



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room.

Present: Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1
 Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2
 Commissioner Bethany Cox, District 3
 Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4
 Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

Also Present: Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator
 John Ristad, Assistant County Attorney Division Chief
 Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for February 10, 2026. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Karwoski moved, seconded by Commissioner Clasen, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the January 27, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approve Amendment No. 3 for Contract No. 15199 with HM Cragg Co for the updated Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Emergency Maintenance Rates for 2026, which went into effect on January 1, 2026.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-016** as follows:

LAWFUL GAMBLING EXEMPTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Inc. has made an application to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for an exemption from certain

requirements as allowed under Minnesota Statute 349.166, Subd.2, in order to conduct a raffle at 11300 180th Street North, which is located in May Township. The event will take place on May 25, 2026; and

WHEREAS, May Township has been notified that the organization is applying for an exempted gambling activity within the township limits; and

WHEREAS, the Gambling Control Board requires acknowledgement by the County for a gambling permit located in a township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does not oppose issuance of exemption consistent with the application and further acknowledges the exempt permit may be granted with no waiting period.

4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-017** as follows:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE'S APPLICATION TO THE BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTY ROAD (CR) 19A – 100TH STREET REALIGNMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced its latest discretionary funding opportunity through the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program, allocating \$1.5 billion to fund projects that improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, and economic competitiveness consistent with DOT's strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cottage Grove is experiencing incredible growth and modernization; and

WHEREAS, with such rapid growth, it has been a challenge to replace aging infrastructure, address increasing traffic congestion, and improve safety all while encouraging continued population growth and job growth; and

WHEREAS, a 2019 study led by Washington County (the “Study”), in partnership with the city, documented a lack of roadways specifically serving an area of growing industrial and residential development near Jamaica Avenue and U.S. Highway 61, a pivotal intersection for the community and region; and

WHEREAS, the Study recommended the solution to congestion and safety concerns is the construction of a new arterial roadway that would also require the realignment of the existing 100th Street and County Road 19A, the intersection reconstruction of County Road 19A and U.S. Highway 61,

and the construction of a highway bridge to provide a grade-separated crossing over the CPKC rail line (hereinafter referred to as the “Southwest Arterial Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Arterial Project will serve as the main transportation route to U.S. Highway 61 from this growing area of the community by providing a much-needed direct access point to the City’s Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, there has already been unprecedented growth in the City’s Industrial Park from industry-leading producers and employers such as 3M, Renewal by Anderson, Airgas, and NorthPoint Development, which has resulted in over 3.5 million square feet of industrial development and is expected to result in thousands of new jobs; and

WHEREAS, there are significant funding constraints put on the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County to design and implement the Southwest Arterial Project; and

WHEREAS, \$13,600,000 in competitive funding has already been awarded to the project through the Metropolitan Council’s PROTECT Program, MnDOT’s Minnesota Highway Freight Program, and a Community Project Funding (federal earmark) allocation with support from Congresswoman Angie Craig; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has recently approved allocating funds to the Southwest Arterial Project from the County Transportation Sales Tax, which will be able to support the project budget as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County supports the City of Cottage Grove’s pursuit of BUILD funds for the construction of the Southwest Arterial Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board authorizes county staff to provide the necessary support throughout project delivery to ensure that program requirements are honored, including the County’s share of the local match and any unforeseen contingencies, to meet the full funding needs and obligations within six months of award, as federal coordination capacity allows, ensuring full expenditure of funds by September 30, 2035.

5. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-018** as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHISAGO COUNTY’S
APPLICATION TO THE BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS
TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) PROGRAM FOR THE
U.S. HIGHWAY 8 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced its latest discretionary funding opportunity through the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program, allocating \$1.5 billion to fund projects that improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, and economic competitiveness consistent with DOT's strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 8 (US 8) is part of the National Highway System and is vital to the local and regional economy, connecting the region to the Twin Cities metropolitan area as well as to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will reconstruct and expand eight miles of US 8 between Interstate 35 and Karmel Avenue in the cities of Wyoming, Chisago City, and Forest Lake, Minnesota, as well as construct 7.4 miles of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 8 Corridor Study has identified critical capacity, access, and safety issues along the eight-mile segment of US 8, where currently more than 22,000 vehicles per day utilize the two-lane highway, causing safety and congestion issues and restricting the movement of freight vehicles within the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the corridor currently lacks bicycle and pedestrian facilities, making it difficult and unsafe for families to travel outside of a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will enhance system performance, improve corridor safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and support local and regional economic and community development efforts; and

WHEREAS, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will greatly benefit the regional transportation system while meeting the priority objectives of USDOT's BUILD program by emphasizing highway safety and improving local and regional economic competitiveness in a rural area; and

WHEREAS, the US 8 corridor serves Washington County residents and businesses who travel between Washington County and Chisago County, and improvements to this corridor will benefit the regional transportation network; and

WHEREAS, while part of the US 8 Reconstruction Project is within county limits, the county has no cost share of this grant or the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County supports Chisago County's pursuit of BUILD funds for the construction of the US 8 Reconstruction Project.

6. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-019** as follows:

**DONATION FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY RESIDENT
CYNTHIA YOUNG**

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve a donation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Washington County resident Cynthia Young to support employee wellness programs and community engagement events.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Wagenius stated that commissioners have received copies of the mid-term documents for the Capital Equipment & Fleet Plan and Capital Technology Plan, which will be reviewed at a workshop next week.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county's website washingtoncountymn.gov under "County Board of Commissioners."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.



EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Clasen moved to move into Executive (closed) session. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

The Board met in Executive (closed) session, per Minnesota Statute 13D.03, to discuss labor relations strategy, the time being 9:15 a.m. Present for the Executive session were Commissioners Karwoski, Miron, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen, and Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, Angie Nalezny, and Jody Brown.

The Executive session closed at 10:06 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to discuss the headlines and impact of fraud. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to discuss federal legislative priorities and congressionally directed spending requests. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

Jennifer Wagenius

Jennifer Wagenius
Deputy County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair