



## AGENDA

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

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 9:30 A.M.**

**County Board Room, Second Floor  
St. Louis County Courthouse  
100 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Duluth, Minnesota**

**PETE STAUBER, Chair  
Fifth District**

**FRANK JEWELL  
First District**

**PATRICK BOYLE  
Second District**

**CHRIS DAHLBERG  
Third District**

**TOM RUKAVINA  
Fourth District**

**KEITH NELSON  
Sixth District**

**STEVE RAUKAR, Vice-Chair  
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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9:30 A.M. Moment of Silence  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

AT THIS TIME CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. [Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.]

FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE BOARD AGENDA OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA, CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT THE TIME A MOTION IS ON THE FLOOR.

9:40 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING, pursuant to Resolution No. 15-621, adopted October 13, 2015, to consider the adoption of the fee schedule for various county services for the year 2016. **{15-484}**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be enacted by one unanimous motion. If a commissioner requests, or a citizen wishes to speak on an item on the consent agenda, it will be removed and handled separately.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Health & Human Services Committee – Commissioner Boyle, Chair**

1. Recruitment and retention of foster families. **{15-477} [Without recommendation.]**

**Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee – Commissioner Jewell, Chair**

2. Citizen appointments to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment. **{15-482} [Without recommendation.]**

**ADJOURNED:**

# **BOARD LETTER NO. 15 - 484**

## **FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **NOVEMBER 3, 2015 BOARD AGENDA 9:40 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING**

**DATE:** November 3, 2015                      **RE:** Public Hearing to Consider  
Adoption of 2016 Fee Schedule

**FROM:** Kevin Z. Gray  
County Administrator

**RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:**

To manage the preparation of the county budget and make budget recommendations to the County Board.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to hold a public hearing on the proposed 2016 Fee Schedule, and adopt a Fee Schedule.

**BACKGROUND:**

County departments were asked to review fees and submit to Administration fees reflecting increased costs due to inflationary pressures or specific products necessary to perform services. Some departments determined that current fees adequately covered the cost of services, and justification for this decision was included in their submittals. Administration reviewed revisions and compiled a proposed fee schedule for various county services which was presented to the County Board as part of its budget discussion at the July 21, 2015 Board Workshop. A revised draft fee schedule was provided to Commissioners via e-mail and on paper. It is necessary to hold a public hearing on these fees, which have been included in the projected revenues proposed for the 2016 budget.

At the October 13, 2015 County Board Meeting, commissioners established a public hearing for November 3, 2015, at 9:40 a.m. at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of obtaining comment on the 2016 Fee Schedule.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board approve the 2016 Fee Schedule for various county services.

**Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of 2016 Fee Schedule**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board held a public hearing at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, to receive comment and consider the adoption of the Fee Schedule for various county services for the year 2016;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board adopts the 2016 Fee Schedule on file in County Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_.

# **BOARD LETTER NO. 15 - 477**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE NO. 2**

### **NOVEMBER 3, 2015 BOARD AGENDA NO. 1**

**DATE:** October 27, 2015                      **RE:** Recruitment and Retention of Foster Families

**FROM:** Kevin Z. Gray  
County Administrator

Ann Busche, Director  
Public Health and Human Services

**RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:**

To exercise responsible stewardship of county resources.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to approve the use of Public Health and Human Services Department (PHHS) Prevention & Innovation Fund Balance, effective immediately, in support of incentives to recruit and retain foster care providers in St. Louis County.

**BACKGROUND:**

St. Louis County continues to struggle to meet the needs of a record number of children needing out of home placement. While the county works on systemic issues with families and parents that will reduce the number of children needing to be removed from the home, it also must meet current needs through foster care providers.

A thorough review of barriers to new foster care providers, considering reasons why licensed families discontinue providing services and why families hesitate to provide relative custody care, has been conducted with social workers licensing foster care providers. Many of these issues are statewide in significance and the current payment structure—Northstar Care for Children, a major legislative change implemented in 2015—has drastically reduced payment rates for many children placed in out-of-home care. Current rates do not cover the cost of caring for a child, specifically basic child care services if an adult works.

The proposed incentives to recruit and retain much needed foster care providers in St. Louis County include:

- County payment of start-up fees related to licensing new foster family applicants including car passenger safety training, water well check, State Fire Marshal inspection, and finger printing expenses;
- Offer supplemental emergency rate dollars for foster parents who qualify to receive the emergency rate;
- Provide start-up vouchers to be used at authorized grocery stores for relative foster families; and
- Offer referral bonuses to current foster families who successfully recruit a new foster care respite providers.

These proposed incentives are small in scope and less likely to be addressed on a statewide level. But, they are informed by feedback from current providers and have been analyzed for budget impact. The proposal requests authorization to use Prevention and Innovation Fund Balance for these incentives. The costs of the incentive programs would be reviewed monthly, analyzing how the costs are impacted by the number of children in out-of-home placement to analyze the cost-effectiveness. PHHS plans to continue this program through 2016, bringing a report back to the County Board in summer 2016 discussions on the 2017 budget.

#### Start-up Fees

The need to provide care for children continues to increase. For foster families to become licensed providers, they may need to pay for passenger car safety training, a water well check, a State Fire Marshal inspection and fingerprinting. These unanticipated start-up costs can delay or deter foster families from becoming licensed. County payment for such start-up costs could alleviate costly delays.

#### Supplemental Emergency Rate

The Northstar Care for Children emergency rates in 2015 are 27% to 38% lower than the emergency rates in 2014. If St. Louis County were to offer a flat supplemental emergency rate of \$20 per child in emergency placement (as defined by PHHS policy) for up to 30 days, the emergency rate would exceed the previous year's rate, providing additional support to foster families taking in children in an emergency situation.

#### **Emergency Rate Comparison 2015 vs. 2014**

<b>2014 Emergency Rates</b> <i>(daily)</i>	<b>ages 0-11</b>	<b>ages 12-14</b>	<b>ages 15-20</b>
	\$ 40.39	\$ 43.67	\$ 44.54
<b>2015 Emergency Rates</b> <i>(daily)</i>	<b>ages 0-5</b>	<b>ages 6-12</b>	<b>ages 13-20</b>
	\$ 25.16	\$ 28.61	\$ 32.55
Change	-38%	-34%	-27%

*Note: Age categories changed slightly from 2014 to 2015.*

#### Relative Foster Family Vouchers

Relatives who are approached to serve as foster care providers may be burdened by the costs associated with providing care and a long wait for their initial payment. To help alleviate the initial financial burden, \$200 vouchers through a system of approved grocery stores already established could be offered to relative foster families at the time of emergency placement or with supervisory approval.

### Foster/Respite Care Referrals

St. Louis County does not offer free respite care to licensed foster care families, however, the county is exploring ways to accomplish this in the future. Part of the barrier in offering free respite care is the lack of respite care providers available for licensed foster families to use. To offer free days of respite to foster families, St. Louis County must work to build a pool of foster care providers who may also provide respite care. The county would like to show its appreciation of its foster families, especially those who have provided foster care for a number of years, by offering a certain number of days of free respite. Working toward this goal, St. Louis County proposes to offer its licensed foster families a referral bonus of \$100 if they recruit a foster family who becomes licensed.

### Summary

#### **Proposed Use of Fund Balance**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
<b>Start-Up Fees</b>	Up to \$11,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
<b>Supplemental Emergency Rate</b>	Up to \$240,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
<b>Relative Foster Family Vouchers</b>	Up to \$50,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
<b>Respite Care Referrals</b>	Up to \$10,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><u>Up to \$311,000</u></b>	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize the use of up to \$311,000 from the PHHS Prevention & Innovation Fund Balance Account (Fund 230, Object 311405) for the period November 3, 2015 to December 31, 2016, to support St. Louis County foster families through county payment of start-up fees, offering a supplemental emergency rate, providing relative foster family vouchers and offering foster/respite care referral bonuses.

## Recruitment and Retention of Foster Families

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, St. Louis County continues to see an increase in the number of children needing out of home placement; and

WHEREAS, The need for foster families to provide care for children continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, The Northstar Care for Children emergency rates in 2015 are 27% to 38% lower than the emergency rates in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Relatives who are approached to serve as foster care providers may be burdened by the costs associated with providing care; and

WHEREAS, Part of the barrier in offering free respite care is the lack of respite care providers available for licensed foster families to use, so St. Louis County must work to build a pool of respite care providers; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County continues to work on a statewide level on these challenges as well as on a local level to target the root causes driving adults and families into crisis situations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the transfer of up to \$311,000 from the Prevention and Innovation Fund Balance Account (Fund 230, Object 311405) to be used to support St. Louis County foster families through the proposed incentives, with rigorous cost effectiveness reporting and evaluation as proposed;

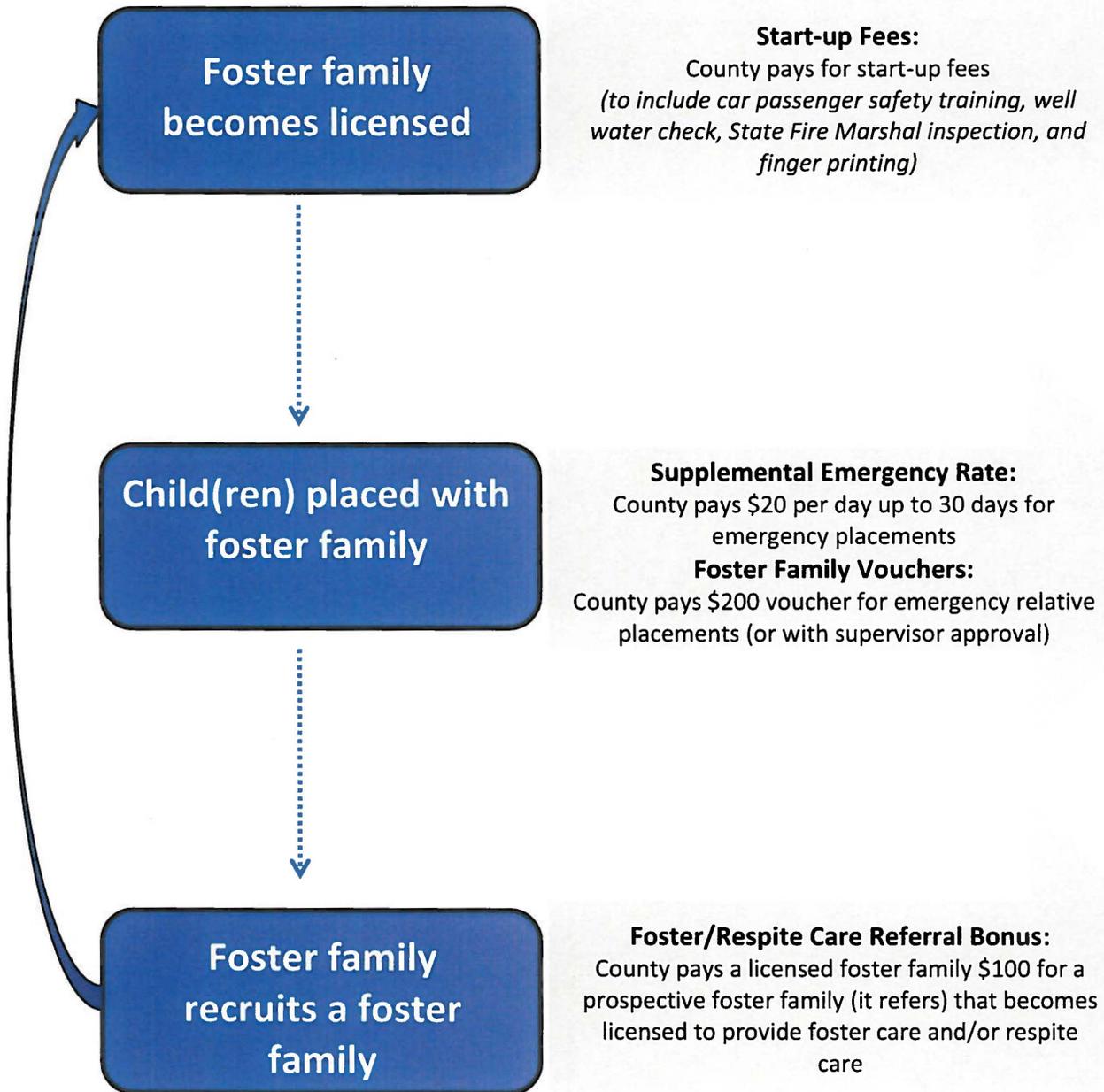
RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the implementation of the Start-Up Fee program, the Supplemental Emergency Rate, the Relative Foster Family Voucher (through an expansion in the use of the existing grocery store voucher program) and the Foster/Respite Care Referral program, as follows:

### Proposed Use of Fund Balance

Description	Amount	Timeline
Start-Up Fees	Up to \$11,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
Supplemental Emergency Rate	Up to \$240,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
Relative Foster Family Vouchers	Up to \$50,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
Respite Care Referrals	Up to \$10,000	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Up to \$311,000</b>	Nov. 3, 2015-Dec. 31, 2016

## Recruitment and Retention of Foster Families

## Incentive Targets...



### Start-up Fees:

- All Foster Families

### Supplemental Emergency Rate:

- All Foster Families providing emergency care as defined by PHHS Department Policy

### Foster Family Vouchers:

- Relative Foster Families providing emergency care (or those who receive approval)

### Foster/Respite Care Referral Bonus:

- (Potentially) All currently licensed Foster Families



**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board consider reappointing Sonya Pineo, Steven Filipovich and David Pollock to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2018 and authorize the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications for two additional vacancies, a one-year term to replace Kurt Johnson and a three-year term to replace Dale Long.

## **Citizen Appointments to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board appoints citizens to serve on the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, Three current members, Sonya Pineo, David Pollack, and Steven Filipovich wish to be reappointed for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Coombe, currently serving as the alternate member, is interested in being appointed to the Board of Adjustment for a term expiring December 31, 2018; and

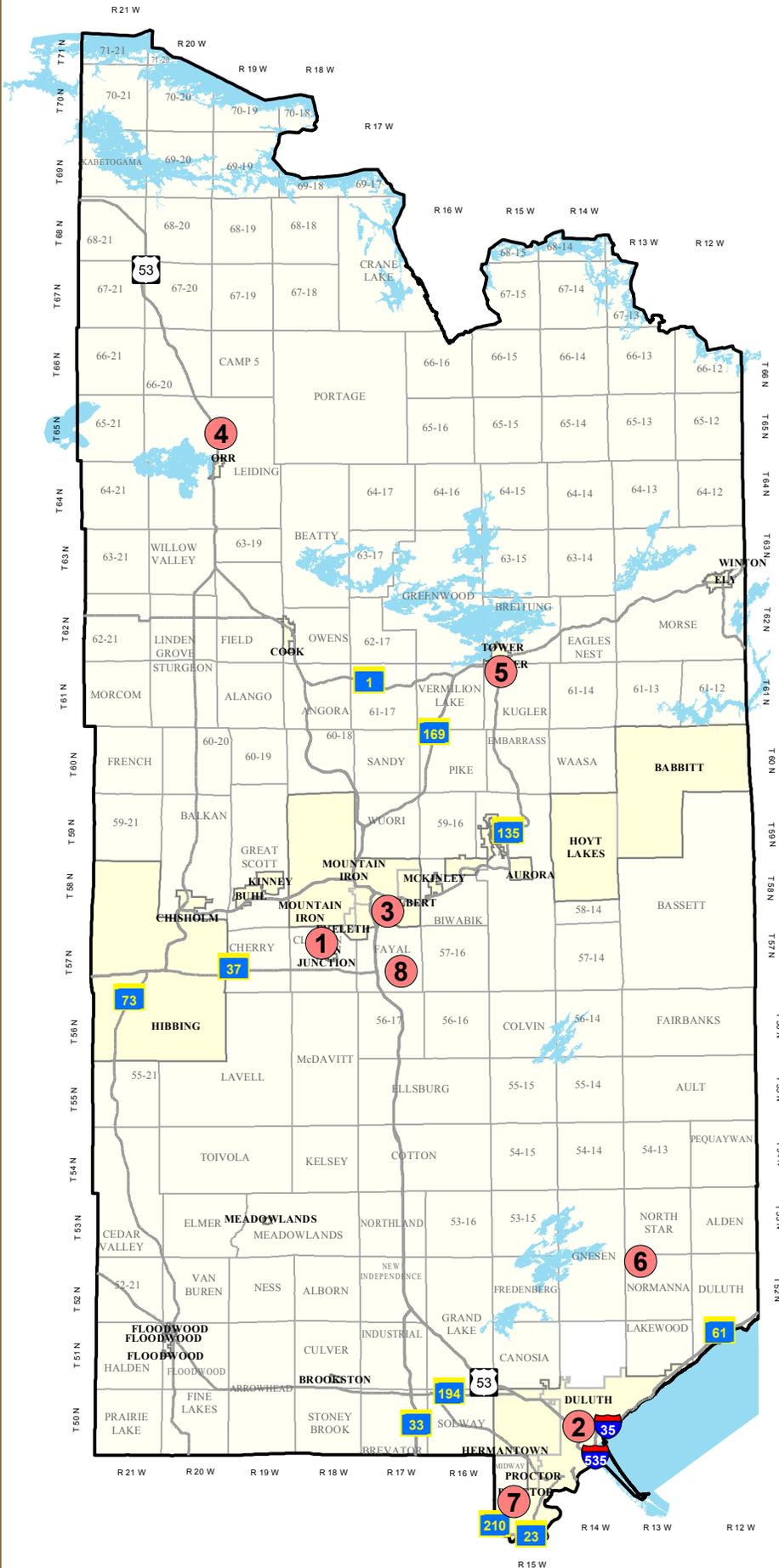
WHEREAS, There is one (1) additional vacancy on the Board of Adjustment with a term ending December 31, 2016, to be filled through and advertised application process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board reappoints Sonya Pineo, David Pollock, Steven Filipovich, and Thomas Coombe to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment with terms expiring December 31, 2018;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the County Auditor is authorized to advertise and accept applications until December 15, 2015 for one (1) vacant position on the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment with one term ending December 31, 2016.

# Board of Adjustment (BOA) Members

## St. Louis County



● 2015 BOA Member Locations

- 1- Diana Werschay
- 2- Steve Filipovich
- 3- Sonya Pineo
- 4- Vacant
- 5- David Pollock
- 6- Vacant (One year term)
- 7- David Peterson
- 8- Tom Coombe (alternate)

Prepared By: **Planning & Community Development Department**  
 Planning & Community Development  
 (218) 749-7103  
[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)

Map Created: 10/8/2015

**Disclaimer**  
 This is a compilation of records as they appear in the Saint Louis County Offices affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used only for reference purposes and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

