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

**Date:** June 27, 2017  
**Contact:** Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager  
**Phone:** 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723  
**E-mail:** yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the June 27, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board makes a number of appointments to advisory groups**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made several appointments to county advisory groups June 27.

Anne Maule Miller, Stillwater, will serve on the Groundwater Advisory Board as a municipal government representative for a partial first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to bring the community perspective and to provide advice or make recommendations to the County Board on matters relating to the development, content, implementation, and periodic review and revision of the Washington County Groundwater Management Plan. The advisory committee is established under state statute.

Several appointments were made to the Workforce Development Board:

- Sonja Simpson was appointed as a post-secondary education representative position on the Workforce Development Board to a partial first term expiring June 30, 2019;
- Susan Evans, Woodbury, was appointed as the adult basic education representative position to a third term expiring June 30, 2020;
- Michelle Kemper, Community Services Deputy Director, was appointed as a representative of a public assistance agency to a fourth term expiring June 30, 2020;

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Phone: 651-430-6001 • Fax: 651-430-6017 • TTY: 651-430-6246

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

- Ann Lindquist was appointed as a community-based organization representative to a second term expiring June 30, 2020; and
- Beth Mathiason was appointed as a large business representative to a second term expiring June 30, 2020.

The Workforce Development Board, established by state law, determines the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients, and program operators for the Workforce Service Area; jointly plans for collaboration; provides for on-site review and oversight of program performance; and selects local priorities for service and target populations for programming.

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

### **County will receive reimbursement for costs associated with inmates**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement June 27 with the Minnesota Department of Corrections to receive reimbursement for expenses of the county attorney resulting from work involving inmates at state correctional institutions.

There are two state correctional facilities in Washington County. The money will reimburse some of the costs associated with the prosecution of inmates who are involved in criminal activities at the correctional facilities.

**Contact: Pete Orput, County Attorney, 651-430-6124**

### **County will continue Sentence to Service program**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the state Commissioner of Corrections June 27 to continue the county's Sentence to Service Program.

The state provides up to \$168,258 to Washington County to offset the costs of operating the Sentence to Service Program through June 30, 2019. The revenue for the coming year will increase to \$81,679, representing a 6 percent increase from 2017. Revenue will increase another 6 percent for fiscal year 2019 up to \$86,579.

The Sentence to Service Program in Washington County contributes more than 79,000 hours of service back to the community annually and provides an alternative to longer incarceration times for non-violent offenders.

**Contact: Ren Clinton, Community Corrections Division Manager, 651-430-6973**

### **County Board approves applications for licenses for events at county fair**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved two applications for temporary on-sale liquor licenses for the VFW Post 323 for the Washington County Fair. It also approved an application for bingo at the fair for the St. Paul East Parks Lions.

The fair is Aug. 2-5 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Baytown Township.

The fair is scheduled for five days; however, temporary liquor licenses can only be issued for one to four days, so in this case, two applications and licenses are required.

The applicant has provided proof of insurance, the Sheriff's Office has been notified of the event, and all appropriate fees have been provided by the applicant.

The St. Paul East Parks Lions meet the requirements under state law to conduct bingo. After acknowledgement by the County Board, the application is sent to the State Gambling Board for approval.

**Contact: Steve Gransee, Election Division Manager, 651-430-8272**

### **Pember Companies, Inc., will do concrete projects throughout the county**

Pember Companies, Inc., will do a number of concrete projects around Washington County after the County Board approved a \$58,200 contract with the company June 27.

The project includes miscellaneous concrete work, such as pedestrian ramps, curb and gutter, hydrant pads, etc., throughout the county. The work is needed to make pedestrian crossings compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and improve drainage and long-term maintenance.

The work will be paid for with County Program Aid from the state.

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

### **Northern Tier Energy gives \$5,000 to Sheriff's Office**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted a \$5,000 gift from Northern Tier Energy June 27 on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.

The gift will be used to support the City of Newport deputies. The City of Newport contracts with the Sheriff's Office for public safety services.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

### **County Board receives update on legislative session results**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received a report on the recent legislative session from Keith Carlson, executive director of the Minnesota Inter-County Association, June 27.

The county will receive an increase in its Program Aid from the state of \$990,834 in 2017, as well as an additional \$138,903 for Community Corrections programs. The county will also receive \$40,000 in 2017 for enforcement of the state's new buffer law. The county will receive additional funding from the state's general fund from the leased motor vehicle sales tax fund for road and bridge projects.

Other than that, the county received little in terms of general transportation funding.

The county will be subject to a cost "shift" from the state, as it will be asked to take on additional costs of MNChoices, an assessment service provided by the county to assist individuals and their families in planning and choosing services. The Legislature also failed to provide any money for new technology used to determine residents' eligibility for services, which means that county workers are required to do hundreds of hours of manual work-arounds on the existing system.

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

### **County Board receives update on CDA work**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received an update from the Community Development Agency June 27, and provided its support for the plan as presented.

Chris Eng, economic development director, has worked with the county's cities and townships to develop the 2017-2019 Economic Development Plan. The plan follows the guidelines established in the county's economic development strategic plan adopted in May 2014.

The plan includes action steps and deliverables related to marketing and promotion of the county as a place to do business, to providing opportunities to help small businesses grow, and supporting business development through workforce development and improved infrastructure.

The marketing program includes using local real estate publications to reach businesses people who are siting businesses, as well as local chambers of commerce and Great MSP. The CDA will also use the Open to Business program to assist local businesses in their growth through consulting assistance and grant and loans programs, which will be underway July 1. The CDA is also focusing on workforce development and talent recruitment, by working with businesses, the Washington County Workforce Development Board, Century College, Greater MSP, and the state Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The CDA also promotes a strong infrastructure, promoting multi-modal transportation and transit opportunities in the county, and conducting a survey on the need and availability of broadband internet connection.

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

### **State updating vehicle licensing, will impact service July 20, 21, 22, 24**

The state computer system that keeps track of vehicle licensing and registration will be updated at the end of July, causing limited service at the Washington County license centers July 20, 21, and 24.

The County Board received an update on the process June 27.

The new state MN Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS) is scheduled to go live July 24. MNLARS will replace the existing state vehicle registration system used by all deputy registrars in the state, including at the three license centers in Washington County in Stillwater, Woodbury, and Forest Lake.

Major service interruptions will occur during the key implementation dates of July 20 to July 24 while the state, counties, and other service providers transition to the new system. The service centers

will not be able to do motor vehicle transactions, and the ability to process driver license transactions may be impacted, as the stability of the system will be questionable during the transition.

The license centers will be closed Saturday, July 22.

Residents requiring motor vehicle license or driver license renewals are encouraged to complete them earlier in the month.

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

### **Peoples Electric will install Mahtomedi school traffic signal**

Peoples Electric Company will construct a traffic signal on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 at Mahtomedi Middle School after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$222,406 contract June 27.

Poor pavement quality, substandard pedestrian facilities, and traffic congestion plague the CSAH 12 corridor through the cities of Willernie, Mahtomedi, and Grant. The county has studied the corridor to identify phased projects to be constructed in 2017, 2019, and 2021. The traffic signal is the first phase of the project consisting of the construction of a traffic signal, trail, signing, striping, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at the intersection of CSAH 12 and the Mahtomedi Middle School entrance.

The project will be done in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Mahtomedi middle and high school's internal traffic circulation and parking. The school's work includes closure of the main high school entrance and pushing all traffic to this new signal, which is expected to be operational prior to the first day of school this fall.

The project will be paid for with state aid.

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

### **Alliant Engineering, Inc., will design Stagecoach Trail/CSAH 21 pavement project**

Alliant Engineering, Inc., will design the Stagecoach Trail/County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 pavement management and safety project, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an amended contract with the company June 27.

The contract is for \$251,296. It was a contract amendment, as the company also did the preliminary engineering design, project coordination, public agency involvement, and environmental documentation for the project. The contract will be paid for with highway state aid money. The project involves new pavement surface, increased intersection safety, and improved pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations. The project will include stormwater management enhancements. Between 2,400 and 6,500 vehicles use the roadway each day; it is forecast that traffic will increase to 4,000 to 9,600 vehicles per day in the future. It is anticipated that the first phase of construction on the project would be in 2018.

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