

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

June 28, 2016

Location: Pike Town Hall, Embarrass, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Jewell moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #4, Special Sale to the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority [16-277] and without Item #10, Agreement for State Transportation Fund Grant (Local Road Improvement Program) [16-283]. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of June 14, 2016
- Addendum to Contract with Vendor for PHHS Arvig File Storage Project [16-274]
- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid Funding Increase (Canosia Township) [16-275]
- Authorization to Apply for and Accept 2017 MPCA SSTS Base, Incentive and Low-Income Fix-up Grant Funding [16-276]
- Embarrass Township Canister Site Lease [16-278]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Meyer, Jesperson (Non-Homestead) [16-279]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Smith (Homestead) [16-280]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Lake Country Power (Morse Township) [16-281]
- Access Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land for the Plat of Registered Land Survey No. 127 (Grand Lake Township) [16-282]
- Agreement with City of Eveleth for Sidewalk Repair (2016-2017) [16-284]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Culvert Replacements on CSAH 5 (Morcom Township and Unorganized Township 62-21) [16-285]
- Road Restriction Enforcement Agreement between Public Works and Sheriff's Office [16-286]
- Agreement with Canosia Township – Sealing Projects 2016 [16-287]
- Authorize Supplemental Agreements for Scrub Seal Projects on CSAH 91 and CSAH 9 (Duluth) [16-288]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [16-289]
- Proposed Abatement of Penalties and Interest for Veteran with Military Disability [16-290]
- Authorization to Manage Purchases Outside of Normal Procurement Policy for IRYA Service Learning Trip [16-291]
- Lawful Gambling Application (Unorganized Township 59-16) [16-292]

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## **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Stauber/Nelson moved to authorize the estimated purchase of salt at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Compass Minerals America Inc. of Overland Park, Kansas, for a maximum delivered cost of \$1,389,074.40. [16-293]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Raukar/Stauber moved to award a bid to Hunt Electric Corp., of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$119,432.00 for project CP 0136-298567, Temporary Traffic Signal, CSAH 136/6th Street and TH 73 in Chisholm, MN. [16-294]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said the temporary signal will be in place until the new roundabout is installed. The motion passed. (7-0)

Stauber/Nelson moved to authorize a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a Local Road Improvement Program Grant for improvements to the intersection of CSAH 4/Rice Lake Road and Airport Road, SAP 069-604-075, CP 0004-226569. [16-283]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said this was a unique design that would allow northbound traffic to always have a green light at the stoplight. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Raukar moved to approve and authorize the execution of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Lake Superior Wetland Bank Fund agreement. To ensure that St. Louis County continues to receive distributions equivalent to current property tax revenue from the Lake Superior Wetland Bank area, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF) and Ecosystem Investment Partnership Credit Company LLC (EIP) agree that EIP's per credit contribution to the Fund should be set at \$402 per credit. St. Louis County Auditor Don Dicklich provided the Committee with an overview of the agreement. [16-295]. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Raukar/Nelson moved to appoint Cynthia Kafat-Hagen, Hibbing, MN, to the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee representing Commissioner District 6, for a term ending December 31, 2016. [16-296]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

Boyle/Jewell moved to approve the sale of approximately 1.2 acres of state tax forfeited land, as described, to the Duluth HRA for the market value of \$12,000 plus the following fees: 3% assurance fee of \$360, deed fee of \$25, deed tax of \$39.60, recording fee of \$46 and appraisal fee of \$800; for a total of \$13,270.60, to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund). The St. Louis County Auditor may offer for sale at public auction the state tax forfeited land described here if the Duluth HRA does not purchase the land by December 31, 2016. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Rukavina expressed concern on the wording of a press release by the U.S. Forest Service announcing a public hearing on the proposed copper-nickel mine near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Commissioner Rukavina indicated a letter of support of Twin Metals will be sent to the U.S. Forest Service.

Commissioner Stauber asked the Board to consider funding for the Ely Veteran's Memorial; Commissioner Rukavina said a resolution will be on the July 12<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole agenda.

Commissioner Boyle asked if a discussion could be held regarding the process in which organizations can request funding. Administrator Kevin Gray indicated said the topic could be added as a discussion item at a future Board workshop.

Commissioner Nelson suggested that use of the recreation grant fund be considered when providing future funding for organizations. Commissioner Nelson said Cleveland Cliffs will be calling workers back to the Eveleth Taconite facility on July 11<sup>th</sup> and said a ground breaking ceremony for the Mustang project will take place on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

At 12:26 p.m., Jewell/Rukavina 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