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

Date: Oct. 17, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Oct. 17, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Kelly will serve on county open space commission

James Kelly, Lake Elmo, will serve on the Washington County Parks and Open Space Commission, after the County Board made the appointment Oct. 17.

Kelly will serve a partial term expiring Dec. 31, 2019, representing commissioner District 3.

The purpose of the commission is to bring citizen perspective to the operation of Washington County Parks. It reviews current operation policies, capital improvement programs, parkland preservation, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts for parkland and facilities for county parks. The commission also provides citizens' perspectives on the administration of the Land and Water Legacy Program.

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

County will receive grant to provide services to victims of crimes

Washington County will receive \$280,000 over the course of two years to provide ongoing services to victims of crimes.

The County Board accepted the grant Oct. 17 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. It will be used during fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

State law requires that crime victims be notified of events in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.

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

County will refinance general obligation bonds, saving \$4 million over life of bonds

Washington County will refund \$44.475 million in general obligation bonds, and then sell new bonds, resulting in an interest reduction over the life of the bonds of about \$4 million.

The County Board agreed to the transactions Oct. 17.

The bonds are for the county's Land and Water Legacy program, as well as bonds sold to support the county's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), funds used for county roads, bridges, and public buildings.

The county was advised that refunding the remaining balance of the \$44.575 million in bonds under current market conditions will result in the interest savings. The length of the bonds will be the same as the original term. The interest costs for the new bond sale is estimated to be 2.60 percent, reducing the debt service cost by approximately \$400,000 per year.

The final amount of savings from the refinancing will depend on market conditions on Nov. 13.

Contact: Tabatha Hansen, Accounting and Finance Director, 651-430-6027

Kraus-Anderson Construction Company will manage county's library projects

Kraus-Anderson Construction Company will manage the rebuilding Washington County's Wildwood and Park Grove branch libraries, after the County Board approved construction management contracts with the company Oct. 17.

The contract for managing the Wildwood branch library rebuilding is for \$388,975, and the contract for managing the Park Grove branch library rebuilding will be \$478,928.

The library projects will be funded by the proceeds of tax exempt bonds to be issued by the county in 2019. In the meantime, initial project expenses will be covered by the temporary use of fund balance until the bonds are sold.

A needs assessment for the libraries will be done this November, and building design should be complete in a year. Construction would begin in the fall of 2019, with occupancy planned for fall 2020.

Contact: Joe Welter, Building Services Project Manager, 651-430-6226

County Board extends appreciation to Rep. Bachmann on St. Croix Crossing efforts

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended a resolution of appreciation to former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann for her efforts in securing funds to pay for the new St. Croix Crossing, which opened in early August.

The board's message noted Bachmann's support for the new bridge, stating that Bachmann worked across partisan lines and with members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives to receive an exemption from the Wild and Scenic River Act to allow the bridge to be built, and to secure the federal money to complete the \$650 million project.

The board will present the resolution to Bachmann at an event at 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 23, at the Water Street Inn in downtown Stillwater.