

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA



Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 9:30 A.M.

**Historic Miner's Dry
105 Miners Lake Landing Road, Ely, MN**

Directions: Highway 53 North to Highway 169 into Ely. Turn left at first stop light on to Central Avenue and continue approximately 1.2 miles (Central Avenue becomes Pioneer Road). Turn right on Miner's Lake Landing Road (Grand Ely Lodge will be on your left). There is handicapped parking next to the building, and other parking areas along the road.

**CHRIS DAHLBERG, Chair
Third District**

**FRANK JEWELL
First District**

**ANGIE MILLER
Second District**

**MIKE FORSMAN, Vice Chair
Fourth District**

**PETE STAUBER
Fifth District**

**KEITH NELSON
Sixth District**

**STEVE RAUKAR
Seventh District**

County Auditor
Donald Dicklich

County Administrator
Kevin Gray

County Attorney
Mark Rubin

Clerk of the Board
Phil Chapman

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. The Board encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda, you will be allowed to address the Board when a motion is on the floor. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Standing Rules of the County Board, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda.

When addressing the Board, please sign in at the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please address the Board as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Commissioners or staff are not permitted. The St. Louis County Board promotes adherence to civility in conducting the business of the County. Civility will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issue before the Board. Tools of civility include: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, do not gossip, show respect, be agreeable, apologize, give constructive criticism and take responsibility [County Board Resolution No. 560, adopted on September 9, 2003]. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes.

****In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify Property Management 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218)725-5085.****

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Auditor's Office, 100 North 5th Avenue West - Room No. 214, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Agenda is also available on our website at <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/BoardofCommissioners.aspx>

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BOARD LETTER NO. 13 - 380

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE NO. 4

SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 BOARD AGENDA NO. 1

DATE: September 3, 2013

RE: Elimination of Assessment Fees
for Cities and Townships in 2014

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

The County Assessor will meet all state mandates for classifying and valuing taxable parcels for property tax purposes as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 270-273, and continually improve assessment efficiency, county wide.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Commissioner Stauber has requested that the St. Louis County Board eliminate all assessment fees for those cities and townships using the services of the County Assessor's Office beginning in 2014, and beyond.

BACKGROUND:

Commissioner Stauber has proposed that assessment fees in the county's Fee Schedule be eliminated beginning 2014. This action will ultimately lead to more consistent services, as well as efficiencies and reductions in overall taxpayer costs for property assessment services. Eliminating assessment fees may be viewed as another step toward ensuring that property is fairly and consistently valued in all jurisdictions, and that the property tax burden is distributed equitably, as defined by the State Legislature. It should be noted that current agreements reflect a July 1st through June 30th assessment year time frame.

Assessment fees as currently proposed in the 2014 Assessor's Office budget represent a revenue source of approximately \$1.3 million. Eliminating assessor fees will ensure that any future jurisdictions choosing to use the county's assessment services would be able to do so without cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

Should the County Board wish to eliminate all St. Louis County assessment fees from the proposed 2014 Fee Schedule, and beyond, a resolution taking this action is attached.

Elimination of Assessment Fees for Cities and Townships in 2014

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 273 St. Louis County, through the County Assessor, is generally charged with assessing all real property in the county for real estate tax purposes; and

WHEREAS, Assessing property values is an essential component of Minnesota's property tax system, with property assessments defining the tax base, and consequently, who pays what share of the overall property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners believes that the county's property valuation system must be constructed to be timely, uniform, and fair for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating assessment fees is another step towards making County Assessor services affordable to all jurisdictions and helping to ensure that property is fairly and consistently valued in all jurisdictions, and that the property tax burden is distributed equitably, as defined by the State Legislature;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board determines to eliminate all assessment fees, as defined in the proposed 2014 County Fee Schedule, for those cities and townships using county assessment services;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That all future assessment services beginning in 2014 for any current or additional jurisdictions choosing to use the assessment services of the St. Louis County Assessor's Office will be able to do so free of charge.

**Election Systems and Software LLC – Hardware and Software
Maintenance and Support Services Agreement**

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, It is necessary for St. Louis County to have hardware and software service and maintenance performed on election equipment on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Election Systems and Software, LLC of Chicago, IL, is a certified vendor that provides election hardware and software service and maintenance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement with Election Systems and Software, LLC of Chicago, IL, to provide software and hardware maintenance, **payable from Fund 100, Agency 127001, Object 634800**;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County will make payment to Election Systems and Software for services rendered;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County will invoice each participating township, city, and unorganized territory for its portion of the annual invoice.