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

Date: April 18, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 18, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

McCulloch will serve on Library Board

Tammy McCulloch, Woodbury, will serve on the Washington County Library Board, representing commissioner District 5 during a partial term expiring Dec. 31, 2018.

The County Board made the appointment April 18.

The Washington County Library Board is advisory to the Washington County Board of Commissioners, which is the governing board of the library.

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

Board approves labor agreement with correctional officer sergeants, 9-1-1 supervisors

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a tentative labor agreement with the county's correctional officer sergeants and 9-1-1 dispatch supervisors April 18.

The labor bargaining unit is represented by the Minnesota Public Employee Association. The two-year agreement extends to Dec. 31, 2018.

The agreement provides for a 2.5 percent general adjustment in the beginning of 2017 and 2018, an increase in the uniform allowance, and adjustments to the salary ranges for each position to reflect current market conditions.

The contract also sets out the county's contributions for health insurance for employees.

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Contact: Jan Webster, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075

Board converts time off to base salary for county administrator

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to convert the value of paid time off for the county's administrator to the administrator's base pay April 18.

In Minnesota, the salary and all other forms of compensation are capped for public sector employees, including the Washington County administrator, by state law. The state commissioner of the department of Minnesota Management and Budget has the authority to make exceptions and may grant an increase from the cap (the increase is commonly described as a "waiver") for specific positions in certain circumstances.

In 2016, the county submitted a request for such a waiver for the position of county administrator. However, the County Board needed to set the 2017 salary for the county administrator before members heard whether the waiver was granted. At the time, the County Board added 40 hours of paid time off (PTO) to the county administrator's PTO bank.

Subsequently in 2017, the state commissioner approved the request for a waiver for the county administrator position. That allowed the County Board to grant an increase to the county administrator's base salary and remain compliant with state law.

During Administrator Molly O'Rourke's annual evaluation April 4, both the board and the county administrator agreed to re-categorize the monetary value of the 40 PTO hours as cash and instead apply that cash value to the county administrator's annualized base salary.

Contact: Jan Webster, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075

MnDOT will pay county for use of roads for detour during Manning Avenue road work

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will pay Washington County \$10,995 to use county roads as a detour while MnDOT improves the intersection at Manning Avenue and Valley Creek Road.

The County Board approved the agreement April 18. The payment is to compensate for the wear and tear on county roads while they are used as a detour.

MnDOT will complete roadway improvement project on and along Manning Avenue (Highway 95) at its intersection with Valley Creek Road on the boundary of the cities of Woodbury and Afton. The improvements include construction of a left turn lane at Valley Creek Road and drainage improvements. The project will detour traffic onto Bailey Road and Woodbury Drive in Woodbury. The state determines how much to compensate the county with the "Gas Tax Method," which factors in traffic counts, road length, and duration of the detour.

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

County Board will receive public comment on changes to park rules May 9

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will receive comments during a public hearing on changes to the county's ordinance governing its parks May 9.

The board set the hearing April 18.

The county's ordinance governing parks under the jurisdiction of Washington County was adopted in May 2006 and is in need of updates and clarifications. The proposed changes were developed in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office and reviewed by the Parks and Open Space Commission.

The public hearing will be conducted during the regular board meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 9, in the Board Room of the Government Center, 14949 N. 62nd St. in Stillwater.

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

County Board celebrates business leadership award

The Washington County Board of Commissioners congratulated the co-presidents of Wyoming Machine April 18, winners of the W.O. Lawton Small Business Leadership Award from the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference.

Lori Tapani and Traci Tapani are the co-presidents of Wyoming Machine, which makes metal components for other industries, such as defense, aerospace, computer, and electrical equipment. Lori Tapani has served on the Washington County Workforce Development Board since December 2011, and both co-presidents live in Hugo in Washington County.

The W.O. Lawton Small Business Leadership Award is given to one small business that has served on a local Workforce Development Board (WDB) and has made a significant impact in the local community. Nominations are received from WDBs from throughout all 50 states.

Criteria for the award is that the business:

- made an investment that has transformed the WDB services;
- has consistently supported WDB activities for a least the last two years;
- has invested significant time and resources in WDB initiatives and services; and
- the business leadership has fostered a significant concrete impact in the community.

Contact: Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager, 651-275-8600



Photo: Lori Tapani, front row, from left was congratulated by Washington County commissioners Lisa Weik, District 5, and Karla Bigham, District 4, back row, from left, commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, and Fran Miron, District 1, Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager, and Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3.

County Board recognizes Public Health Achievement Awards

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized recipients of the first annual Public Health Achievement Awards April 18.

The Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment announced the inaugural winners of the Public Health Achievement Awards. The awards recognize and honor residents who devote their time, energy, and talents to improve the public health of individuals, families, communities, and environments in Washington County.

The county received 12 nominations across the three categories before selecting the 2017 winners. Winners were celebrated during National Public Health Week, April 3-7, with a visit and award presentation by department staff.

The 2017 winners are:

- Cathy Hannigan, Individual Category. According to the nominator, Hannigan has provided education to second grade students in Washington County for 12 years through her volunteer time teaching a series of lessons about the environment. Starting with classes in Oakdale, Skyview, Castle, and Eagle Point elementary schools, Hannigan focused on lessons that covered four topics: waste, reuse, reduce, and recycling. For the past 10 years, she has focused on three second grade classes at Eagle Point Elementary School. "Cathy's willingness to volunteer and her enthusiasm makes learning about waste, reuse, reduce, and recycling fun for the students, which is important for learning and changing lifelong habits," wrote her nominator. Hannigan also serves as the part-time receptionist at Oakdale City Hall.
- The Youth United Way of Washington County-East, Youth Category. The Youth United Way of Washington County-East, is a group of 8th through 12th grade students who work together to raise funds for youth and hunger programs in the Washington County community. They were nominated for a youth category Public Health Achievement Award for their work organizing and executing the annual fundraising event "Empty Bowls." During the group's "Empty Bowls" event, soup and bread donated from local restaurants are served as dinner to guests from the community. Guests are also able to take home locally-donated pottery bowls,

and participate in a silent auction. Past "Empty Bowls" events have raised \$4,000 for local youth and hunger programs in the Stillwater area.

- The Carpenter Nature Center, Community Category. According to its nomination form, the Carpenter Nature Center "promotes health and healthy behaviors by providing 10 miles of hiking trails for all to enjoy. There is no admission fee to ensure that people of all economic backgrounds may connect with nature." Part of that connection includes the environmental stewardship Carpenter Nature Center fosters by striving to be a zero-waste organization. The center educates visitors – whether school groups, runners and spectators for the annual Apple Blossom Races, or weddings – on its zero-waste practices and waste reduction goals. The 2016 Apple Blossom Races achieved a 90 percent waste reduction rate, equating to about half an ounce of waste produced per runner. Carpenter plays a vital role in the hands-on education of 7,000 to 10,000 students and 17,000 to 20,000 visitors each year, and in doing so models the importance of environmental practices and healthy behaviors for the community.

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



Photo: Winners of the Public Health Achievement Award were congratulated by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 18. Pictured are, front row from left, Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5, Cathy Hannigan, winner in the Individual Category, Lois Raboin, representing Youth United Way of Washington County-East, who won in the Youth Category, Jennifer Vieth, executive director of the Carpenter Nature Center, which won the Community Category, Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4, and, back row from left, commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, Fran Miron, District 1, and Gary Kriesel, District 3, along with David Brummel, deputy director for Public Health and Environment.

County will begin right-of-way acquisition to continue CSAH 15 improvements

The Washington Board of Commissioners granted authority to county staff to begin right-of-way acquisitions and negotiate roadway easements April 18 to continue improvements along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 (Manning Avenue).

The Manning Avenue (CSAH 15) corridor project will improve operations and safety along Manning Avenue between Interstate 94 and CSAH 14 (old Highway 5). The project has been divided into several phases for construction. Phase 1 was completed in 2016, which included intersection improvements at CSAH 15 and CSAH 10.

Phase 2 will include a realignment of CSAH 14 (old Highway 5) and Manning Avenue near the Washington County Fairgrounds. Phase 2 construction is planned for 2018.

Before construction, the county needs to acquire right-of-way and associated easements for the planned construction.

The estimated cost of the right-of-way acquisitions is approximately \$2 million and is funded by 2016 bond sales.

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

WSB & Associates, Inc., will do inspection, management for downtown Afton project

WSB & Associates, Inc., will do construction inspection and engineering, project management, contract administration, and survey services for the County State Aid (CSAH) 21 and CSAH 18 downtown Afton reconstruction project.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$135,056 contract April 18.

This project involves the reconstruction of CSAH 21 and CSAH 18 in downtown Afton to accommodate the needs of both the community and the county highway system. The project will improve pavement condition and increase pavement life, as well as provide pedestrian paths. It will also improve roadway and intersection safety, drainage and storm water management, and pedestrian safety.

During the project, the city will also do levee reconstruction, update its municipal sewer system, and reconstruct streets along with drainage improvements.

Due to permitting delays, project construction scheduled to begin in 2016 will now begin in 2017.

WSB & Associates, Inc., is under contract to provide construction inspection and engineering services for the project. Because construction did not begin last year, inspection and engineering services were suspended. The agreement the board approved extends the term of the contract to Dec. 31, 2018, and combines the original services of construction inspection and engineering services with

project management, contract administration, and survey services. The project is expected to be complete in November 2018.

The contract is funded by bonds.

Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer, 651-430-4330