COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

Present: Commissioners Jewell, Boyle, Dahlberg, Stauber, Nelson, Raukar, and Chair Forsman

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Forsman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Raukar moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #4, Adjoining Owner Sale *[14-369]* and without Item #5, Special Sale to the City of Floodwood *[14-370]*. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of September 23, 2014
- Acceptance of 2014 Minnesota Family Investment Program Innovation Fund Grant – Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Employment Outcomes *[14-366]*
- Recycling Collection, Haulage, Processing, and Marketing Program Assessment *[14-367]*
- Special Sale to the City of Floodwood *[14-368]*
- Cancellation of Contract for Purchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Myrum *[14-371]*
- State Contract Purchase of Single Axle Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks *[14-372]*
- Purchase of Asphalt Zipper *[14-373]*
- Updated Road Maintenance Agreement between St. Louis County and the City of Duluth *[14-374]*
- Establishment and Revocation of Certain County State Aid Highways *[14-375]*
- Agreement with LHB Corp for Design Services – Bridge 69 on CSAH 5 *[14-376]*
- Application for a Grant for Culvert Survey – Phases II and III *[14-377]*
- Sale of Surplus Fee Land (Unorganized Township 57-16) *[14-378]*
- Sale of Surplus Fee Land (Alborn Township) *[14-379]*
- Wetlands Dedication Covenant Prior to Sale of Surplus Fee Land (Alborn Township) *[14-380]*
- Abatement List for Board Approval *[14-381]*
- Lawful Gambling Application (Gnesen Township) *[14-382]*
- Reallocation of Accountant to Financial Analyst Classification *[14-383]*
- Reallocation of an Information Specialist I to an Information Specialist II *[14-384]*
- Memorandum of Understanding with City of Duluth for 2014 Justice Assistance Grant *[14-385]*
- Purchase of Two-Factor Authentication Hardware and Software Provided by VASCO *[14-386]*
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of 2015 Fee Schedule (Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 9:40 a.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) *[14-387]*

REGULAR AGENDA

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Dahlberg/Jewell moved to authorize the County Auditor to offer the parcels described in County Board File No. 59824 at public sale for not less than the basic sale price in accordance with terms set forth in the Land and Minerals Department policy, and in a manner provided for by law on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the Depot, 506 W, Michigan St. Duluth, MN 55802. *[14-388]* During the Board meeting of October 7, 2014, the Board tabled reclassification of state tax forfeited lands to Non-Conservation; because of the previous Board action, this item was tabled until the November 4, 2014 meeting. (7-0)

Dahlberg/Jewell moved to approve the sale of the parcels described in County Board File No. 59937, and authorize the County Auditor to offer the parcels at private sale to any single, specific adjoining or adjacent landowner without notifying or offering to sell to all adjoining or adjacent landowners to encourage return of the parcels to the tax rolls. *[14-369]* The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

Nelson/Jewell moved to approve the sale of state tax forfeited land to the Duluth Economic Development Authority for the price of $46,272, plus the following fees: 3% assurance fee of $1,388.16, deed fee of $25, deed tax of $152.70, and recording fee of $112; for a total of $47,949.86. *[14-370]* Commissioner Stauber stepped out of the meeting from 3:35 p.m. to 3:36 p.m. Administration will investigate further to determine if these parcels and the parcels described in County Board File No. 59937 were reclassified. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Commissioner Dahlberg exited the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Raukar/Nelson moved to authorize the purchase of six 2015 Mack GU713 tandem trucks from Twin Cities Mack and Volvo Trucks of Roseville, MN, for a total cost of $662,559.72. *[14-389]* The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Raukar moved to authorize an annually renewed lease for 256 square feet of space, with the 2014 rate of $8.58 per square foot with the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District at the Northland Office Center in Virginia. *[14-390]* Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 3:42 p.m. to 3:44 p.m. At the suggestion of Administrator Gray, the Board Letter was revised. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Commissioner Raukar exited the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Commissioner Dahlberg entered the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Stauber/Jewell moved to approve 2015 monthly premium rates for the self-funded employee and retiree health insurance and to authorize the appropriate county officials to execute contracts for administrative services of the medical and dental plans for the time period covering January 1 – December 31, 2015. *[14-392]* After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Central Management & Inter-Governmental Committee

Forsman/Nelson moved to appoint Marjorie McPeak of Tower, MN, to the Arrowhead Library System Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and expiring on December 31, 2018. *[14-391]* The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Nelson discussed the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Class I Air designation final report. Commissioner Nelson expressed concerns relating to conclusions found in the report and potential impacts on industry in Northeast Minnesota. Commissioner Nelson discussed an upcoming news item regarding St. Louis County Board expenditures that are not related to committee assignments.

Administrator Gray said he was working closely with the Attorney Mark Rubin's office and John Ongaro regarding the previously mentioned Class I Air designation. Administrator Gray said County representatives would be attending a comment/consult session this Thursday.

Commissioner Stauber discussed the recent decision to remove paper towel holders from St. Louis County restrooms. After further discussion, the Board directed Administration to work with Property Management to replace paper towel holders in St. Louis County restrooms.

Commissioner discussed unsafe decibel levels relating to the air hand dryers currently used in St. Louis County restrooms.

Commissioner Jewell expressed concerns that Commissioner Nelson was speaking to the press inappropriately regarding his campaign and requested that Chair Forsman ask Commissioner Nelson to put an end to this practice.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he has not spoken to the news media regarding Commissioner Jewell's campaign. Commissioner Nelson discussed the parking situation at the Northland Office Center and stated that the City of Virginia will be distributing a letter of explanation and a map to all Northland Office Building employees detailing available parking places.

Commissioner Dahlberg talked about a recent house-warming event for U.S. Marine Corporal Mark Litynski, a triple amputee survivor of the Afghanistan war. Commissioner Dahlberg also stated that a fundraiser event would be held on October 15th at the West Duluth American Legion. Commissioner Dahlberg discussed a recent donation by the CN Rail for $100,000 to assist in the development of a park in Gary-New Duluth. Commissioner Dahlberg commented on the Highland Street construction project.

Commissioner Nelson said that St. Louis County has spent approximately 70 million dollars on repairing county roads located in the City of Duluth over the past ten years.

At 4:14 p.m., Stauber/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Mike Forsman, Chair of the County Board

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board