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**Date:** Feb. 20, 2018  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 20, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **County Board will conduct a hearing March 20 to fill District 4 vacancy**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set a public hearing Feb. 20 for March 20 to consider an appointment to fill the vacancy in county commissioner District 4.

County Commissioner Karla Bigham was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in a special election Feb. 12. Bigham resigned her seat on the county board effective Feb. 20. By law, the County Board is able to consider an appointment to fill the vacancy because less than one year remains on Bigham's term.

Any resident from District 4 who would like to be considered for the appointment may submit a letter of interest to the County Administrator by 4:30 p.m. March 7. The county will provide notice to local officials in the district of the vacancy and the schedule to fill the vacancy. The County Board may prefer to appoint an individual who is not interested in running for the position at the next election. The County Board intends to conduct a workshop March 13 to review the letters of interest.

At the March 20 public hearing, the board will invite public testimony from persons residing in the district relating to the qualifications of prospective appointees to fill the vacancy.

If, after the public hearing, the board is unable or decides not to make an appointment, a special election must be conducted.

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

A new District 4 commissioner will be elected during the November General Election. The individual elected at the General Election to the commissioner District 4 seat will be eligible to take office immediately.

In addition, the County Board also elected new leadership, in light of Bigham's resignation, as she was County Board chair. Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, will serve as board chair for the remainder of 2018, and Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, will serve as board vice chair.

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

### **County Board approves liquor licenses in townships**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an on-sale and Sunday liquor licenses for Stoneridge Golf Club in West Lakeland Township and for the Disabled Veteran's Rest Camp Association in May Township Feb. 20.

State law allows a county board to issue annual liquor licenses within the area of the county that are unorganized or unincorporated.

The county processes all liquor licenses for the townships located within the county. That includes a review of the applicant's liquor insurance. In addition, the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, and the Public Health Department complete compliance/verification checks. The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for administration, and compliance and verification checks.

**Contact: Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651430-6183**

### **Tenant will continue to lease house in Marine on St. Croix from county**

A tenant in a house in Marine on St. Croix owned by Washington County will continue to lease the house after the County Board renewed the lease Feb. 20.

When Washington County acquires land for regional parks, the houses located on the land are typically leased until the land is needed for park purposes. Revenue received from rental of the houses supplements the fund for the maintenance of the properties. Washington County acquired the

house in Marine on St. Croix, in 2008, and a tenant has been leasing the house since that time for \$1,000 per month.

No increase is proposed for this lease extension. In addition to rent, the tenant pays for utilities and sanitation and performs routine maintenance, including lawn care and snow and ice removal. The lease was extended to Feb. 28, 2019.

**Contact: Sharon Price, Right of Way Specialist/Property Manager, 651-430-4391**

### **Fahrner Asphalt Sealers will do crack sealing projects in county this summer**

Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC, will perform road crack sealing on Washington County roads this summer, after the County Board approved a \$184,450 contract with the company Feb. 20.

Crack sealing is a maintenance process that seals cracks in roads. This reduces the amount of water that can infiltrate the cement and road base, which reduces freeze-thaw damage. Reducing the freeze-thaw damage helps to slow down road degradation. Prolonging the life of the road helps to preserve the financial investment in the road and extends the amount of time until the next reconstruction is needed. Crack sealing is done annually on various roadways, county park roads, and parking lots throughout the county. This year's schedule includes work at Point Douglas Park, Big Marine Park Reserve, and the county's Environmental Center, along with several roadways.

This year, Stillwater Township will also have crack sealing performed as part of the county's project on all its township roads, and the County Board approved a cooperative cost share agreement with the township for its crack seal improvements.

Work will be done from late April to May, over the course of three to four weeks.

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