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**Date:** March 21, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the March 21, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board makes appointments to advisory boards**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made two appointments to county advisory boards March 21.

Beth Mathiason was appointed as the large business representative on the Workforce Development Board to a partial first term expiring June 30. The Workforce Development Board, established by state law, determines the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients, and program operators for the Workforce Service Area; jointly plans for collaboration; provides for on-site review and oversight of program performance; and selects local priorities for service and target populations for programming.

Andrew Jackola, Birchwood Village, was appointed to the Community Corrections Advisory Board as the commissioner District 2 representative. He will serve a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. State law requires that counties which participate in the Community Corrections Act establish a corrections advisory board. The purpose of an advisory committee is to bring the community perspective and to provide advice or make recommendations to the County Board. The Community Corrections Advisory Board participates in writing the comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and operation of community-based correctional programs, including preventative or diversionary correctional programs, probation, community corrections centers, and facilities for the

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detention or confinement, care, and treatment of persons convicted of crimes or adjudicated delinquent.

Matthew Darnold was appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Council to a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. The council is required by state law, with its purpose to review, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding the local mental health system; annually, arrange for input from the regional treatment center review board regarding coordination of care between the regional treatment center and community-based services; annually, arrange for input from the local system of care providers regarding coordination of care between services; and identify the individuals, providers, agencies, and associations to receive information on predictors and symptoms of emotional disturbances, where mental health services are available in the county, and how to access the services.

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

### **County will purchase therapy services from Kurzweg Therapeutic Services**

Kurzweg Therapeutic Services, LLC, will provide multisystemic therapy (MST) to Washington County residents after the County Board approved a \$75,000 contract with the agency March 21. The contract is for services throughout 2017.

The contract with Kurzweg Therapeutic Services, LLC, replaces a contract with Victor Counseling and Consultant Services, LLC, which ended services as a vendor with the county to pursue another private business opportunity.

MST provides community-based, in-home therapy services for three to five months to juveniles, and their families, who are at a high risk to commit another delinquent act. The services are specifically focused on reducing out-of-home placement costs and preventing further delinquency.

**Contact: Ren Clinton, Community Corrections Division Manager, 651-430-6973**

### **County Board approves plat in Denmark Township**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a plat for Hastings Point in Denmark Township March 21.

Hastings Point is east of Highway 61 and north of Highway 10. It is 1.4 miles north from the bridge over the Mississippi River. The plat creates two new lots and one outlot.

**Contact: Lila Eltawely, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-6758**

### **County Board conducts public hearing on implementing transportation sales tax**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing March 21 on implementing a transportation sales tax to replace the current sales tax being collected for transit by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

The County Board conducted the public hearing to review a transportation funding plan required by law to implement a transportation sales tax. Six residents spoke at the hearing, and one offered written comments.

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 ¼ percent sales tax to fund transit projects.

After the hearing, the County Board may decide to exit CTIB, and notify the Minnesota Department of Revenue that it wishes to re-implement the transportation sales tax.

The members of CTIB are considering options for the possible dissolution of that joint powers agreement. The transportation sales tax may only be considered if CTIB is dissolved, allowing the new tax to replace the sales tax that is now being imposed. Instead of ¼ percent sales tax revenue going to the CTIB regional fund, the ¼ percent sales tax revenue collected in Washington County would stay with Washington County.

Funds from the sales tax would be used to fulfill goals in the county's comprehensive plan, to promote the development and use of a transit system that meets existing and future travel needs of the public, and to develop and maintain a roadway system that accommodates the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Lack of access to public transit was noted as the "most problematic issue" in Washington County in the 2016 resident survey.

CTIB voted on its dissolution March 8, contingent on member counties assuming existing CTIB obligations for capital and operating costs for transitways. It is also contingent on counties re-

implementing a ¼ percent sales tax to build out the CTIB projects on the current development schedule, including the Gold Line, running from the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul to Woodbury, and the Red Rock Corridor, running from the Union Depot to Cottage Grove and on to Hastings.

The County Board will continue its public hearing and take action at its next meeting March 28.

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