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

**Date:** May 23, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the May 23, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board approves contracts for legal representation for probate law**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts with four attorneys May 23 for the legal representation involving probate law when required.

The county approved contracts with James F. Schneider, Jessica Buberl, Spencer Butts, and Greg Schmidt for legal representation involving probate law. The county must provide legal representation for certain persons in probate law cases, including civil commitments, guardianships, and conservatorships.

The contracts will cover work from May 2, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2021. The agreement may be renewed for one additional year, but must terminate Dec. 31, 2022.

The attorneys will represent the proposed wards in guardianship cases, the proposed conservatees on conservatorship cases, and the respondent in commitment cases. The attorneys shall serve as an advocate for the client's interests and inform the client about the legal processes and the law.

The attorneys will be compensated at a rate of \$80 per hour.

The county or the attorneys may terminate the agreement, with or without cause, by providing the other party 60 days written notice.

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

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

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

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made several appointments to county boards and commissions May 23.

Tedi Carlson, Lake Elmo, was appointed to the Historic Courthouse Advisory Council as a representative of commissioner District 3 for a partial term expiring Dec. 31, 2019. Dean Shepersky, Woodbury, was also appointed to the Historic Courthouse Advisory Council as an at-large representative for a partial third term that will expire Dec. 31, 2019. The purpose of the council is to review current operation and long-range plans for the Historic Courthouse building use and restoration within the context of the mission statement adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners for the Historic Courthouse.

John Rheinberger, Stillwater, was appointed to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals as an at-large representative for a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019. The board is established according to state law and follows the Washington County Development Code. The board hears administrative appeals regarding decision made by the Zoning Administrator with respect to the administration of the Washington County Development Code. It also reviews variances and the county's official map. David Olufson, Mahtomedi, was appointed to the Library Board, representing commissioner District 1 for a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019. The Washington County Library Board is advisory to the Washington County Board of Commissioners, which is the governing board of the county Library.

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

### **County Board recognizes restaurants for being named to top list**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized the Lake Elmo Inn Restaurant and Acqua in Forest Lake May 23 for being named to Open Table's 100 Best Brunch Restaurants in America.

Open Table is the world's leading provider of online restaurant reservations. In early May, Open Table, using verified reviews of more than 10 million patrons, announced the Top 100 Best Brunch Restaurants in America. The Lake Elmo Inn in Lake Elmo and Acqua in Forest Lake received recognition by Open Table. Both restaurants are well-known locally and the national recognition reflects positively on the county.

The Washington County Board congratulated the owners and employees of Aqua and the Lake Elmo Inn.

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### **County Board names Karwoski to East Metro Strong Board**

Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, was named to the East Metro Strong Board by the Washington County Board of Commissioners May 23.

Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5, also serves on the East Metro Strong Board.

East Metro Strong is a public-private partnership of businesses, cities, and counties working together to bring more and better transit investment to the East Metro and catalyze job growth and economic development opportunities. Washington County has been supportive of and a member of East Metro Strong since its inception in late 2013.

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

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

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a plat for Morgan Farm Lots in Denmark Township May 23.

Morgan Farm Lots is a three-lot plat northeast of Highway 10 and west of Neal Avenue.

**Contact: Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Director, 651-430-6182**

### **County Board approves agreement for assistance to needy families funding**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a grant agreement between the Minnesota Department of Health and the county to receive federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding May 23.

The block grant is for \$182,520 for both 2018 and 2019. TANF allows states to allocate resources for a broad array of services, including assisting needy families so children may be cared for at home, ending dependence of needy families on government benefits by promoting work and marriage,

reducing non-marital pregnancies, and encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

In Minnesota, TANF funds allocated through the Minnesota Department of Health are used for ending dependence of needy families on government benefits through the Family Home Visiting Program. Eligibility requirements include being a U.S. citizen, and having an income below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The grant assists the county to support evidence-based home visiting work in the Healthy Families America model, as well as to provide general, shorter term home visiting services provided to eligible families.

**Contact: Jill Timm, Public Health Program Manager, 651-275-7286**

### **AAA Striping will do county lane striping**

AAA Striping Service Company will do lane striping in Washington County after the County Board approved a \$125,372 contract with the company May 23.

Roadway striping is budgeted each year. Washington County also works with local communities throughout the county for roadway pavement marking. Cities and townships will be able to have their roads striped under Washington County's contract and reimburse the county for the quantities used.

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

### **County works with railroad company to complete Point Douglas Regional Trail**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with the BNSF Railway Company May 23, which will allow construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge to connect Washington County's Point Douglas Regional Trail and Dakota County's Hastings Bridge Trail System.

In 2016, Washington County began construction of a paved trail to connect Point Douglas Park with the new Hastings Bridge Trail System. Earlier this year, the County Board approved a budget amendment to reallocate funds for completion of the last piece of the trail, which is a pedestrian bridge over the active BNSF railroad corridor. The final connection for the trail will connect three counties over two states.

The agreements also sets out the terms for construction over this active railroad corridor and grants a permanent easement for Washington County to operate and maintain this pedestrian bridge for the future. The easement will cost the county \$25,898.51.

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

### **County Board proclaims May 21-27 Jean DeCurtins Week in Washington County**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners declared May 21-27 as Jean DeCurtins Week in Washington County May 23.

Jean DeCurtins is a lifelong resident of Washington County and was among 180 young men from the Stillwater area who joined the National Guard's 34th Infantry Division prior to World War II.

DeCurtins was activated for duty Feb. 10, 1941, and served as part of the Red Bulls Division of the National Guard. DeCurtins was wounded twice in battle and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Upon his return to Stillwater in 1944, DeCurtins and other veterans returning formed a Last Man's Club. A plaque with the members' names of that club hung in the Washington County Government Center for many years and recently was relocated to the new Stillwater Armory. DeCurtins is the Last Man from the Last Man's Club. He was recognized for his service earlier this spring during the grand opening of the armory.

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**Photo: Washington County commissioners and visitors honored Jean DeCurtins at the County Board meeting May 23, proclaiming May 21-27 at Jean DeCurtins Week in Washington County. Those honoring DeCurtins was Mike Polehna, Stillwater City Councilmember, Nile Kriesel, a former Stillwater city administrator and Washington County commissioner, commissioners Karla Bigham, District 4, and Stan Karwoski, District 2, DeCurtins, and commissioners Fran Miron, District 1, Gary Kriesel, District 3, and Lisa Weik, District 5.**

### **County Board reviews previous year's performance measurement report**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received the 2016 Performance Measures and Indicators Report May 23, along with an update on countywide performance measurements and quality improvement efforts.

Since the mid-1990s, Washington County has tracked, reported, and monitored performance measures to support decision-making and to drive continued improvement in its core functions and the services it provides.

Performance measurements from the current report highlighted for the board were land stewardship in county parks, overall building energy efficiency in county buildings, and improved recycling at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond. The complete report can be found at [www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures).

**Contact: Amanda Hollis, Senior Planner, 651-430-6021**

### **County Board sets public hearing June 13 on implementing transportation sales tax**

The Washington Board of Commissioners set a public hearing for 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, on the subject of implementing a transportation sales tax to replace a sales tax that the county is already collecting for transit purposes.

The County Board set the hearing May 23. The hearing will be during the board's weekly meeting in the Board Room of the Government Center at 14949 62<sup>nd</sup> St. N. in Stillwater.

Washington County is currently a member of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) joint powers agreement, along with Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. As a member of that organization, the county imposes a 0.25 percent sales tax to fund transit projects. The members of CTIB are considering options for the possible dissolution of that joint powers agreement.

As required by law, the county board will conduct a public hearing to review a transportation plan and to consider a transportation sales tax allowed by state law. That transportation sales tax may only be considered if CTIB is dissolved, and the tax would replace the existing sales tax that is being imposed.

The CTIB will meet in June to re-consider a proposed action to dissolve, which is contingent on member counties assuming existing CTIB obligations for capital and operating costs for transitways. The Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project development is an existing \$15 million obligation of CTIB in Ramsey and Washington counties.

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

## **County will request funding from MnDOT for transportation projects in 2019**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners listed a number of projects May 23 that it would like to see funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in 2019.

MnDOT is accepting candidate projects for the 2019 Metro Municipal Agreement Program. The program provides funding for construction projects that are developed and administered by local agencies and provide a benefit to both the local community and the state highway system. MnDOT is looking for projects that include leveraging public investments to achieve multiple purposes, focusing on low cost/high benefit solutions, integrating safety, and using partnerships.

The Washington County proposed projects for the 2019 funding request are:

- construction of center left-turn lanes and right-turn lanes at Highway 97 and County Road 52 in Scandia;
- traffic signal upgrades to the interchange at Interstate 694 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10, including flashing yellow arrows, in Oakdale; and
- improvements to directional signage for the split interchange at Interstate 494, CSAH 18, and CSAH 38 in Woodbury and Newport.

If a project is selected, funds from MnDOT will become available July 1, 2018.

Typical projects that receive funding are access changes, new or revised intersections, turn lanes, signal revisions, frontage roads, park-and-ride lots, and interchanges.

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