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**Date:** Aug. 22, 2017  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the Aug. 22, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **Kaul will continue to serve as Washington County legislative liaison**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract extension with John Kaul, the county's legislative liaison, Aug. 22.

The \$52,576 contract is for Sept. 1, 2017, through Aug. 31, 2018, and reflects a 1.5 percent increase over the previous year's contract.

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

#### **County Board reappoints Lindberg to watershed district board**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reappointed Erik Lindberg, Stillwater Township, to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Board Aug. 22.

Lindberg will serve a second term that will expire June 21, 2020.

Watershed district governance, required by state law, helps to control or alleviate damage by flood waters; improves stream channels for drainage or navigation; reclaims or fills wet or overflow lands; oversees water supply for irrigation; regulates the flow of streams; diverts or changes water courses; provides and conserves water supply; and provides for the protection of groundwater and regulation of groundwater use.

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

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### **County Board comments on proposed TIF district in Oakdale**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved comments on a proposed tax increment financing (TIF) district in Oakdale Aug. 22.

The City of Oakdale will conduct a public hearing Aug. 22 to consider the creation of a new tax TIF district to allow for the redevelopment of two parcels near Tanners Lake. A 15,400-square-foot medical office building is being proposed for the site. The city expects development of the parcels to begin in 2018.

With TIF, the city uses the increased properties taxes realized through development to pay for development costs.

Redevelopment TIF districts may remain in existence for 25 years after receipt of the first increment. However, special legislation passed in 2008 and 2009 allows the city to operate this TIF district for up to 35 years after the receipt of the first increment. The county's comments supported both the establishment of the TIF district.

By law, the city must provide a 30-day notice to the county and the county has the ability to provide comments to the city to be included in the public record of the public hearing.

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

### **County will receive additional funds for Community Corrections**

Washington County will receive an additional \$69,400 from the state of Minnesota to pay for Community Corrections services through the end of the year.

The County Board accepted the funds Aug. 22, for operations for the remainder of 2017. The money will be used to offset certain costs of the Sentence to Service program.

**Contact: Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director, 651-430-6902**

### **County Board will conduct public hearing Sept. 12 on waste designation**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a public hearing on waste designation in the county for Sept. 12 at its meeting Aug. 22. The hearing will be during the regular County Board

meeting at 9 a.m. in the Board Room on the fifth floor of the Government Center, 14949 N. 62<sup>nd</sup> St. in Stillwater.

Waste designation is used to require all or some of the solid waste collected in the county to be delivered to a designated waste management facility. Waste designations are put into place after a planning process and approval by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Designation relates to what happens to waste after it is collected – it does not affect who collects trash or when it is collected.

Ramsey and Washington counties have determined that designation is necessary to ensure that waste from the counties is managed in a manner that ranks higher on the state's waste management hierarchy. Waste collection within the counties is predominantly done through privately-owned waste collection companies and transfer stations. With available lower-cost landfill alternatives serving the metropolitan area, there is a strong financial incentive for waste haulers to take the waste to landfills. The Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board (R&E Board) and the counties aim to designate waste to reduce landfilling, and to reduce the long-term cost and environmental costs of landfilling. It also provides flexibility for waste disposal as new technologies or opportunities arise.

The counties will negotiate waste delivery agreements with waste haulers for the voluntary delivery of all acceptable waste generated in the two counties to achieve more certain deliveries to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center). The designation ordinance will serve as a back-stop for such agreements, and to assure the flow of waste to the R&E Center for those entities that do not enter into waste delivery agreements.

The designation ordinances will be submitted to the MPCA for review and approval; the MPCA has 90 days for review. After MPCA approval, the individual counties can proceed to formally adopt the ordinance amendments.

The Ramsey and Washington Counties Joint Designation Plan and each county's solid waste ordinance amendments, along with other information regarding waste designation and waste management in Washington and Ramsey Counties, are available at [www.morevaluelesstrash.com](http://www.morevaluelesstrash.com).

**Contact: Judy Hunter, Senior Environmental Program Manager, 651-430-651-430-4031**

## **Redstone Construction will build bridge for Point Douglas trail**

Redstone Construction, LLC, will build a bridge and a segment of trail that extends the Point Douglas Regional Trail and closes the final gap in the connection between Hastings and Prescott, Wis. The bridge will allow for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely cross over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.568 million contract with the company Aug. 22.

The Point Douglas Regional Trail is a key pedestrian link between two states and three counties. In 2016, Washington County began construction of a paved trail to connect Point Douglas Park with the new Hastings Bridge Trail System. Construction of the bridge includes the steel truss pedestrian bridge, grading, bituminous surfacing, a retaining wall, a traffic management system, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

The first portion of the 2.5-mile shared use trail was completed in July. It provides pedestrian access to vistas along the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. When complete, the trail will provide a pedestrian link between the historic downtowns of Prescott and Hastings.

The bridge will be paid for with state bond proceeds and county funds.

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

## **Kimley-Horn will prepare plans for CSAH 13, CSAH 22 intersection**

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., will provide design services and project coordination for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 and CSAH 22 in Cottage Grove.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$333,090 contract with the company Aug. 22. The company will do preliminary and final design, and be responsible for public involvement, utility coordination, environmental documentation, and hydraulic analysis, along with other work.

The capital improvement project involves constructing a roundabout at the intersection, which is also called Hinton Avenue and 70th Street in Cottage Grove. Traffic volumes on the roadways are

expected to increase as the area develops. The roundabout will eliminate the existing four-way stop and improve safety and mobility through the intersection.

The contract is funded by highway state aid and local contributions. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2019.

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

### **Alliant Engineering, Inc., will design pavement project in Stillwater**

Alliant Engineering, Inc., will design the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 23, or Third Street, between East Walnut Street and East Chestnut Street in Stillwater, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$258,000 contract Aug. 22.

The company will coordinate the project, and oversee utility coordination, and do an environmental assessment.

The existing pavement was placed in the mid-1980s and the road condition has deteriorated to the point where replacement is justifiable. The project scope was increased to replace curb and gutter and sidewalks. There is the potential for repairing or replacing retaining walls, which would require a cost share with the city. The project will include repairing the storm water system.

The contract is funded by highway state aid and local contributions. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2019.

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

### **County Board continues review of 2018 county budget**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners continued its review of the county's 2018 budget Aug. 22, specifically reviewing recommended budgets for the departments of Community Services and Public Health and Environment.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners began the 2018 county budget review earlier in August, reviewing a recommended budget that would allow the county to continue to serve a growing and aging population, and address a growing demand for services. The recommended budget is

estimated to lead to a 1 percent reduction in the county property tax rate, which would be the fourth year out of the last five in which the county tax rate would be reduced.

The recommended budget reflects increased funding for service mandates imposed by the state, but not funded or fully funded by the state; road construction and preservation; the continuation of a major crimes unit in the County Attorney's Office; technology improvements to ensure efficient operations, protect critical technology infrastructure, and secure private data; and the return of the Lake Elmo Library to the county system.

The recommended levy increase, and corresponding tax rate reduction, for 2018 would result in an annual property tax increase of about \$35 for the owner of the median valued home, which is \$257,000, assuming that home's value increased 4.9 percent during the past year. That dollar amount includes a \$3 increase in the voter-approved Land and Water Legacy program.

The Community Services Department's recommended \$46.9 million budget would provide social services for adults and children, and those with disabilities; convey economic support to county residents; provide for the county's WorkForce Center; and provide for Veterans Services.

Over 40 percent of the revenue for the department's budget is from the property tax levy, Over 20 percent is from state funds, and over 30 percent is from federal funds.

Social services for children include child protection, and historically funding was split more equally. The demand for child protection investigations has risen to follow legislation that increased protection for children.

The county is also receiving more adult protection reports, and there is more demand for services for those with developmental disabilities. Costs are also increasing for the use of regional treatment facilities, chemical dependency funding and for MnCHOICES, a state required assessment to assist individuals and their families in planning and choosing services.

The department also manages the county's economic assistance programs, which include child care assistance, child support, food support, medical assistance, and the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

The Department of Public Health and Environment's recommended budget is \$17.5 million and will be used to perform health assessment and planning; protect environmental health; and for community health initiatives. Its priorities for 2018 are to complete a community health assessment and

improvement plan; build partnerships to address mental and chemical health; use the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership for opioid prevention initiatives; develop and implement best practices for older adults; continue its work on assessing septic systems; implement a solid waste plan; establish the county's role in yard waste and composting; and the on-going management of the Recycling and Energy Center.

More than 40 percent of the department's revenue is from the County Environmental Charge, which is levied on waste collection, with 26 percent coming from state and federal grants. The county's property tax levy provides 13 percent of the department's revenue, with the rest coming from licensing and fees for services.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service also recommended to receive \$162,700 to support its programs in Washington County. The service supports 20 4-H clubs in the county, with more than 650 members.

The County Board will continue to review budgets of individual departments during workshops in August and September, before setting a preliminary levy Sept. 26. The board will continue to review the budget until it adopts the 2018 budget Dec. 12. All budget meetings are open to the public, and will be in the Board Room of the Government Center, 14949 62<sup>nd</sup> St. N. in Stillwater. They are also webstreamed on [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us), and the meetings are archived on the website. Find them by searching "County Board" on the website.