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

Date: Feb. 13, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 13, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves comment letter on Grey Cloud Island Township comp plan

The Washington County Board of Commissioners offered a comment letter on a draft of the Grey Cloud Island Township comprehensive plan update Feb. 13.

All local governments within the seven-county metropolitan region must prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 10 years. The Metropolitan Council is charged with reviewing local comprehensive plans.

Before formally submitting local comprehensive plan updates to the Met Council, local governments must provide adjacent and affected jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan during a mandatory six-month review period. Comprehensive plans are due to the Met Council by Dec. 31.

Comments offered by the county include noting that rezoning will be required to allow mining as a conditional use in part of the township, requesting the township acknowledge the county's "2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan, and asking that updated acreage figures for a future regional park in part of the township be included in the plan.

Affected jurisdictions vary by community, but typically include adjacent cities, towns and counties, watershed management organizations, park implementing agencies, school districts, transit providers, and state and federal agencies. The comments received by these jurisdictions and subsequent responses must be included with the formal plan update submittal.

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Contact: Colin Kelly, Senior Planner, 651-430-6011

County Board extends appreciation, congratulations on Woolery's retirement

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended its appreciation for the public safety career of Craig Woolery, public safety director for the City of Cottage Grove, Feb. 13.

Woolery will be retiring later in February.

Woolery has served the residents of Cottage Grove as a community service officer and paramedic, becoming a police officer in 1986, and serving as a patrol sergeant, investigative sergeant, D.A.R.E. instructor, and police captain. Woolery became the city's Public Safety Director in 2006, and served as Interim City Administrator while the City Council searched for a new administrator in 2015.

Woolery has been instrumental in many innovations in public safety in Cottage Grove, including working to develop the HERO (Health and Emergency Response Occupations) Center project. He has given 15 years of dedication and leadership to the Washington County SWAT team, where he served as an operator and team leader, and retired as the commander of the SWAT team, which is made up of officers from the county and many of the cities within Washington County.

The County Board extended its appreciation for Woolery's public service, and offered its best wishes for his retirement.

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



The Washington County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Dan Starry honored Craig Woolery, Cottage Grove Public Safety Director, Feb. 13, on his retirement after serving Cottage Grove since 1986. Honoring Woolery are Sheriff Starry, commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, Lisa Weik, District 5, and Fran Miron, District 1, Woolery, and commissioners Karla Bigham, District 4, and Gary Kriesel, District 3.

Midwest Special Services, Inc., will continue to provide training, habilitation services

Midwest Special Services, Inc., will continue to provide Day Training and Habilitation (DT&H) and related services to Washington County residents with disabilities through Dec. 31, 2019, after the County Board renewed a contract with the agency Feb. 13.

The contract is for \$1.69 million for 2018.

The county contracts with three additional providers, Opportunity Services, ESR, Inc., and Phoenix Alternatives through contracts that go through Dec. 31, 2019.

DT&H services assist adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve and maintain the highest level of independence, productivity, and integration in the community. The day programming provides services related to employment, self-care, communication skills, socialization, physical mobility, and cognitive development. The county is mandated to protect the health and safety of vulnerable adults, which includes providing supervision and care for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the day when their caregivers are not present.

Midwest Special Services, Inc., also provides related services, which includes prevocational services preparing individuals with disabilities for work; supported employment, which is paid employment in community settings for individuals with disabilities; and transportation to and from the work sites. The rate for DT&H services varies for each individual based on needs. There was no increase for rates for 2018.

Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532

Canvas Health will provide mobile crisis services for county residents

Canvas Health will continue to provide mobile crisis services to Washington County residents, after the County Board renewed a \$482,900 contract for 2018 with the agency Feb. 13.

The county has worked with Canvas Health for many years to provide Mobile Crisis Services, which includes 24-hour telephone screening and triage, mobile response teams, face-to-face crisis assessment and/or intervention, community stabilization, and crisis clinic psychiatry services.

The contract is an increase of \$82,220 from 2017 as a result of additional funds allocated to Washington County from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for the Crisis Response Grant to allow Canvas Health to add an additional full-time staff person to provide crisis response services. Also, \$35,000 of the grant dollars are allocated to cover under-insured individuals, which remains the same as the previous year.

Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532

County Board approves plat in Denmark Township

A plat called Oakgreen Meadows Second Addition in Denmark Township was approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners Feb. 13.

The nine-lot plat is an abstract plat east of Oakgreen Avenue South and north of 65th Street South.

Contact: Nancie Schwintek, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-6758

County's fees for maintaining court facilities, employee services set by new agreement

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment Feb. 13 to the contract that the county has with the State of Minnesota Tenth Judicial District for court administration, increasing the fees the county will receive for providing the courts and court employees with services. The state assumed the responsibility for costs related to the district court operations in Washington County in July 2005. In exchange for the state assuming these costs, state aid provided to Washington County was reduced in an equal amount. While the majority of all court functions and costs became state funded, there were a number of services that remained a county responsibility, including providing court facilities and some court-appointed attorney costs.

At the time, the county and the Tenth Judicial District approved an agreement setting out who had responsibility for what costs. The agreement outlines the county's responsibilities related to the court facility, and payment by the state to the county for administrative costs related to information technology services, training, and payroll and benefit processing for those court employees who elected to retain county benefits.

The latest amendment to that agreement:

- amends Schedule A of the contract to increase the per pay period fee paid by the courts to the county for payroll and benefit administration for those employees who elected to retain county benefits by 3 percent each year through June 30, 2020.
- makes a number of changes to the fee schedule for technology services to better reflect the costs for staff time to provide services to the court, including a flat monthly fee for long distance telephone calls, and a cost for labor that is determined by the Information Technology Labor Services cost adopted in the county fee schedule.

- establishes a not-to-exceed amount of the contract of \$40,000 annually, unless a new agreement is prepared.

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

County Board accepts cash, in-kind donations of almost \$15,000 for quarter

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted almost \$15,000 of cash and in-kind gifts for the fourth quarter of 2017 Feb. 13.

Cash donations were \$7,438.68 and in-kind donations were \$7,346.

The county Library received more than \$2,000 in cash through memorials, a study group's donation, and general donations during the quarter, including a gift of \$1,000 from Delores Sundbye. The county Parks received more than \$5,000 in cash gifts, including more than \$1,300 received during the fall Nooks & Crannies event, and more than \$3,000 in donations received during the Christmas at the Courthouse event in November. Other donations to the Parks were from tour donations and exhibition donations at the Historic Courthouse. The Historic Courthouse also received more than \$7,000 of in-kind donations to support Christmas at the Courthouse.

Other in-kind donations of more than \$1,170 were received for door prizes for a Workforce Center Job Seeker event Dec. 1, and the Sheriff's Office received \$250 to support community engagement.

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

County Board honors retiring Star-Tribune journalist Kevin Giles

The Washington County Board of Commissioners honored Star-Tribune reporter Kevin Giles at its meeting Feb. 13.

Giles has covered the Washington County Board since 2005, and is retiring.

The board thanked Giles for his fair and comprehensive reporting of Washington County news, and his role in providing transparency of local government to county residents.



Kevin Giles, Star-Tribune reporter who has covered Washington County since 2005, is honored at the County Board meeting Feb. 13. His wife Becky accompanied him. Commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, Lisa Weik, District 5, and Fran Miron, District 1, honored Giles, along with his wife Becky, along with commissioners Karla Bigham, District 4, and Gary Kriesel, District 3.