

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,
HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2014**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 1st day of December 2014, at 5:05 p.m., at the Hermantown Governmental Services Building, Hermantown, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Patrick Boyle, Chris Dahlberg, Pete Stauber, Keith Nelson, Steve Raukar, and Chair Mike Forsman - 7. Absent: Frank Jewell - 1.

Chair Forsman asked for a moment of silence in honor of the armed forces, public safety workers, law enforcement, attorneys, court workers, and for all of the innocent victims of conflicts throughout the world.

At 5:07 p.m., a public hearing convened, pursuant to Resolution No. 14-598, adopted November 4, 2014, to consider implementation of a 0.5% local option sales tax for transportation (Greater MN Transportation Sales and Use Tax) and a \$20 per motor vehicle excise tax.

Commissioner Jewell entered the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray gave a brief overview of the proposal and discussed funding needs. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi gave a presentation detailing St. Louis County's infrastructure challenges, and funding aspects of implementing the 0.5 % local option sales tax and the \$20 per motor vehicle excise tax.

Chair Forsman then opened the floor to persons who wished to address the Board concerning the proposal. The following persons addressed the Board: Craig Wainio, City Administrator of Mt. Iron, spoke in favor of the proposal. Louis Russo, Mayor of the City of Virginia, discussed the importance of safe county roads. John Werner, Rice Lake Township Supervisor, discussed the condition of various roads in Rice Lake Township. Commissioner Nelson read a letter of support by Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor of the City of Eveleth, and submitted a copy of the letter for the record.

Commissioner Boyle asked St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin his opinion as to when an amendment should be brought forward for discussion. Attorney Rubin said that any amendment to the proposal should be brought forward and discussed during the public hearing, so the public is able to provide feedback. Commissioner Jewell distributed copies and discussed an amendment to the original proposal.

Citizen discussion continued regarding the proposal. Bill Stauber, of Duluth, MN, said he supports the sales tax. Commissioner Stauber disclosed that Bill Stauber is his brother and they own a local business together. Scott Dane, Executive Director of the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers, spoke in favor of the proposal. Timothy Herstead, of Rice Lake Township, said he is against the tax and expressed concerns about the timing of the amendment. Dan Olson spoke in favor of the proposal. Joe Bullyan, of Duluth, MN, spoke to the proposal. Jerry Kortesmaki, of Duluth, MN, spoke in opposition of the proposal and discussed the impacts on business. Craig Olson, spoke in favor of the proposal. David Montgomery, Chief Administrative Office of the City of Duluth,

discussed the proposal and asked that a reasonable share be allocated to regional centers. Jeff Daveau, Sr., spoke in favor of the proposal.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Raukar, moved to close the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

At 6:44 p.m., December 1, 2014, Commissioner Raukar, supported by Commissioner Nelson, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.


Mike Forsman, Chair of the Board
of County Commissioners

Attest:


Donald Dicklich, County Auditor
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board
of County Commissioners

(Seal of the County Auditor)