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

**Date:** March 28, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **County Board will conduct public hearing April 25 to consider refinancing note**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing Tuesday, April 25, to consider providing host approval for the refinancing of a note issued by the City of White Bear Lake for the benefit of Northeast Residence, Inc.

The board set the public hearing at its meeting March 28.

Northeast Residence, Inc., a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, owns and operates multiple supervised living services facilities for developmentally disabled persons throughout Washington and Ramsey counties. In 2010, the City of White Bear Lake issued its Revenue Note to refinance certain facilities of Northeast Residence, Inc. The agency has proposed to refund the outstanding note, and also finance the acquisition, construction, renovation, and equipping of an additional facility in White Bear Lake to allow Northeast Residence, Inc., to continue serving the developmentally disabled in the community.

Northeast Residence, Inc., is requesting that the City of White Bear Lake issue another tax-exempt revenue obligation for \$6 million. To do this, the city is requesting that the county grant "host approval" for the issuance of the bond, which is required by state and federal law. Under state law, a municipality is not authorized to issue revenue obligations for projects located in other municipalities unless the other municipalities consent to the issuance of the revenue obligations to finance such projects, which the counties did in 2009.

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Northeast Residence, Inc., shall pay the county for any costs incurred by the county; by granting host approval, the county is not assuming any liability for the debt issued.

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

### **County will receive funds to help reduce homelessness**

Washington County will receive two grants from the state Department of Human Services to assist in keeping people from homelessness, after the County Board accepted the grants March 28.

The two grants are for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). One is for \$60,000 and the other is for \$98,250, to be used from the beginning of this year through June 30, 2018.

The county's PATH focuses on outreach and general case management services to persons who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness. The goal is to assist individuals to find housing, and to connect with needed services, especially mental or chemical health resources.

The \$60,000 grant was historically received as an annual allocation. The second grant contract is an additional PATH grant to expand the services provided through the program, specifically outreach, and offsets levy funding. The grant will cover staff and administrative costs, as well as provide direct assistance funds for client housing needs.

**Contact: Therese Gilbertson, Community Services Supervisor, 651-430-4129**

### **County Board approves applications to renew liquor licenses for Afton Alps**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved applications for the renewal of an on-sale and a Sunday liquor license for Afton Alps Resort in Denmark Township March 28.

The application came from VR US Holdings, Inc., the parent company of the resort. Washington County processes all liquor licenses for the townships within the county. The county is required by the state to review the organization's insurance, and the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, and the Department of Public Health and Environment verified that the company is

in compliance with regulations. The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for the compliance checks.

**Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-8272**

### **County will add to public health staff with grant money**

Washington County will add a public health nurse, among other positions, after receiving additional state and federal grant dollars to pay for the new staff.

The County Board approved the positions March 28.

The county learned that five long-standing state and federal grants, the Federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant, the Follow Along grant, the Child and Teen Checkups grant, and the Women, Infants and Children, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant, will increase by \$234,200 in 2017 for public health services.

The county will use the money for positions to increase service capacity for Washington County residents who face significant barriers to better health.

The money will be used to add:

- a full-time special project public health nurse;
- a part-time community health specialist;
- a full-time office support staff person; and
- a half-time planner.

**Contact: David Brummel, Public Health and Environment Deputy Director, 651-430-6662**

### **County will continue to provide law enforcement services to Hugo**

Washington County will continue to provide law enforcement services to the City of Hugo, after the County Board extended the contract with the city March 28.

The cost of the agreement is \$987,825.30 for 2017; the contract term extends through Jan. 1, 2019.

The county will supply all labor, supervision, equipment, communication facilities, dispatching and supplies necessary to provide the services required by the agreement. The City of Hugo will pay the

county the direct expenses of providing the city with the full-time services of six deputies, one investigator, and one sergeant, which includes salaries and fringe benefits of the employees performing the services.

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

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

The Washington County Board of Commissioners completed a public hearing March 28 on implementing a transportation sales tax to replace the current sales tax being collected for transit by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

Washington County is currently a member of the CTIB joint powers agreement, along with Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. At the time CTIB was created in 2008, the county imposed a ¼ percent sales tax to fund transit projects.

The members of CTIB have been 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.

The County Board conducted a public hearing to review a transportation funding plan required by law to implement a transportation sales tax. During the public hearing, the County Board was informed that one of the members of CTIB was not supportive of its dissolution, and therefore the county would not have the option of implementing the transportation sales tax. After the hearing was closed, the board agreed to postpone the consideration indefinitely of the resolution implementing a transportation sales tax.

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

### **County Board approves agreements to cover CSAH 19 reconstruction, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park renovations**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a number of agreements March 28 that will oversee the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 in Cottage Grove, and improvements in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

The focus of the CSAH 19 project will be a new roundabout at the intersection of East Point Douglas Road and CSAH 19 and the construction of a new intersection to relocate the park entrance from the frontage road to CSAH 19. Construction beginning this spring will include the reconstruction of East Point Douglas Road from Walmart to CSAH 19. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.2 million, with the funds coming from the county's state aid and the City of Cottage Grove.

The Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park renovation project will include a new park circulation road, four parking lots, associated pedestrian improvements, and trails into the park along East Point Douglas Road. The new park circulation road will incorporate an updated lake outlet to accommodate both the flows from the local area under full development conditions and flows from the Central Draw Storage Facility Overflow Project as proposed by South Washington Watershed District (SWWD). The project has been coordinated with a master plan update of the park. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.65 million, with the funds coming from county bond funds, Metropolitan Council grants, and SWWD funds.

Additionally, SWWD has designed plans for a Ravine Stabilization Project. The project, to be constructed in 2017, will stabilize the ravine running the length of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The goal is to protect the ravine against erosion from local flash flood and overflow events while maintaining park use. Extensive ecological mitigation is also planned as part of the project. The estimated cost of that part of the project is \$2.25 million, with funds coming from the SWWD and the Metropolitan Council. Total investments for the projects is \$8.1 million.

The County Board approved a contract amendment with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., to add construction phase services and additional final design services to a current contract with Kimley-Horn for work on CSAH 19 for \$197,460. The contract amendment also added \$692,320 for construction phase services and additional final design services for the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park project, as well as project management for the park project. The County Board had approved contracts with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., earlier for preliminary design engineering and final design for the projects.

The County Board also approved two cooperative agreements with the City of Cottage Grove that will oversee the project, one that outlines the terms and conditions and cost participation for construction of the CSAH 19 improvements, and the other that sets out the long-term operations and

maintenance responsibilities of the county and city for items constructed in the project. The city has approved both agreements.

The third cooperative agreement the County Board approved is with SWWD. It outlines the terms, conditions, and cost participation for construction of the updated lake outlet in the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park renovation project, as well as the Ravine Stabilization Project. That agreement was approved by the SWWD March 14.

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

### **County will work with Browns Creek Watershed District for CR 64 upgrade**

Washington County will work with the Browns Creek Watershed District (BCWD) on upgrading County Road (CR) 64, after the County Board approved an agreement with the watershed district March 28.

The CR 64 (McKusick Road) project includes road and trail rehabilitation on 2.6 miles of roadway. The project, which is expected to cost \$1.9 million, will improve the pavement, which is in the “yellow zone” of the county’s pavement condition index, and update the roadway to current Americans with Disabilities standards. The BCWD wishes to integrate water-quality improvement into the project. Construction is expected to be done this summer.

BCWD will retrofit existing water quality tanks in the roadway and install settling devices to capture sediment and reduce pollutant loading, as well as construct stormwater conveyances and design infrastructure and connections for possible future best management practices to reduce the temperature of runoff to Brown's Creek, a designated trout stream.

The County Board approved two cooperative agreements with BCWD outlining the cost participation for the rehabilitation of CR 64 and the water quality improvements, and setting out the long-term operations and maintenance responsibilities of the county and BCWD. The BCWD has already approved both agreements.

The water quality work will be paid for by BCWD using a \$300,000 Clean Water Grant awarded by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The CR 64 project is funded by \$1.6 million county program aid from the Pavement Preservation Program and Wheelage Tax.

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