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

Date: Aug. 8, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Aug. 8, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Technology provides county email security

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Zix Corporation Aug. 8 to use email encryption tools.

The \$87,000 contract runs through July 31, 2020.

The system enables the county to send encrypted email to provide protection of sensitive information. It also examines the content of outbound email for non-public data such as Social Security numbers, financial, and protected health information.

The protection of sensitive data is governed under Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, as well as other state and federal laws. The contract provides email encryption to ensure that the county is in compliance with those requirements.

Contact: Renee Heinbuch, Information Technology Director, 651-430-6421

SEH will do engineering for Hadley Avenue, Highway 36 interchange

Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH), Inc., will do engineering for the reconstruction of the Hadley Avenue and Highway 36 interchange in Oakdale, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1 million amendment to a contract with the company Aug. 8.

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The company has completed project coordination, system planning, traffic analysis, preliminary engineering, environmental documentation, and public involvement services under its original contract for the project, which was signed a year ago.

The intersection is controlled by a traffic signal. The intersection operates poorly with double the crash number and severity rate for similar intersections. Traffic volumes are expected to increase 50 percent in the next 15 years. The City of Oakdale, Washington County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation have partnered to convert the intersection into a grade-separated interchange. The project has received a state Transportation and Economic Development grant and a federal grant showing its importance and the benefit of the project. SEH will continue with project coordination, public engagement, final design, utility coordination, a traffic management plan, bridge design, and other construction services.

Funding will come from:

- a \$7.5 million Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation/federal grant;
- a \$4 million Transportation and Economic Development (TED) state grant;
- a \$1 million Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation/federal grant;
- \$5 million shared between County State Aid and local contributions; and
- a private donation from Fleet Farm, which has committed to providing \$2.57 million in land donation to assist with the project.

It is expected that the final design and right-of-way acquisition will be completed during the next year, and bids will be opened in fall 2018, with construction in spring 2019.

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

County Board reviews CDA budget

As part of the annual county budget review, the Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed the recommended 2018 budget for the Community Development Agency (CDA) Aug. 8. The CDA manages residential properties for low-income and elderly residents, as well as supporting economic development efforts throughout the county.

The CDA's 2018 levy request will be just more than \$5 million, up \$335,800 over 2017. The bulk of the increase, \$305,000, will be used for the CDA's economic development "Open To Business" program and a "seed" fund used to assist businesses to locate and grow in Washington County.

The CDA will use its levy:

- \$575,762 for economic development;
- \$2.57 million to manage the CDA-owned properties;
- \$1.63 million for community development; and
- \$282,000 for its general fund.

The CDA efforts help to increase the tax value in the county by generating commercial value, which lessens the property tax burden of property taxpayers; assists with job creation in the county; and serves seniors and children by providing stable housing. Of its levy, 92 percent is invested directly into Washington County communities.

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