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Date: March 14, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the March 14, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County will continue position of attorney to investigate major crimes

The Washington County Attorney's Office will continue its increased investigation of major crimes with the extension of the position of an attorney in the Attorney's Office to support the investigations. The County Board extended the position March 14 of a full-time special project attorney through January 2018.

The position is used to fill in for a senior attorney assigned to the major crimes prosecutor position. The major crimes prosecutor continues in the "investigative phase of prosecution" of cases involving sex trafficking, sophisticated insurance fraud, organized retail crime, inter-county organized identity theft, and other major crimes.

Contact: Pete Orput, County Attorney, 651-430-6124

Canvas Health will continue to provide crisis psychiatry services to residents

Canvas Health will continue to provide mobile crisis services to Washington County residents after the County Board approved a \$400,680 contract with the agency for 2017 March 14.

Washington County has worked with Canvas Health for many years to provide mobile crisis services to county residents, providing 24-hour telephone screening and triage, mobile response teams, face-

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to-face crisis assessment and/or intervention, community stabilization and crisis clinical psychiatry services.

The amount of the contract is an increase of \$42,043 from the 2016 contract, a result of additional funds allocated to Washington County from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the Crisis Response Grant, which were requested based on the number of under-insured individuals Canvas Health anticipates serving in 2017.

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

Woodbury Senior Care will provide group residential housing

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Woodbury Senior Care for group residential housing (GRH) for county residents March 14.

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 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. Individuals are assessed by county staff and are determined not to need the level of care provided in a skilled nursing home, but they 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

County amends agreement with other counties to expand coordination of programs for homeless

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment March 14 to an agreement it holds with other metropolitan counties to expand its ability to apply for additional funding resources for housing.

The agreement with the Regional Metro Committee (RMC), consisting of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, was first approved in 2006 and renewed in 2009. The RMC is requesting an amendment to the cooperative agreement to expand the ability to apply for other funding resources for housing to help to:

- expand regional coordination on housing issues;
- increase economies of scale and reduce administrative overhead;
- improve coordinated deployment of housing resources; and
- increase the ability to be competitive for funds.

Contact: Michelle Kemper, Deputy Director, Community Services, 651-430-6474

Library adds community engagement position

The Washington County Library will have a new staff person soon, to enhance community engagement for the county's library system.

The County Board approved the position March 14.

Since the approval of the library strategic plan in 2016, staff members have examined how to best align the libraries' organizational structure with the library strategic plan. Through work with market research, library staff will focus on Libraries, Strategic and Digital Services, and Community Engagement. The Community Engagement Senior Library Manager will be responsible for implementing the library's strategic plan, and the key staff member to spearhead community outreach efforts during library facility building and remodeling.

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

Company will provide information on location of county's fiber network

MP NexLevel, LLC, will be the go-to company to provide information on the location of Washington County fiber optic networks, after the County Board approved a \$90,000 10-month contract with the company March 14.

The county, as a fiber utility owner, is required to provide fiber location information to requesting parties, to help ensure the integrity of the county's fiber optic infrastructure. That requires providing

physical location information to contractors and other organizations before any digging occurs in an easement or right-of-way.

Washington County relies on fiber connections to provide internet, intranet, and voice services to county libraries, service centers, public works buildings, and parks. Fiber is also the county's pathway from the Government Center in Stillwater to the county's internet service provider and the state's information technology network.

Contact: Renee Heinbuch, Information Technology Director, 651-430-6421

Pictometry will collect aerial digital images for county

Pictometry will provide aerial digital images of Washington County, after the County Board approved a six-year contract with the company March 14.

The \$238,861 contract runs through 2023, and will provide digital images in 2017 and 2020. Aerial photography is a valuable resource for many county departments and is used to complete work to provide services efficiently and effectively. For example, Public Works, Information Technology, Property Records and Taxpayer Services, Public Health and Environment, and the Sheriff's Office all rely on current and accurate photos to support their decision-making and planning. The imagery captures images both from all sides of a property and the more traditional "straight down" view.

Contact: Renee Heinbuch, Information Technology Director, 651-430-6421

Lockridge Grindal Nauen, P.L.L.P, will conduct federal relations for county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an extension of its contract with Lockridge Grindal Nauen, P.L.L.P., March 14 to perform professional federal relations for Washington County for the coming year.

Staff from the firm works directly with county staff to devise and implement a federal strategy to maximize opportunities to secure federal funds. Federal funding is a key component of Washington County's Transportation Capital Program and is necessary to deliver critical transportation improvements in the county. The county's continued presence in Washington, D.C., will be important to ensure future projects are successful in obtaining federal funding.

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

Sheriff's Office will receive DNR funds to assist with boat, water safety

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a \$50,766 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to cover full-time and seasonal personnel costs of boat and water safety activities.

The County Board agreed to accept the grant March 14. The grant increased a little more than \$2,000 over 2016 funding.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

Sheriff's Office will continue to provide Landfall with law enforcement services

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the City of Landfall Village March 14 to continue law enforcement services to the city through 2019.

The county will supply all labor, supervision, equipment, communication facilities, dispatching, and supplies necessary to provide services. The City of Landfall Village will pay the county for the salary and benefits of a full-time deputy.

The contract cost is \$117,913 for 2017, and extends through Jan. 1, 2019.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

County Board continues discussion to rename lake

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing to rename a lake in Forest Lake to Sylvan March 14, then continued the discussion to May 9.

The hearing opened in January, and was originally continued to allow notice to be given to the City of Scandia, and to allow time to gather more background on the lake's original name, Halfbreed. Once notified, the Scandia City Council approved a motion to rename the lake to Sylvan Lake.

The March 14 discussion was continued to allow further options for renaming the lake.

A petition signed by registered voters in the City of Forest Lake was received by the city asking for the renaming of a lake. The petitioners request was to officially change the name to Sylvan Lake. By law, the petition must be signed by 15 registered voters, and the county verified that the petition

meets the requirement. A letter was sent to the City of Forest Lake and the state Department of Natural Resources notifying them of the petition and public hearing, and asking them to provide any comments on the proposed name to the county prior to the public hearing.

Seven residents spoke at the March 14 hearing, some urging the renaming of the lake, others urging commissioners to consider Native American history in the name of the lake.

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