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

**Date:** Nov. 25, 2014  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Nov. 25, 2014, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **County will add property to Big Marine Regional Park**

Washington County will purchase property in May Township to add to Big Marine Regional Park. The County Board approved the purchase at its meeting Nov. 25.

The 1.5-acre parcel of land, with a street address of 17980 Margo Avenue, will be purchased for \$616,000. The purchase was initiated by the property owner. The purchase will be made with funds from the voter-approved Land and Water Legacy Program. The Metropolitan Council will reimburse the program for 75 percent of the acquisition cost, or \$462,000, in 2015.

Big Marine Park Reserve is in the northern part of Washington County. The park was selected as a regional facility because of its natural resources, including the St. Croix Valley/northeast ground moraine and high-quality upland and wetland wildlife habitat. When completed, the park will be 1,800 acres, with 80 percent of its acreage set aside for preservation and protection.

**Contact: John Elholm, Parks Director, 651-430-4303**

#### **Sheriff's Office will receive grant to support drug task force**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a grant for \$105,000 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs for the 2015 Violent Crime Enforcement Teams.

The County Board accepted the grant at its meeting Nov. 25.

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The money will be used to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for personnel expenses of the Drug Task Force officers during 2015.

**Contact: Commander Cheri Dexter, 651-430-7855**

### **Contracted Pharmacy Services will continue to provide pharmacist services to county jail inmates**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners renewed a contract with Contracted Pharmacy Services Nov. 25 to provide pharmacist services, medications and related services to county jail inmates.

The pharmacy services are provided in the Jail Medical Unit. The renewal of this contract, in advance of the March expiration of the existing agreement, ensures that the system set-up and testing of the new Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system can happen in a timely fashion without interfering with providing quality services in the medical unit.

The contract is for \$80,000.

**Contact: Jill Timm, Program Manager, Public Health and Environment, 651-430-7286**

### **County Board reviews emergency management plan**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved the county's Emergency Operation's Plan (EOP) at its meeting Nov. 25.

The EOP identifies at a high level who will do what during an emergency, with what resources, and by what authority. The plan consists of a base plan and Emergency Support Functions. The base plan gives a general understanding of the county's approach and forms the basis for the remainder of the plan. The plan continues with 15 support functions, which support incident management and organization during a major emergency.

The plan has a four-year review cycle. The board is asked to review the EOP every four years, including 2014. Special time was taken this year to reach out to eight Washington County departments and 15 outside groups or agencies that have a significant role in the plan. It was asked that the reviewers ensure the portion of the plan pertaining to their group or agency was accurate and

that they could and would provide the services and resources identified. This was a positive experience in continuing to strengthen internal and external partnerships prior to an emergency. In 2015, planning will include reviewing mass care, pet sheltering, and evacuation planning. The EOP is constantly reviewed and revised to be in compliance with ongoing needs of the county as well as required standards, and it is an evolving document that supports county Emergency Operations.

**Contact: Doug Berglund, Emergency Services Manager, 651-430-7682**

### **County Board will conduct hearing on 5-year capital improvement plan Dec. 16**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners set Dec. 16 as the date to review the county's five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

County Board will conduct the public hearing on the 2015-2019 CIP at its regular board meeting in the Government Center in Stillwater. During the public hearing, the County Board will hear public comments, consider any changes to the proposed CIP, and take action to adopt the final 2015-2019 plan.

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

### **County Board recognizes long-time board clerk Patricia Raddatz on her retirement**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized Patricia Raddatz, who has served as the County Board clerk for 30 years, at its meeting Nov. 25.

Raddatz is retiring at the end of November.

The board's recognition included noting the vast changes in technology during the course of Raddatz' career, in addition to the population growth in the county that she has witnessed, and the 22 commissioners who have served on the board during Raddatz' tenure.

**Contact: Molly O'Rourke, County Administrator, 651-430-6002**

### **County reaches agreement to implement compensation study recommendations, extends contracts through 2016**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with a number of its bargaining units to implement the recommendations from a 16-month long job classification and compensation study and extend collective bargaining agreements for one year through 2016 at its Nov. 25 meeting.

The county undertook an organization wide job evaluation and classification project, which included reviewing and confirming the internal equity amongst jobs as well as reviewing the external market comparisons to ensure the county is competitive with other employers in our job market. The recommendations made through the study will allow the county to retain its quality employees and attract top quality candidates for open positions.

The agreements approved were with the Teamsters Local 320 representing the county probation officers, the LELS-Commanders group, the Supervisors Association, the Assistant County Attorneys Association, and the Department Heads. The agreements call for the implementation of the salary adjustments identified as part of the compensation study in the beginning of 2015 and a 1.5% general adjustment effective Jan. 1, 2016.

**Contact: Jan Webster, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075**