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

**Date:** April 4, 2017  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 4, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **County Board declares April 2017 National County Government Month**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution recognizing April 2017 as National County Government Month April 4.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has proclaimed April 2017 as National County Government Month in appreciation of county government employees who provide services for residents in Washington County. This year's theme is "Brilliant Ideas at Work."

The nearly 1,200 employees of Washington County each day provide core and mandated services of county government to more than 251,000 residents. County services range from public health and environmental services to law enforcement and prosecution, from probation to community services that support those with mental illness, disabilities, or the elderly, from elections to maintaining roads and parks, and from libraries to all the internal services needed to deliver any of the county services. By adopting the resolution, the County Board recognized, congratulated, and thanked all Washington County employees who fulfill the county's mission by providing quality services in a cost effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

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

#### **County Board supports TIF district to redevelop old Forest Lake city hall**

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

The Washington County Board of Commissioners expressed its support April 4 for the creation of a new tax increment financing (TIF) district in the City of Forest Lake to support redevelopment on the land of the former city hall.

TIF “captures” new property taxes generated by the increased value of redeveloped land to finance a project.

The City of Forest Lake will conduct a public hearing April 10 to consider modifications to development district number 2 and the creation of a new TIF district. The TIF district would include the former city hall property and would facilitate the construction of approximately 110 units of market-rate rental housing and a restaurant.

By law, the city must provide a 30-day notice to the county and the county has the ability to provide comments to the city to include in the public record of the public hearing.

The County Board has a policy that states it shall review proposals to understand the financial implications, its consistency with the county’s comprehensive plan for land use and transportation, the impact on the county’s tax base, and its impact on redeveloping blighted areas and increasing housing opportunities within the county.

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

### **County Board approves application to renew liquor licenses for Outing Lodge**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved application renewals April 4 for on-sale and Sunday liquor licenses for Outing Lodge.

The lodge is in Stillwater Township at 11661 Myeron Road N.

Washington County processes all liquor licenses for 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**

### **Gateway corridor will receive \$1 million for transit-oriented development planning**

The Gateway/Gold Line corridor will receive \$1 million for transit-oriented development planning, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the federal grant from the Metropolitan Council April 4.

The Metropolitan Council found out in September 2014 that the Federal Transit Administration had funds for the pilot program for transit-oriented development planning. The Metropolitan Council applied for and received the \$1 million grant on behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission to assist the counties and cities along the Gold Line in station area planning and transit-oriented development. Now, the Metropolitan Council is ready to pass on the grant money to Washington County, which is the fiscal agent for the Gold Line.

The Gold Line is a proposed bus rapid transit line, running from the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul to Woodbury.

**Contact: Lyssa Leitner, Senior Planner, 651-430-4314**

### **Sheriff's Office will continue to provide law enforcement services to Mahtomedi, Dellwood, Willernie, Birchwood Village**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will continue to provide law enforcement services to the cities of Mahtomedi, Dellwood, Willernie, and Birchwood Village after the County Board approved agreements with the cities April 4.

The county will supply all labor, supervision, equipment, communication facilities, dispatching, and supplies necessary to provide the services required by the agreement. The cities will pay the county the direct expenses of providing them with the full-time services of five deputies, which includes their salaries and fringe benefits.

The cities will pay \$591,805.97 for 2017; the term of the agreement is from Jan. 1, 2017, to Jan. 1, 2019.

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

### **Houston Engineering, Inc., will provide construction administration, surveying for Grey Cloud Crossing project**

Houston Engineering, Inc., will oversee the construction of the Grey Cloud Crossing Project, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$136,460 contract with the company April 4.

The project, set for construction this year, includes replacement of the earthen causeway connecting upper Grey Cloud Island with a new crossing on County Road 75. The project will improve water quality east of the main channel of the Mississippi River. The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) and Washington County are working together on the project.

The County Board has already approved a contract for construction of the project, along with a cooperative agreement with the SWWD, whereby the county is leading project construction and the SWWD is leading project design. Construction will include improved pavement and guardrails, and improved sightlines for drivers in the area.

The proposed contract between Washington County and Houston Engineering provides construction administration, observation, and surveying services for the project. The SWWD has the original contract with Houston Engineering, Inc., for project design.

Project funding is from the county gravel tax, a cooperative agreement with the SWWD, and Clean Water Grant funds.

**Contact: Cory Slagle, Assistant County Engineer, 651-430-4337**

### **Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC, will do road crack sealing in county this summer**

Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC, will do road crack sealing in Washington County this summer, after the County Board approved a \$130,730 contract with the company April 4.

Crack sealing is a maintenance process that seals cracks in roads, which reduces the amount of water that can infiltrate the cement and road base, reducing freeze-thaw damage. Reducing the freeze-thaw damage helps to slow down road degradation. Prolonging the life of the road helps to preserve the financial investment in the road and extends the amount of time until the next reconstruction is needed. Crack sealing is done annually on various roadways, county park roads, and parking lots throughout the county.

Money for the work comes from county preservation funds, parks operations, and the capital repair fund.

**Contact: Andrew Giesen, Engineer, 651-430-4336**

**Braun Intertec, American Engineering Testing will do material testing for summer projects**

Two corporations will do material testing for Washington County for its summer road projects, after the County Board approved \$200,000 contracts with both companies April 4.

Construction material testing is needed on road projects for quality control, reporting, and compliance with applicable state and federal requirements.

Instead of contracting with companies for individual projects, having contracts with the two companies will expedite road projects by eliminating the need for project-specific solicitations, proposal reviews, and contracts.

Also, the companies will provide testing reports summarizing testing data for each project, quick response to material failures, and specific expertise with construction material issues. Two contracts provide the county with a full range of services while providing appropriate flexibility for the scheduling of projects.

The initial term of both contracts is to April 30, 2018, with the option to automatically renew for up to two additional one-year periods.

The work is paid for with state aid, Metropolitan Council grants, city cooperative agreements, bond proceeds, and the county's pavement preservation program.

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

**County receives notice of meeting all financial reporting requirements for 2016**

Washington County received notice in mid-March that it had a perfect performance in meeting the state's Department of Human Services financial reporting requirements in 2016.

All key quarterly fiscal reports were submitted to the department's Financial Operations Division, and were in perfect order. The 32 major reports covered four calendar quarters, and a number of different program areas.

The result of the reporting, according to the Department of Human Services, is timely revenue for the county and compliance with federal compliance at the state level.