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

**Date:** Feb. 27, 2018  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 27, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board makes 2 appointments, reappointment to advisory boards**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made two appointments and a reappointment to county advisory boards Feb. 27.

Khadijia Zeig and Sara Murray were appointed to the Workforce Development Board. Zeig will serve as the Small Business Representative during a partial term expiring June 30, 2020, and Murray will serve as the Job Services Representative during a partial term that will expire June 30, 2018.

It is the responsibility of the Workforce Development Board to determine the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients, and program operators for the Workforce Service Area. It also jointly plans for collaboration, and provides for on-site review and oversight of program performance. It also selects local priorities for service and target populations for supplemental programming within the Workforce Development Board.

Pamela Skinner, Oakdale, was reappointed to the Ramsey-Washington Watershed District to a three-year term expiring Feb. 24, 2021. 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 approves Transit Needs Study final report**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the final report Feb. 27 of a Transit Needs Study completed for the county.

The county has been discussing transportation needs of seniors, persons with disabilities, and other populations with special transportation needs since May 2015. Washington County applied for and received funding through Minnesota's Department of Transportation to conduct a Transit Needs Study to address these concerns.

In December 2016, Washington County embarked on a study that examined the challenges Washington County faces in providing transportation services to these target populations. The study focused on an assessment of:

- the current state of transportation for transit-dependent individuals in Washington County;
- barriers to and gaps in mobility;
- county resources being used to provide transportation services; and
- identification of future transportation needs.

In addition, stakeholder engagement and input was a high priority in the process. Community outreach events included presentations, pop-up events, focus groups, one-on-one interviews, an open house, and employer and public comment forms. More than 250 people participated in events throughout Washington County.

The final step of the study was to prioritize strategies that can be implemented within the short term and to identify potential funding sources. These strategies were evaluated based on four factors – the benefit to the target populations; if there is community support; the ease of implementation and the ability to scale up solutions; and the cost of implementation and the potential of funding resources.

The strategies that are included in Tier I are:

- general purpose dial-a-ride: increase use of transit service requiring advanced scheduling;
- community circulator: local transit for shopping, commuting, and participating in community activities;
- site-specific shuttle: connections for the beginning and end of an individual trip to get to major employers, institutions, or retail destinations;

- subsidized taxi or ride-hailing service: implement program for use of vouchers or subsidies for taxis and other transportation services;
- volunteer driver program: explore opportunities for volunteer reimbursement and driver incentives;
- travel information and referral services: compile and provide travel information and referral services, conduct countywide educational marketing campaign;
- trip brokerage: centralizing the scheduling of transportation services to maximize efficient use of resources and provide more choices for consumers.

The final report recommends a coordinated transportation approach and the creation of an advisory group that would include stakeholders to advise the County Board on potential transit solutions. This group would help to build partnerships, increase collaboration and innovation across agencies, and oversee the overall implementation of strategies.

**Contact: Sarah Tripple, Community Services Planning and Program Manager, 651-430-6480**

### **County Board approves liquor license in Denmark Township**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an off-sale liquor license Feb. 27 for CAP Operations, Inc., doing business as Point Liquors on Point Douglas Road in Denmark Township.

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 and 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**

### **County will receive state funds to pay for new election equipment**

Washington County will receive \$163,505 from the state to pay for new election equipment, after the County Board approved a grant agreement with the state Feb. 27.

The Legislature authorized a statewide voting equipment grant of \$7 million. Washington County applied for voting equipment grant funds, and was awarded \$163,505. Grant funds may be used to fund up to 50 percent of the cost of tabulators or assistive voting devices and up to 75 percent of the cost of electronic poll books. Grant funds, as well as the match required by state law, must be spent by Aug. 1, 2019, or returned to the state.

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

### **County Board will conduct public hearing on changes to county's solid waste ordinance**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing March 20 to hear testimony on the repeal and replacement of the county's solid waste ordinance.

The public hearing, which was set Feb. 27, will be during the County Board's regular meeting at 9 a.m. in the Board Room of the Government Center at 14949 N. 62<sup>nd</sup> St. in Stillwater.

The state requires counties to establish and revise rules, regulations, and standards for solid waste facilities and license solid waste haulers, and the county does that with the solid waste ordinance. The county participates in a consortium of counties for coordination of solid waste hauler licensing among members, which shares information and responsibilities for licensing and eliminates duplicative programs among counties. Coordination of this function and duties was previously performed under the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, which has been disbanded and replaced by the Regional Hauler Licensing Board.

That change required updating the county's Solid Waste Ordinance. The opportunity was also used to review and update the ordinance to assure consistency with other Regional Solid Waste Hauler Licensing member counties' ordinances.

**Contact: Gary Bruns, Environmental Program Supervisor, 651-430-6691**

## **County will continue to use software for business continuity, share with cities, townships**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with BOLDplanning for continued use of business continuity software Feb. 27, which will also be shared with the county's cities and townships.

Washington County signed an agreement with BOLDplanning in 2015 to provide software for the county's business continuity planning needs, which the County Board agreed to extend for another five years at a cost of \$115,250. The agreement allows cities and townships access to the same software and services as Washington County for up to five years, on-site training for county employees, and on-site training to get cities and townships familiar with the software.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has federal grant funding to allow interested cities and townships within the county to use BOLDplanning software to create and access their emergency operations and continuity of operations plans. The cities and townships will be asked to sign a cooperative agreement with the county to use the software.

**Contact: Amanda Hollis, Senior Planner, 651-430-6021**