oak Park Heights and Bayport will purchase fuel for their fleets through the Washington County Sheriff's Office, after the County Board approved agreements with those agencies March 7.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has a Minnesota State Fuel Contract for the 2017 Fixed Fuel Program for metro participants. The City of Oak Park Heights and the City of Bayport need to purchase 87 octane gasoline to operate their squad cars and SUVs for law enforcement services. The Washington County Sheriff's Office will provide up to 600 gallons of gasoline per month to the City of Bayport for \$1.8755 per gallon, and up to 700 gallons a month for the City of Oak Park Heights, at the same price.

The price per gallon has decreased slightly from \$1.8892 in 2016. Any gallons after the set amount per month will be charged a prorated amount based on the amount charged to Washington County by Mansfield Oil. The term of the contracts is Feb. 1 through Jan. 31, 2018.

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

### **Aviat US will replace microwave system for Sheriff's Office radio communications**

Aviat US will replace microwave radio communication systems on towers in the southern portion of Washington County, after the County Board approved a contract with the company March 7.

The county's current system is getting outdated, and is not keeping up with current communication technology. The upgrades will replace segments of and allow support for the county's "looped" microwave communication system. The contract is for \$62,955, and is for March 1 through Dec. 1.

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

### **Library receives more than \$61,000 from Myer estate**

The Washington County Library will receive \$61,122 from the Anna C. Myer estate, after the County Board accepted the donation March 7.

The donated funds will be used for library services and staff development and training.

Staff from the Washington County Library expressed its thanks to the estate of Anna C. Myer for the donation.

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

### **County Board expresses appreciation for cooperation on Osgood Avenue project**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners expressed its appreciation March 7 to Holiday Stationstores, Inc., for its cooperation with the county on the realignment of the south frontage road of Highway 36 in Oak Park Heights.

The project realigned County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 26 at the intersection of CSAH 24, or Osgood Avenue, in Oak Park Heights.

Initially, this project began in fall 2014 when the property adjacent to the Holiday Station was listed for sale. Washington County made an inquiry about a possible purchase to hold the property for the future realignment of the South Frontage Road. Upon inquiry, it was discovered that Holiday Stationstores, Inc., had just purchased the property for the expansion and reconstruction of its facility. The county contacted Holiday Stationstores to review its needs for the property and see if there was an opportunity to collaborate.

Holiday Stationstores leadership understood the safety and traffic concerns represented to them at this intersection, and Washington County understood the needs of Holiday Stationstores in the construction of the new facility. It was agreed by all that it would be a good time to bring a resolution to this intersection in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Holiday Stationstore's facility, and a partnership was formed.

The County Board recognized Holiday Stationstores, Inc., for its dedication to resolving complex issues to the benefit of the general public. This project brought forth an understanding for how a private and public entity can successfully work together. It also showed that a project is more than a road built or a facility constructed, but also embodies the cooperation, dedication, support, and caring for the finished product.

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



**The Washington County Board of Commissioners voiced its appreciation to management from Holiday Stationstores, Inc., for their collaboration during a building reconstruction and road project in Oak Park Heights. Left to right, Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5, Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, Dave Edquist and Rachel Pollock from Holiday, Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1, John Baregi, Holiday, Becky Haydon, county consultant, Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4, and Wayne Sandberg and Sharon Price, Washington County Public Works.**

**County will work with Cottage Grove, school district on CR 74 project**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with the City of Cottage Grove and the South Washington County School District 833 to work on road improvements on County Road (CR) 74 in Cottage Grove.

The City of Cottage Grove intends to construct highway and street improvements on CR 74 from Geneva Avenue to Meadow Grass Avenue to serve a new school to be built by the school district. The highway and street improvements will include the construction of a roundabout at Goodview Avenue with multi-use trails extending to the east, as well as improvements to Geneva Avenue in Cottage Grove.

The improvements are fully funded through the City of Cottage Grove and the South Washington County School district. County design standards, practices, and preferences will govern all improvements constructed within the county right-of-way.

The agreement between the school district and the county provides the basis for future road improvements that may be needed either at 65th Street and Geneva Avenue or 65th Street and Meadow Grass Avenue. Also, the school district agrees to a future cost sharing of up to \$250,000 for the road improvements.

**Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319**

### **SRF Consulting Group, Inc., will coordinate project to improve Bailey Road**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$651,941 contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc., March 7 provide engineering and project development services on an upgrade to Bailey Road (County State Aid Highway 18) in Woodbury from Maxwell Avenue to Woodbury Drive.

The project is intended to improve operations and safety along Bailey Road on this five-mile corridor that provides access to Interstate 494. The roadway has experienced considerable commercial and residential growth. Improvements will address aging pavement, traffic congestion and volumes, safety of intersections and crossings, access management, pedestrian facilities, and drainage. The project will also evaluate the need for additional lanes and turn lanes.

SRF will provide project coordination, traffic analysis, preliminary engineering, public and agency involvement, and environmental documentation services for the project.

The contract is funded by state aid; project construction is scheduled to begin in 2018.

**Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319**

### **Kimley-Horn will do design for CSAH 5 improvement project**

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., has been authorized to provide final design services for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 improvement project in Stillwater, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a \$151,400 contract with the company March 7.

The focus of the CSAH 5 capital improvement project from Croixwood Boulevard to Brick Street will be to provide a full traffic signal at the intersection of CSAH 5 and Pine Street, replacing an existing yellow pedestrian beacon, along with a new trail connection from Croixwood Boulevard to Brick Street.

The project will add left turn lanes on CSAH 5 at Oak Ridge Road and at Pine Street, and may include modifying access at Dundee Place and Willard Street.

The project will require the construction of a large retaining wall at the northwest quadrant of the CSAH 5/Fairmeadows Road intersection. The current two-lane highway does not adequately serve the needs of turning vehicles. Additionally, the sidewalk and trail system is not continuous, and without the sidewalk, pedestrians are forced to walk within the roadway.

Kimley-Horn has already provided the preliminary design of the project, from Croixwood Boulevard to Highway 96, with a long-term vision for design of the corridor. This portion of the project will continue the design phase.

The cost of the contract will be paid for with state aid funds. Construction is expected to begin during the 2018 construction season.

**Contact: Joe Gustafson, Traffic Engineer, 651-430-4351**

### **County Board approves grants to local organizations to fight invasive species**

Eight organizations will receive proceeds from a state grant to fight aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Washington County waterways, after the County Board approved the grants March 7.

The recommended projects will deploy several recognized AIS prevention strategies across the county, including coordinated watercraft inspections; AIS education and outreach to lake associations, marinas, and the general public; management of existing populations of AIS; and implementation of priority recommendations from the "Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan," including monitoring for new AIS and the protection of high-quality, uninfested water bodies.

The \$132,700 in grants will go to:

- Big Marine Lake Association, \$12,000;
- Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, \$9,000;
- Clear Lake Association, \$7,000;
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, \$26,000;
- Lake Demontreville and Olson Association, \$8,000;
- Lake Elmo Lake Association, \$8,000;
- St. Croix River Association, \$1,200; and
- Washington Conservation District, \$61,500.

The strategies the organizations will use are in close alignment with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Local AIS Plan Framework.

**Contact: Colin Kelly, Senior Planner, 651-430-6011**