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

Date: May 9, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the May 9, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board amends sheriff's salary

Washington County Board of Commissioners amended the salary for incoming Sheriff Dan Starry May 9, after an error was discovered in the original salary set for him May 2. The board amended his salary to \$149,393 annually.

Contact: Molly O'Rourke, Administrator, 651-430-6002

County Board approves application for on-sale, Sunday liquor license for Afton Apple Orchard

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an application for the renewal May 9 of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license for the corporation that does business as the Afton Apple Orchard in Denmark Township.

The county processes all liquor licenses for the townships within the county. That requires reviewing insurance requirements, and completing compliance checks by the Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's Office, and the Department of Public Health and Environment.

The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for administration, and the compliance checks.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Tax Payers Services Division Manager, 651-430-8272

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

County replaces land in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park

The Washington County Board of Commissioners completed a land transfer May 9 which replaces the land that the county removed from Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park to build the Cottage Grove Service Center.

In 2005, Washington County removed 38.5 acres from Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and designated 17.7 acres for the Washington County Service Center and 20.8 acres for the City of Cottage Grove city campus. The Metropolitan Council approved the land use, but requires that land removed from a regional park that is paid for with regional funds be replaced on an acre-for-acre basis. That requirement is included in a 2004 agreement between the county and the Metropolitan Council.

Washington County completed replacement of the 17.7 acres used for the county service center in 2011. The city had 13.36 acres remaining to replace. The May 9 agreement provides for completing the city replacement of the 13.36 acres by transferring city ownership of 9.22 acres of city land within the park boundary to the county, and reimbursing the county \$146,306.30 for 4.14 acres of land purchased by the county that will also be used as replacement land. The money will be used for park improvements.

The agreement has been approved by the City of Cottage Grove, and the land replacements have been approved by the Metropolitan Council.

Also, with the land transfer, the Met Council removed a restrictive covenant that it had on the land, which allows for the possibility of the city using the land it owns for a health and emergency response center.

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

County Board continues public hearing on lake naming, rename it Lake Keewahtin

The Washington County Board of Commissioners continued a public hearing May 9 to consider a new name for a lake south of Highway 97 on the border between Forest Lake and Scandia.

Seven residents spoke at the hearing. After the hearing, commissioners approved naming the water body Lake Keewahtin.

The City of Forest Lake received a petition signed by registered voters in the city regarding the lake.

The official name of the lake is Halfbreed Lake, but has been known as Sylvan Lake for quite some time. The petitioners request was to officially change the name to Sylvan Lake.

By law, the petition must be signed by 15 registered voters, which the county verified had been done. A letter was sent to the City of Forest Lake and the 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.

A public hearing was conducted Jan. 24, and two residents spoke at the hearing. The County Board asked for additional information during the public hearing, and the hearing was continued to March 14 to provide a notice to the City of Scandia, as the lake is partially in both cities.

At the continued public hearing March 14, a number of individuals spoke. The board approved a motion to continue the matter until its May 9 meeting, to allow for additional input from local residents.

Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1, was host for a public meeting April 12 at the Forest Lake Headwaters Service Center. At that meeting, an answer to the original petition was provided by residents requesting the lake be renamed as Lake Keewahtin. The county verified that the needed number of signatures were gathered for that petition, and the request was also shared with the cities of Forest Lake and Scandia.

Both cities passed motions prior to the March 14 public hearing in support of the renaming of the lake as Sylvan Lake. Subsequently, after being notified of the additional request to rename the water body as Lake Keewahtin, both Forest Lake and Scandia passed motions in support of that option as well. The Department of Natural Resources has told the county that it is supportive of either of the suggested names.

After the renaming, the county will present the resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for his approval and then record the resolution in the County Recorder's Office.

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

County Board conducts public hearing on changes to parks ordinance

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on changes to the county's parks ordinance May 9, and then adopted the changes.

No residents spoke at the hearing.

The changes were proposed to:

- improve overall user experience;
- recognize limited staffing;
- be a good neighbor to residents bordering the park;
- have rules developed in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office;
- allow staff to respond to issues; and
- maintain high quality experiences for park users.

Among other changes, the proposed ordinance states the parks hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the boat launch open one additional hour. It calls for no alcohol in the parks, including the campgrounds and pavilions, and clarifies that pets must be on leash, and that their owners are responsible for pet waste. It also adds unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, to the list of prohibited vehicles in the parks.

Also, according to the ordinance, campers will be restricted to 14 consecutive days of camping, and the ordinance regulates the number of campers at each campsite. Additional rules discuss how to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species in the parks.

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

Hardrives, Inc., will do St. Croix Trail pavement project in Afton

Hardrives, Inc., will replace the pavement on a segment of the St. Croix Trail along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 in Afton, from 30th Street to the Interstate 94 bridge in Lakeland, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$340,251 contract with the company May 9.

The trail along CSAH 18 has not been resurfaced since it was constructed and has deteriorated. The length of the project will be just more than four miles. Work includes removal of aging bituminous, constructing a new pavement surface and concrete pedestrian ramps, and replacing bridge railing and trail signing. The work is anticipated to take five weeks.

The board also approved cooperative agreements with the cities of Afton and Lakeland. Afton will pay for the replacement of handrails on the bridge, and replacement of pavement for the trail within the city right-of-way, using Lower St. Croix Valley Community Foundation funds.

An agreement with the City of Lakeland calls for it paying for the pavement within the Minnesota Department of Transportation right-of-way near I-94 and pedestrian ramps.

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

People's Electric will install traffic signal at CSAH 15 and 50th Street in Lake Elmo

People's Electric Company will install a wood pole traffic signal at the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 and its intersection with 50th Street in Lake Elmo after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$131,000 contract with the company May 9.

This traffic signal project was included in the financial plan for the Highway 5 agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation when jurisdiction for the highway was turned over to Washington County. The state provided funds to maintain the highway, along with the jurisdiction change.

The project includes the construction of a wood pole traffic signal, sidewalk, and pedestrian curb ramps at the intersection.

This section of roadway is the busiest two-lane county highway in the county, with 50th Street connecting many neighborhoods to Lake Elmo Avenue, or CSAH 17. Metro Transit also has stops on both sides of the county roadway.

The County Board also approved an agreement with the City of Lake Elmo to provide a third of the construction costs associated with the project, and a part of the design and construction engineering.

The electrical costs for the signal will be the responsibility of the city.

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

SEH, Inc., will do design work, analysis of next phase of downtown Lake Elmo project

Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., (SEH) will do preliminary design, drainage analysis, public engagement, and environmental documentation for the next phase of the downtown Lake Elmo project.

The project calls for the installation of sanitary sewer, water main, and road reconstruction in downtown Lake Elmo.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$208,800 contract May 9.

Phase III of the project is a continuation of the work that includes County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 17 from CSAH 10 (10th Street North) to 600 feet south of 30th Street North. This portion of CSAH 17 extends through the residential area of the City of Lake Elmo east and south of Lake Elmo. This project is intended to improve operations and safety along the corridor by evaluating intersection alternatives, drainage improvements, and off-road sidewalk/trail options to accommodate current traffic and pedestrian levels as well as future traffic and pedestrian growth.

The existing roadways have poor pavement, and stormwater is discharging directly into Lake Elmo. The area also lacks pedestrian facilities.

The county is working with the city, the watershed district, and other stakeholders and residents to develop the project. The project will also involve coordination with the Royal Oaks residential development and golf course, in what was formerly Tartan Park.

The preliminary work is scheduled for this summer, with final design done this winter. Construction would begin next spring.

Earlier in the May 9 meeting, the County Board agreed to extend a contract with SEH for \$147,413 for additional construction engineering services for the work being done in downtown Lake Elmo during Phase II of this project.

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

Correctional Officers Week, Law Enforcement Memorial Week proclaimed

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May 7-13 as Correctional Officers Week and May 14-20 as Law Enforcement Memorial Week in Washington County.

The annual Law Enforcement Memorial Day will be marked in Washington County May 15 and the Washington County Sheriff's Office will conduct its annual Memorial Ceremony recognizing fallen Correctional and Law Enforcement Officers at the Historic Courthouse at noon.

The Historic Courthouse is at the corner of Third and Pine streets in Stillwater.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7816