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**Date:** May 8, 2018  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the May 8, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **County Board moves tax-forfeited land to cities, puts other parcels on sale block**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement to convey parcels of tax-forfeited land to cities in the county May 8, while agreeing to reappraise other parcels and offer selling them to adjacent landowners.

The county received a request from the City of Cottage Grove to convey a parcel of land for public use as a roadway in the city. The city pays for recording costs only. The land is south of 90th Street and Hamlet Avenue South. Parcels of tax-forfeited land will also be conveyed to the cities of Forest Lake and Newport for conservation purposes. Those parcels were submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for its review and recommendation, and the DNR approved the sale of the parcels. Both cities will use the parcels for storm water management.

The County Board also agreed to withdraw 45 tax-forfeited parcels that have previously been offered for sale, reappraise them to set new base prices, and offer them for sale to adjacent landowners. The county reviews the parcels with the municipalities in which the properties are located and determined that the parcels cannot be improved and the highest and best use of the land can be achieved by adding it to adjoining property. The adjacent property owners will be notified that the parcels are for sale.

**Contact: Steve Gransee, Election Division Manager, 651-430-8272**

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## **County Board approves applications for liquor licenses at Afton Apple Orchard**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved applications for the renewal of liquor licenses for Cenco Farms, Inc., doing business as Afton Apple Orchard in Denmark Township May 8.

State law allows a county board to issue liquor licenses in townships. The Afton Apple Orchard requested approval of an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license.

The county reviews establishments' insurance, and the Sheriff's Office, Attorney's Office, and the Department of Public Health and Environment need to complete compliance/verification checks.

These requirements have all been completed. The license fees pay for the administrative cost of the county for administration, and compliance and verification checks.

**Contact: Steve Gransee, Elections Division Manager, 651-430-8272**

## **County will be reimbursed for detour on county roads during construction**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will pay Washington County \$665 for the use of its roads as detours while the state is replacing culverts underneath Highway 8 in the northern part of the county.

The County Board agreed to the detour May 8, which will be on Manning Avenue, or County State Aid Highway 15.

MnDOT will do a roadway improvement project during the summer on Highway 8 from 0.3 miles west of Highway 61 to 475 feet south of 273rd Street in Chisago County. Replacing the drainage culverts underneath Highway 8 will require that the highway be temporarily closed to traffic. The detour will be on Washington County highways.

The "Gas Tax Method," which factors in traffic counts, road length, and duration of the detour, is used to determine the amount of compensation. The detour will send Highway 8 traffic onto CSAH 15 (Manning Trail North) within the City of Scandia, along with other highways and Chisago County highways.

**Contact: Joe Gustafson, Traffic Engineer, 651-430-4351**

## **Kimley-Horn, WSB will do inspection, surveying for road construction season**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts with two firms May 8 to do inspection and surveying on county road projects for the summer.

Washington County will undertake 17 road, bridge, and park projects in 2018, at an estimated construction cost of \$30 million. Staff are assigned to projects to make the best use of Washington County resources, based on project schedules, industry experience, and training and certifications. Five county engineering technicians will administer and inspect 13 projects, and two county survey crews will survey and stake 11 projects. This leaves a gap that will be filled with a construction inspection services contract and a construction surveying and staking contract.

Consultant assistance is needed to complete projects that are not able to be assigned to Washington County staff, and the projects will be assigned to the consulting firms.

Kimley-Horn and Associates will be paid \$565,160 for construction inspection services. It will work on the following projects:

- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15/14;
- CSAH 5;
- CSAH 23; and
- CSAH 19 and Hudson Road and Indian Boulevard.

WSB and Associated, Inc., will be paid \$248,000 for construction surveying and staking services.

That firm will work on the following projects:

- CSAH 15/14;
- CSAH 23;
- CSAH 17 and 17B;
- CSAH 19, Hudson Road, and Indian Boulevard;
- CSAH 6; and
- County Road 51 Bridge Redecking.

The services will be paid for with state aid revenue and County Program Aid.

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

**County Board agrees to have Bolton and Menk, Inc., do final design on CSAH 12**

Bolton and Menk, Inc., will do final design engineering on the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 improvement project in Grant, Mahtomedi, and Willernie after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$298,116 contract amendment with the company May 8.

Bolton and Menk did the preliminary engineering for the project.

The project will be on CSAH 12 from Wildwood Road/Mahtomedi Avenue to CSAH 9 (Jamaca Avenue North). The 2019 average daily traffic count on the roadway is expected to be 9,300, and that is expected to grow to 10,700 by 2039. The roadway has poor pavement and high parking demands, and pedestrian facilities are poorly delineated, inconsistent, and not accessible. There is already congestion on the roadway, and it serves as a truck/bus/commuter route. The roadway also has watermains and power lines that need upgrading.

The overall project began with the city upgrading Highway 244 to Wildwood Road, and a traffic signal at the Mahtomedi Middle School entrance was added in 2017. Construction west of Hilton Trail will take place in 2019, with construction east of Hilton Trail done in 2021. Project goals are to improve safety for all users, provide efficient corridor mobility, and preserve and enrich the corridor setting. It will also provide a comprehensive transportation network that is compatible with the natural and human environment.

The project will be paid for with state highway aid, with local contributions to assist with construction costs, right-of-way acquisition, and engineering.

**Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer, 651-430-4330**

### **County Board recognizes Correctional Officers Week, Law Enforcement Memorial Week, and Law Enforcement Memorial Day in Washington County**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized Correctional Officers Week, Law Enforcement Memorial Week, and Law Enforcement Memorial Day in Washington County with a resolution May 8.

The resolution proclaimed May 6-12 as Correctional Officers Week and May 13-19 as Law Enforcement Memorial Week in Washington County. Law Enforcement Memorial Day will be commemorated at noon May 15 when the Washington County Sheriff's Office will conduct its annual

memorial ceremony recognizing fallen correctional and law enforcement officers at the Historic Courthouse, which is at Third and Pine streets in Stillwater.

The resolution noted that the peace officers of the United States work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the nation, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves; that these officers safeguard the lives and property of their fellow citizens; and by the enforcement of laws, these same officers have given the country internal freedom from fear of the violence. The resolution goes on to say that their service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of the residents of Washington County.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

### **County Board proclaims May 12 Jessie Diggins Day in Washington County**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May 12 as Jessie Diggins Day in Washington County May 8, in anticipation of a celebration honoring the Olympic athlete in Afton May 12.

The proclamation also recognizes that portion of St. Croix Trail South between Upper 34th Street and 34th Street as "Jessie Diggins Trail" for the day of May 12.

Jessie Diggins, a resident of Afton and graduate of Stillwater Area High School, won a gold medal at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea in women's cross country skiing. The community is holding a celebration in honor of Diggins on May 12, and Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, will be in attendance and present the proclamation at the community event.

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