

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 8, 2016

Location: Babbitt City Hall, Babbitt, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Jewell moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of March 1, 2016
- Cancellation of Contract for Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Engelstad [16-108]
- Application and Acceptance of Grant for MPCA GreenCorps Host Site Designation [16-109]
- Agreements for 2016 Crack Sealing (Cities of Aurora, Buhl, Chisholm, Rice Lake and Canosia Township) [16-110]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [16-111]
- Uniform Administrative Requirement for Federal Awards – Two Year Grace Period [16-112]

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Commissioner Stauber said that Project CP 0023-72711 TST/SP 69-623-030 requires Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) clearance from the State of Minnesota before the project can be awarded. [16-113]. No action taken.

Stauber/Jewell moved to award a bid to ASTECH Corp., of St. Cloud, MN, in the amount of \$2,444,480.96 for combined project: A.) CP 0007-241426/SAP 69-607-051(Low), CSAH 7 (Industrial Road) from CSAH 47 (Swan Lake Road) to TH, CSAH 47 (Swan Lake Road) to TH 53, Length 14.16 miles; B.) CP 0047-241967/SAP 69-647-012 (Tied) CSAH 47 (Highway 47 and Swan Lake Road) from TR 5846 (Eier Road) to TH 53 Length 7.71 miles; C.) CP 0013-211986 (Tied), CSAH 13 (Midway Road) from CSAH 14 (Thompson Hill Road) to TH 2, Length 5.28 miles; D.) CP 0013-249390 (Tied) CSAH 13 (Midway Road) from TH 2 to TH 194, Length 4.18 miles; E.) CP 0031-249391 (Tied), CSAH 31 (Twin Lakes Drive) from CSAH 80 (Brookston Road West) to Brookston Length 2.95 miles; F.) CP 0045-249392 (Tied) CSAH 45 (North Cloquet Road) from Carlton County line to CR 284 (Ugstad Road), Length 3.30 miles; G.) CP 0048-257711 (Tied), CSAH 48 (Lavaque Bypass) from TH 53 to CSAH 9 (Martin Road), Length 2.31 miles; H.) CP 0056-249393 (Tied) CSAH 56 (Morris Thomas Road) from CSAH 98 (Canosia Road) to CSAH 13 (Midway Road), Length 4.01 miles; I.) CP 0073-249394 (Tied), CSAH 73 (Old Highway 61) from CSAH 13 (Midway Road) to CSAH 45 (North Cloquet Road), Length 1.97 miles; J.) CP 0898-249395 (Tied) CR 898 (Lindahl Road) from CSAH 73 (Old Highway 61) to CSAH 19 (St. Louis River Road), Length 3.45 miles; K.) CP 0000-286249 Carlton

County (Tied), Carlton County CSAH 6 from TH 73 to 516' W. of Carlton County CSAH 61, Length 8.91 miles; L.) CP 0000-286250 Carlton County (Tied) Carlton County CSAH 61 from South County Line to TH 210, Length 22.5 miles; M.) CP 0000-286251 Carlton County (Tied), Twin Lakes Township - Douglas Road, West Chub Lake Road, and Godbout Road in Twin Lakes Township, Length 5.31 miles. Commissioner Dahlberg stepped out of the meeting from 1:10 p.m. to 1:11 p.m. [16-113]. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jewell asked St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray to explain the process for selection of the Public Health and Human Services Director.

Administrator Gray provided an overview of the interview process and said he would be bringing a recommendation to the Board in the future.

Commissioner Stauber congratulated the Hermantown Hawks and Head Coach Bruce Plante on winning the Class 1A – Minnesota High School Hockey championship.

Chair Raukar also congratulated the Hermantown Hawks and said that the following quote from Herb Brooks sums up the attitude of the coach: “When you pull on that jersey the name on the front is a hell of a lot more important than the one on the back.”

Commissioner Nelson said he predicted the Hawks would win the championship and said they were a blue-collar team. Commissioner Nelson discussed student participation in the Iron Range Young Leaders’ Make a Difference Conference and provided the Committee with a handout summarizing participant evaluations. Commissioner Nelson briefed the Board on the Greater Minnesota Regional Trails and Parks Commission and provided the Committee an informational handout. Commissioner Nelson expressed concern regarding a letter by Governor Mark Dayton regarding Twin Metals and suggested that a letter be sent to the Governor asking for an explanation.

Chair Raukar thanked Commissioner Nelson for serving on the Greater Minnesota Regional Trails and Parks Commission.

Commissioner Rukavina also expressed concern and said he has many questions regarding Governor Dayton’s letter. Commissioner Rukavina asked for input from the County Attorney, Administration, Commissioners, and lobbyist John Ongaro. Commissioner Rukavina also noted there were other elected officials that have expressed concern regarding Governor Dayton’s letter.

Chair Raukar agreed with the approach of finding out more details from the Governor’s Office. Chair Raukar committed to drafting communication, with input from fellow Commissioners, to the Governor’s Office requesting additional information.

Commissioner Dahlberg agreed with sending a letter to Governor Dayton as the Board has been supportive of mining. Commissioner Dahlberg said he has had the opportunity to work with St. Louis County Veterans Service Director Sherry Rodriguez in order to reach out to military veterans. Commissioner Dahlberg said that the Grow Together event will be held on March 24, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at City Center West and encouraged people to participate.

Chair Raukar commented on the Minnesota State High School All Hair team and encouraged people to view it out on YouTube. Chair Raukar said he has been working with Jack Swanson, President of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) to develop an outreach program in an effort to get a transportation bill passed.

Commissioner Nelson encouraged people to focus on bridge bonding when participating in the AMC Legislative Conference. If mega bridge projects (over \$5,000,000) were stand-alone projects, it would greatly benefit St. Louis County.

At 1:43 p.m., Jewell/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board