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

Date: Oct. 10, 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 Oct. 10, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board moves to place tax-forfeited land back in private ownership

The Washington County Board of Commissioners took several actions Oct. 10 to return tax-forfeited parcels to private ownership.

One land parcel next to Big Marine Lake will be offered for sale to adjacent land owners. State law allows the sale of tax-forfeited land that cannot be improved through a private sale to adjacent owners. The county received special legislation allowing the private sale since the parcel includes more than 150 feet of waterfront.

The parcel will be sold to the highest bidder, but not for less than \$500, for cash only. If the parcel is not sold, it will be available for sale over the counter to the adjacent landowners only. The sale is scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 9 at the Government Center in Stillwater.

The County Board also agreed to the disposal of personal property from a tax-forfeited parcel in Lakeland. The county will use Luther Auction to dispose of the property at a sale.

The County Board also approved the repurchase of tax-forfeited parcels in Lake St. Croix Beach, Stillwater, Lake Elmo, and St. Paul Park by the previous owners.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Election Division Manager, 651-430-8272

Sheriff's Office receives funds to support emergency management

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

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a \$109,665 emergency management performance grant, after the County Board approved an agreement between the county and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Oct. 10.

The grant will be used during 2017 to support the personnel costs of the Washington County Emergency Operations Center staff. The grant does require a 100 percent local match, which is covered by property tax levy dollars.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

Playground, security gate in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park to be replaced

The playground and security gate in the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park will be replaced, as part of the overall renovation of the park.

The County Board approved a plan Oct. 10 to negotiate with the contractor, Max Steininger, Inc., to add the work to the current park renovation.

Work is already ongoing in the area, to build a roundabout at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 and Highway 61 and a new park road, and stabilize the floor of the ravine in the park. While that work is going on, the board agreed to negotiate with the contractor to add the replacement of the 20-year-old playground in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and a park entrance security gate.

The county will use the state bid procurement process for the playground equipment.

The work would require an amendment to the contract with the company already working in the park to add excavation of the area and the concrete and landscaping needed.

The other added project would replace the automatic gate at the park's entrance, to manage visit park visitors during park hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Money for the additions to the project is in the project budget.

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

County Board reviews capital improvement program as part of annual budget

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed the county's five-year capital improvement program (CIP) Oct. 10, in preparation for approving the final CIP Dec. 12.

The CIP covers five years of major capital projects in the county, including roads, bridges, and buildings, with the first year's projects included in the 2018 budget. Over the course of the five-year program, it is anticipated that 95 percent of the money will be spent on roads and bridges, 3 percent on parks and land acquisition, and 2 percent on public facilities. Almost 70 percent will be paid for with intergovernmental revenue, 16 percent paid for with revenue bonds, 10 percent paid for with general obligation bonds, and the rest paid for with other, smaller funds.

It is anticipated that the major work on public facilities in coming years will include renovations on the Valley Branch, Oakdale, and the R.H. Stafford libraries, new libraries in Mahtomedi to replace the Wildwood Library and Cottage Grove to replace the Park Grove Library, as well as renovations to the county's gun range. County parks, including the Historic Courthouse, will also receive renovations, along with trail overlays, and playground upgrades at Big Marine Park Reserve and Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Highway projects include 31 projects throughout the county, with \$163.2 million expected in highway and transit investments. Those include intersection control projects, safety and capacity projects, and pavement preservation and rehabilitation.

The 2018 program includes \$34.6 million in projects. The program includes the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12, Highway 244, and CSAH 9 project in Mahtomedi.

After the review by the County Board, the CIP is released for public comment; comments are due Nov. 22, after which county staff will respond to the comments. The County Board will conduct a public hearing on the CIP Dec. 12 before adopting it.

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