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

Date: May 15, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the May 15, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Pereira reappointed to South Washington Watershed District

Donald Pereira, Cottage Grove, was reappointed to the South Washington Watershed District by the Washington County Board of Commissioners May 15.

Pereira will serve a term expiring May 1, 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

New Directions, Inc., will provide in-home services for those with disabilities

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a two-year contract with New Directions, Inc., May 15 to provide in-home services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Washington County contracts with several agencies to provide services for persons with disabilities. Services are provided both in the family home and in the community to ensure that persons with

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disabilities have the opportunity to live, work, and participate in recreational activities in the communities of their choice.

New Directions will provide Semi-Independent Living Services (SILS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the community. SILS can provide training and assistance in managing money, preparing meals, shopping, personal appearance, hygiene, and other activities to maintain and improve the capacity for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live in the community.

When individuals are determined to be eligible to receive SILS services, the case manager will assist in finding a provider that best meets their needs. They are given a list of potential providers and have an opportunity to meet with and select the provider of their choosing. The services are evaluated on an ongoing basis between the individual, the family, and the case manager.

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

County Board accepts Met Council grants to fund parks projects

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted grants from the Metropolitan Council May 15 that will support projects in regional parks and trails. The grants will be used for:

- the Point Douglas Regional Trail and Trailhead project, which will connect Point Douglas and Prescott, Wis., with the new Hastings bridge, and includes construction of the trail, retaining walls, access points, trail bridge, and other trail user amenities. The grant is for \$200,000.
- improvements to the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, which includes relocation of the park entrance road to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19, improvements to the rest room facilities, and other amenities that will improve recreational opportunities within the park. The grant is for \$173,000.
- improvements to the swim pond and surrounding area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The improvements are part of multiple phases for Lake Elmo Park Reserve over the next several years. This particular project is part of Phase II and involves supporting infrastructure surrounding the swim pond. The grant is for \$200,000.

The grants are funded by a state general obligation bond appropriation.

Contact: Sharon Price, Property Manager, 651-430-4391

Sheriff's Office will receive boating safety grants from DNR

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive two boating safety grants from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, after the County Board accepted them May 15.

The first is from the 2018 Federal Supplemental Boating Safety Patrol Grant, for \$21,500. The money will be used to cover a portion of the full-time and seasonal personnel costs associated with boat and water safety activities from May 11 through Sept. 3.

The second is from the 2017 State of Minnesota Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant for \$15,552. The Sheriff's Office will use the grant to purchase a new Suzuki boat motor. The term on the grant is March 15 through Aug. 31.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County, City of Cottage Grove agree to transfer of roadways in south part of city

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the City of Cottage Grove May 15 that provides for the jurisdictional transfer of Jamaica Avenue and Military Road (County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 20).

In 2005, the City of Cottage Grove completed the East Ravine Master Plan identifying more than 4,000 acres for 6,500 housing units, open space, and stormwater management. This Master Plan included as its first phase the construction of the Ravine Parkway Street and Utility Improvement Project. This specific project proposes to install a new roadway and public utilities extending east of 65th Street from Hinton Avenue (CSAH 13) to Keats Avenue (CSAH 19) and will serve as a backbone for future water quality improvements and development.

As part of the Ravine Parkway project, Military Road (CSAH 20) will be severed. To address route connectivity, the city and Washington County have agreed to realign Military Road (CSAH 20) between Hinton Avenue (CSAH 13) and Keats Avenue (CSAH 19). The new alignment would take Military Road (CSAH 20) from Hinton Avenue (CSAH 13) to Jamaica Avenue, then south along Jamaica Avenue to 70th Street (CSAH 22).

This route revision requires the city to turn over 0.92 miles of Jamaica Avenue between Military Road and 70th Street to Washington County, and the city to take ownership of 1.36 miles of Military Road from Jamaica Avenue to Keats Avenue. The City of Cottage Grove will pay the county \$3 million for the future reconstruction of Jamaica Avenue, to be paid when the project is constructed, which is anticipated to be in the next 10 years. Any costs in excess of \$3 million will be split between the county and the city.

Key components of this planning include a major sanitary sewer interceptor, and growth potential in city. The plan allows for infrastructure to keep pace with development, and a transportation network to support mobility in the region.

The Ravine Parkway is home to the county South Service Center, Cottage Grove City Hall, and the Cottage Grove Police Department. Previous results of the planning include the County 19/20/22 roundabout, which came about from a partnership with the city and the watershed district, and the County 22 and Jamaica Avenue roundabout.

The jurisdictional change is the next step in planning for the area.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer/Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

Hardrives, Inc., will do CSAH 5 pedestrian, traffic improvement project

Hardrives, Inc., will perform the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 pedestrian and traffic improvement project in Stillwater, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.5 million contract with the company May 15.

This project is on CSAH 5 from Croixwood Boulevard to Pine Tree Trail in Stillwater. The current two-lane highway does not adequately serve the needs of turning vehicles and the existing sidewalk and trail system are not continuous. Due to the lack of access, pedestrians are forced to use the highway.

The project scope includes pavement improvements, traffic signal upgrades, retaining walls, pedestrian improvements, turn lanes, and signage improvements. The improvements include adding a new separated multi-use trail that will connect two dead-end trails and provide a connection between southwest and central Stillwater, resurfacing existing trails, and adding a push button activated traffic signal at Pine Street. Traffic operations improvements include adding designated left turn lanes at two

locations; adding a traffic signal at Pine Street; and upgrading the existing signal at Croixwood Avenue.

The roadway has about 14,000 vehicles travel it each day.

The City of Stillwater will pay for 19 percent of the project, and county highway state aid will pay for the rest of the cost.

Contact: Andrew Giesen, Engineer, 651-430-4336

County will add staff at licensing centers

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed May 15 to add 6.5 fulltime positions at the county's license centers.

Each year, Washington County license centers in Forest Lake, Stillwater, and Woodbury complete approximately 300,000 license transactions on behalf of the state. Due to changes made by the state, the county's ability to provide quality customer service at license centers has been degraded and county staff are subject to very challenging working circumstances.

In July 2017, the State of Minnesota implemented a new statewide vehicle licensing system called MNLARS. The system has been plagued with problems since the rollout. If MNLARS were working well, it would increase deputy registrar transaction times 50 percent as data entry responsibilities were transferred from the state to deputy registrars.

In its current state, MNLARS is increasing deputy registrar workload 60 percent to 80 percent.

In fall 2018, the state will also implement a new driver's license software. Along with the new software implementation, the deputy registrars will have new documentation and processing requirements related to the issuance of Real ID compliant driver licenses. Deputy registrars are also required to provide Enhanced ID services to customers. Real ID and Enhanced ID compliant driver licenses have numerous customer and staff requirements that lead to extended transaction times and further shift workload to deputy registrars.

The additional staff is needed to continue to provide license center services and improve customer service.

The Legislature is considering various bills that would provide much of the funding for these positions. If the legislation is approved as drafted, the county is projected to receive \$290,000 in

2018. If state funding is not provided, the funding for 2018 will come from county contingency funds.

Contact: Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Director, 651-430-6182