

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 4, 2016

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioners Jewell and Rukavina

Convened: Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Boyle/Nelson moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

- Minutes of September 27, 2016
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Ringsred, Rivet (Non-Homestead) [16-438]
- Utility Easement across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Lake Country Power (Cedar Valley and Unorganized Township 55-21) [16-439]
- State Contract Purchase of Field Service Truck Equipment Package [16-440]
- Agreement for St. Louis County Website Redesign Discovery Services [16-441]
- Reschedule Location for October 25, 2016 and November 1, 2016 County Board Meetings [16-442]
- Transfer of Information Specialist I from the Recorder's Office to the Assessor's Office [16-443]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Stauber moved that the St. Louis County Board will convene a public hearing at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, to consider the adoption of the fee schedule for various county services for the year 2017. [16-444]. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Stauber/Nelson moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors, of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$1,210,038.00 for project CP 0025-275062 TST (Prime), Bridge Railing Transitions with W-Beam Guardrail, various locations throughout St. Louis County. [16-445]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that all 39 locations are bridge locations that require custom work. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Stauber/Boyle moved to express approval and support for the development of United States Bicycle Route 41 and requests that the appropriate government officials take action to officially designate the route accordingly as soon as possible. [16-446]. Commissioners expressed concern regarding potential future taxpayer expenditures and asked that wording be included in the resolution addressing future expenditures. The motion passed without recommendation. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Stauber/Nelson moved to authorize the purchase of ten (10) 2017 Mack GU713 tandem trucks from Twin Cities Mack and Volvo Trucks of Roseville, MN, for a total cost of \$1,218,315.05. [16-447]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi indicated that this purchase was possible due to 2015 budget savings and said that a fully equipped truck costs approximately \$227,000. Chair Raukar noted that St. Louis County was paying \$74,345.05 in state sales tax as a result of the purchase. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Stauber/Nelson moved to authorize the purchase and installation of ten (10) dump bodies with hydraulic systems and snow fighting equipment from Towmaster Inc. of Litchfield, MN, for \$1,057,156. [16-448]. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Boyle moved to authorize "Section VII. UNIFORM GUIDANCE PROCUREMENT POLICY APPLICABLE TO FEDERAL AWARDS" as an addendum to the 2015 St. Louis County Purchasing Rules and Regulations in compliance with the "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards," effective December 31, 2016. [16-449]. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Nelson/Raukar moved to authorize 2017 monthly premium rates for the self-funded employee and retiree health insurance as follows: Single Coverage \$801.86, Family Coverage \$1,862.33. The Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to make necessary adjustments to the premium collected consistent with collective bargaining agreements and compensation plans. The 2017 stop-loss rate payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota of \$8.84 per contract per month is approved. A 2017 per contract per month administrative service fee of \$35.61 payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota is approved. The 2017 monthly premium rate for the self-insured dental plan is approved, with a 2.0% increase, in the amount of \$38.41. The 2017 per contract per month administrative service fee of \$2.23 payable to Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is approved. The Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute a contract for administrative services of the medical and dental plans for the time period covering January 1 – December 31, 2017 as set forth above. [16-450]. St. Louis County Human Resource Director Jim Gottschald discussed the premium changes and said the changes will help address fund balance issues. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)

Boyle/Raukar moved to approve the adoption of the Social Media Policy. [16-451]. St. Louis County Human Resource Director Jim Gottschald said the policy will give the county the ability to establish consistent guidelines as it relates to county use of social media. St. Louis County Communications Manager Dana Kazel indicated that communications are changing rapidly and there is an increase in the number of people using social media to get their news. Commissioner Nelson expressed concern that some of the policy wording needed clarification. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn; St. Louis County Administration pulled the item from the agenda for further review.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

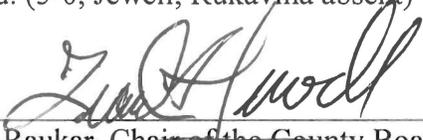
Deputy Administrator Gary Eckenberg commended the HRA Board on their decision to make a \$250,000 contribution for the development of the Steve O'Neil apartments. Deputy Eckenberg said community support is growing and indicated that Fuse Duluth holds a monthly birthday celebration for the children at the Steve O'Neil apartments.

Commissioner Nelson recognized the work of Deputy Administrator Eckenberg who will be retiring at the end of October.

Commissioner Boyle said Veterans Service Director Sherry Rodriguez will be meeting with Veterans Journey Home this Friday to discuss the potential of creating veterans housing the Twin Ports area.

Commissioner Stauber said he would be attending an ATV trail opening event in Orr / Crane Lake area tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

At 12:16 p.m., Nelson/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Rukavina absent)



Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board
Frank Jewell, vice-chair



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board