



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA
Board of Commissioners, St. Louis County, Minnesota

November 8, 2011

Immediately following the Board Meeting, which begins at 9:30 A.M.
Commissioners' Conference Room, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed under 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.

Minutes of November 1, 2011

Environment & Natural Resources Committee – Commissioner Jewell, Chair

1. St. Louis County - State of Minnesota Land Exchange Proposal [11-421]
2. Special Sale to the State of Minnesota [11-422]
3. Cancellation of Contract for Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Olson [11-423]

Public Works & Transportation Committee – Commissioner Forsman, Chair

4. Acquisition of Right of Way – County Project 128460 (Waasa Township) [11-424]
5. Purchase of Radial Stacking Conveyors [11-425]

Finance & Budget Committee – Commissioner Nelson, Chair

6. Cook Timberwolves Trail Authorization across County Fee Owned Property (Beatty Township) [11-426]
7. Data Communications Network Services Agreement with Northeast Service Cooperative [11-427]

Central Management & Inter-Governmental Committee – Commissioner Raukar, Chair

8. 2012 Federal Lobbying Services Contract – Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen [11-428]
9. 2012 State Lobbying Services Contract – DeLaForest Consulting, LLC [11-429]

ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Finance & Budget Committee – Commissioner Nelson, Chair

10. Establish Public Hearing for Suspension/Revocation of Liquor Licenses for Property Tax Non-Payment (Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 9:40 a.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [11-430]

REGULAR AGENDA:

For items on the Regular Agenda, citizens will be allowed to address the Board at the time a motion is on the floor.

Finance & Budget Committee – Commissioner Nelson, Chair

1. **Tobacco Products License Application (Fayal Township) [11-431]**
Resolution authorizing the renewal of a tobacco license in Fayal Township.

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee – Commissioner O'Neil, Chair

1. **2012 Proposed Legislative Agenda [11-432]**
The St. Louis County Board is requested to approve its legislative agenda for the 2012 Legislative Session. *Information to Follow*

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS:

At this time, Commissioners may introduce items for discussion or report on past and future activities.

ADJOURNED:

NEXT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING DATES:

November 22, 2011 Hibbing City Council Chambers, Hibbing, MN

December 13, 2011 Commissioners' Conference Room, Courthouse, Duluth, MN

December 20, 2011 Morse Town Hall, 911 South Central Avenue, Ely, MN

BARRIER FREE: *All St. Louis County Board meetings are accessible to the handicapped. Attempts will be made to accommodate any other individual needs for special services. Please contact St. Louis County Property Management (218-725-5085) early so necessary arrangements can be made.*

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

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Location: County Board Conference Room, Duluth, MN
Present: Commissioners Jewell, O'Neil, Dahlberg, Forsman, Sweeney, Nelson and Raukar
Absent: None
Convened: Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Sweeney/Dahlberg moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Raukar requested separate consideration for the state tax forfeit land lease agreement with Mining Resources, LLC. Commissioner Nelson said he wants an update from the Land Department, sometime in January, on free conveyance of state tax forfeited land to the City of Duluth, specifically the parcels not being used for public purpose. The remainder of the consent agenda passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of October 25, 2011
- Request for Free Conveyance of State Tax Forfeited Land to the City of Duluth
- Cancellation of Contract for Purchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Ronchetti
- Lawful Gambling Application (Unorganized Township 60-18)
- Consolidation of Communications Center “Effects Bargaining” Agreement
- Application and Acceptance of the 2012 Boundary Waters Drug Task Force Grant

REGULAR AGENDA

Nelson/Raukar moved to approve the following appointments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Board: Laurence Cuffe, City of Virginia Representative, and Rudy Semejas, At-Large Representative. Planning and Community Development Director Barb Hayden said there are two positions to fill and the county received three applicants. After further discussion, the motion passed. Commissioner Raukar said he would like thank-you letters sent to the previous members for their service. (7-0)

Raukar/Nelson moved to re-appoint Sonya Pineo and William Thomas Coombe to the St. Louis County Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2014. (7-0)

Jewell/Raukar moved to approve the state tax forfeit land lease agreement with Mining Resources, LLC in Balkan South Township, not to exceed \$12,000 annually. Administrator Kevin Gray said Mining Resources, LLC is a partnership of Steel Dynamics (80% ownership) and Magnetation (20% ownership). Administrator Gray said the action requested is to develop a lease for the surface interest of the state tax forfeit land with Mining Resources, LLC and the County Auditor. Land Commissioner Bob Krepps said this is the second lease for the surface land, noting part of the urgency for the first lease was to get the project started before the ground freezes. Tom Lutes, Manager for Mining Resources, LLC, explained the relationship with Steel Dynamics, Mesabi Nugget and Magnetation. In response to a question from Auditor Donald Dicklich, Manager Lutes said Cleveland Cliffs was originally a partner and in 2007 their rights were purchased and the companies have gone their separate ways. Commissioner Raukar said there has been significant progress on this project since last week and while he supports creating jobs, assurance that the Mesabi Trail will be realigned is a real concern for him. Commissioner Nelson said he is disappointed the resolution for the first land lease was tabled.

Land Commissioner Krepps said he will work with Manager Tom Lutes and put together a document outlining their schedule and send it out to commissioners before for next week's board meeting. Commissioner Forsman said this project is an important opportunity to turn waste rock into a product that will be used nationally and globally, and it will create jobs. Commissioner Raukar noted that due diligence and protecting the public's interest is important and should not be classified as obstructionism. Commissioner Sweeney said the Mesabi Trail was built with taxpayer dollars and it should be preserved. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Jewell attended the 2011 International Community Congress: Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities that Neighbor Public Lands. This event brought together community leaders, public land managers, and other interested parties from both sides of the international border with the purpose of learning how to take advantage of the natural resources of this area, and to develop workable plans to improve the sustainability of their individual economies and the broader region as a whole. Commissioner Jewell said commissioners from Koochiching and Cook Counties also attended.

Commissioner Raukar said the Hibbing Courthouse Four Grand Exhibits opens the fourth exhibit tonight with artwork by Alberta Marana.

Commissioner Sweeney said she participated in a Duluth Chamber of Commerce event regarding the county budgeting process and proposed maximum levy, noting it was very organized and thanked staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Nelson attended the grounding breaking ceremony for P & H MinePro in Virginia on October 31, 2011, noting there are several more mining service businesses that will open in the future.

Commissioner Dahlberg also attended the Chamber event where he discussed the proposed maximum levy for 2012. Commissioner Dahlberg said while he originally proposed a zero percent maximum levy increase, he asked commissioners to consider keeping the increase below one percent.

Commissioner Raukar said an Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Redesign Focus Study will be held at the Hibbing High School on November 9, 2011, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner O'Neil said the Fifth Annual Connecting the Dots event will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at Clyde Iron, Duluth. The event offers a free breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., features music and information booths, and five local citizens will be recognized for outstanding leadership in the community.

At 12:18 p.m., Raukar/Dahlberg moved to adjourn the committee of the whole meeting. (7-0)

Steve O'Neil, Chair of the County Board

Patricia Stolee, Clerk of the County Board

State Lease No. T-5080-N covers approximately 120 acres (E2 of SW1/4 and Lot 3, Section 19, T58N, R17W) at United Taconite, LLC. United Taconite engineers estimate that this lease contains 26,358,000 gross tons of crude ore reserves. At current escalated royalty rates this quantity of tax forfeited minerals would be apportioned as follows:

a. State mineral management fund:	\$4,534,000
b. Virginia schools ISD #706:	8,060,000
c. St. Louis County:	6,044,000
d. City of Virginia:	<u>4,030,000</u>
	\$22,668,000

In order to mine these significant crude ore reserves additional tax forfeited land must be made available in close proximity so waste material removed from the tax forfeited leased lands can be stockpiled without encumbering other lands or mineral interests. The State of Minnesota owns land at Hibbing Taconite and United Taconite in close proximity to these mining leases that could be used for stockpiling: a mined-out School Trust parcel at Hibbing Taconite (NW1/4 of NE1/4, Section 8, T57N, R21W); and a mined-out School Trust parcel at United Taconite (NE1/4 of NE1/4, Section 36, T58N, R18W).

The situation is reversed at US Steel's Minntac Mine where the state needs additional School Trust stockpiling land. There are two mined-out tax forfeited parcels within Minntac's permit to mine boundary that could be used for in-pit stockpiling. The mining company already has sufficient room for all current and planned stockpiling of tax forfeited material. The two available tax forfeited parcels are located on the foot-wall (north side) of Minntac's West Pit (SW1/4 of NE1/4 and SE1/4 of NW1/4, Section 1, T58N, R19W).

The following land exchange will provide needed stockpiling space for both St. Louis County and the DNR at Hibbing Taconite, Minntac and United Taconite. The land exchange is for the surface interest only. All of the parcels are believed to be depleted of any mineable minerals.

OFFERED LAND (State of Minnesota Class "A")

NW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 8, Township 57 North, Range 21 West
NE1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 36, Township 58 North, Range 18 West

STATE TAX FORFEITED LAND (CLASS "B")

SE1/4 of the NW1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West
SW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize the Land Department to proceed with a proposed land exchange between St. Louis County and State of Minnesota according to Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' land exchange guidelines.

St. Louis County - State of Minnesota Land Exchange Proposal

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 94.341 to 94.3495, inclusive, a land exchange proposal has been submitted to the St. Louis County Board for certain lands owned by the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, this proposed exchange has been reviewed by the St. Louis County Land Department to determine the suitability of lands for exchange; and

WHEREAS, the joint proposal is to exchange the following described lands being and lying in St. Louis County, Minnesota, to wit:

OFFERED LAND (State of Minnesota Class "A")

NW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 8, Township 57 North , Range 21 West
NE1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 36, Township 58 North, Range 18 West

STATE TAX FORFEITED LAND (CLASS "B")

SE1/4 of the NW1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West
SW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West

WHEREAS, the state tax forfeited parcels proposed for exchange have been classified as non-conservation land pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 282.01; and

WHEREAS, the land acquired by St. Louis County will enable mine development of tax forfeited minerals leases at Hibbing Taconite and United Taconite for the benefit of local communities, school districts and St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, the land acquired by the State of Minnesota will enable additional stockpiling of mining material removed from School Trust lands at United States Steel operations at Minntac.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board approves the proposed exchange of state tax forfeited (Class "B") land described as SE1/4 of the NW1/4 and SW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West; and State of Minnesota (Class "A") land described as NW1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 8, Township 57 North , Range 21 West, and NE1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 36, Township 58 North, Range 18 West.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the State Department of Natural Resources to proceed with an appraisal of all lands involved in the proposed land exchange.

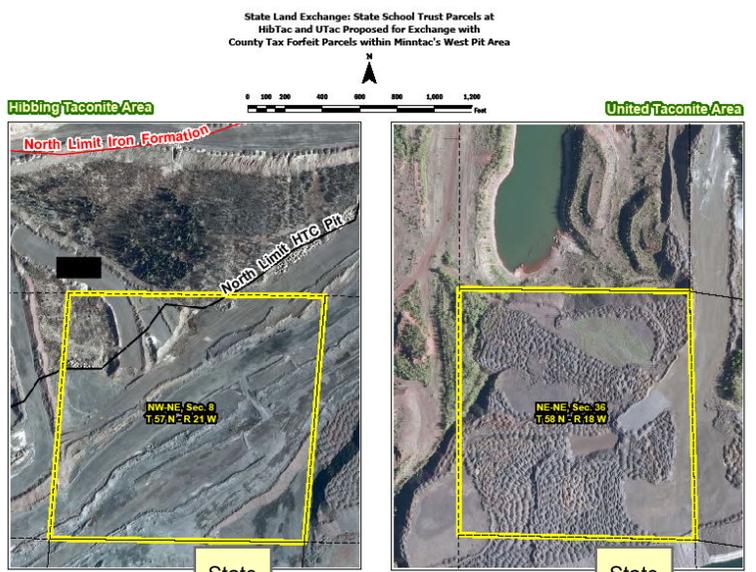
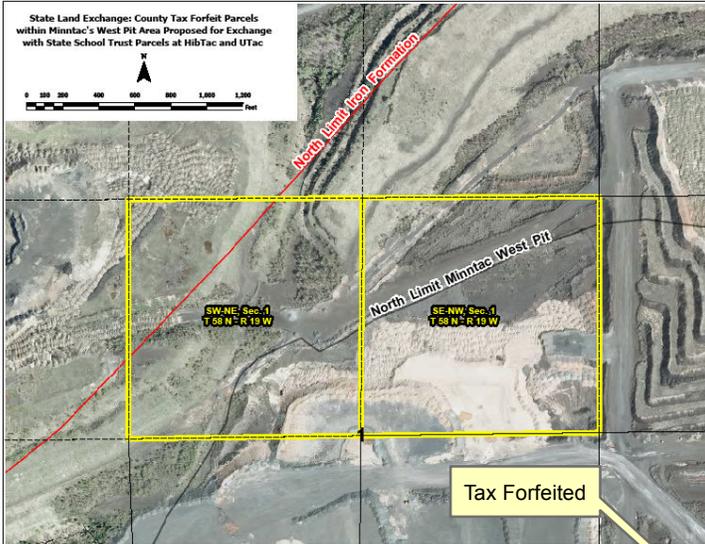


STATE TAX FORFEITED LAND (CLASS "B")

SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West
SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 19 West

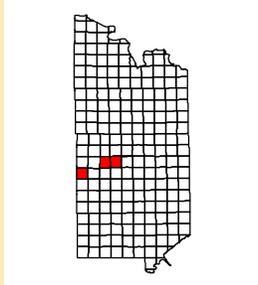
OFFERED LAND (State of Minnesota Class "A")

NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 8, Township 57 North, Range 21 West
NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 36, Township 58 North, Range 18 West



Legend

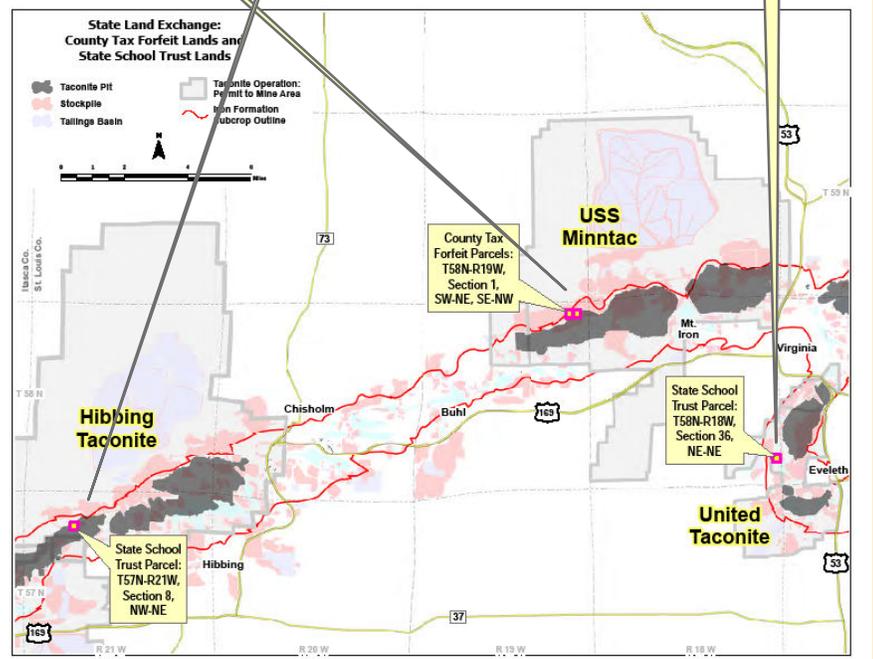
- State Tax Forfeited Land
- Water
- Road
- Area of Interest
- Tract



St. Louis County, Minnesota

This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. This drawing is a compilation of recorded information and data located in various city, county, state and federal offices. St. Louis County is not responsible for any incorrectness herein.

**St. Louis County
Land Department**



Special Sale to the State of Minnesota

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has requested to purchase the following described state tax forfeited parcel for the improvement of Trunk Highway 169:

That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 28, Township 61 North, Range 16 West, shown as Parcel 41 on Minnesota Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat Numbered 69-131 as the same is on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for St. Louis County, Minnesota; containing 1.29 acres, more or less, of which 0.14 acre is encumbered by an existing highway easement.

Parcel: 560-0011-04581

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1(a) authorizes the sale of state tax forfeited land to an organized governmental subdivision for any public purpose for which the subdivision is authorized to acquire property; and

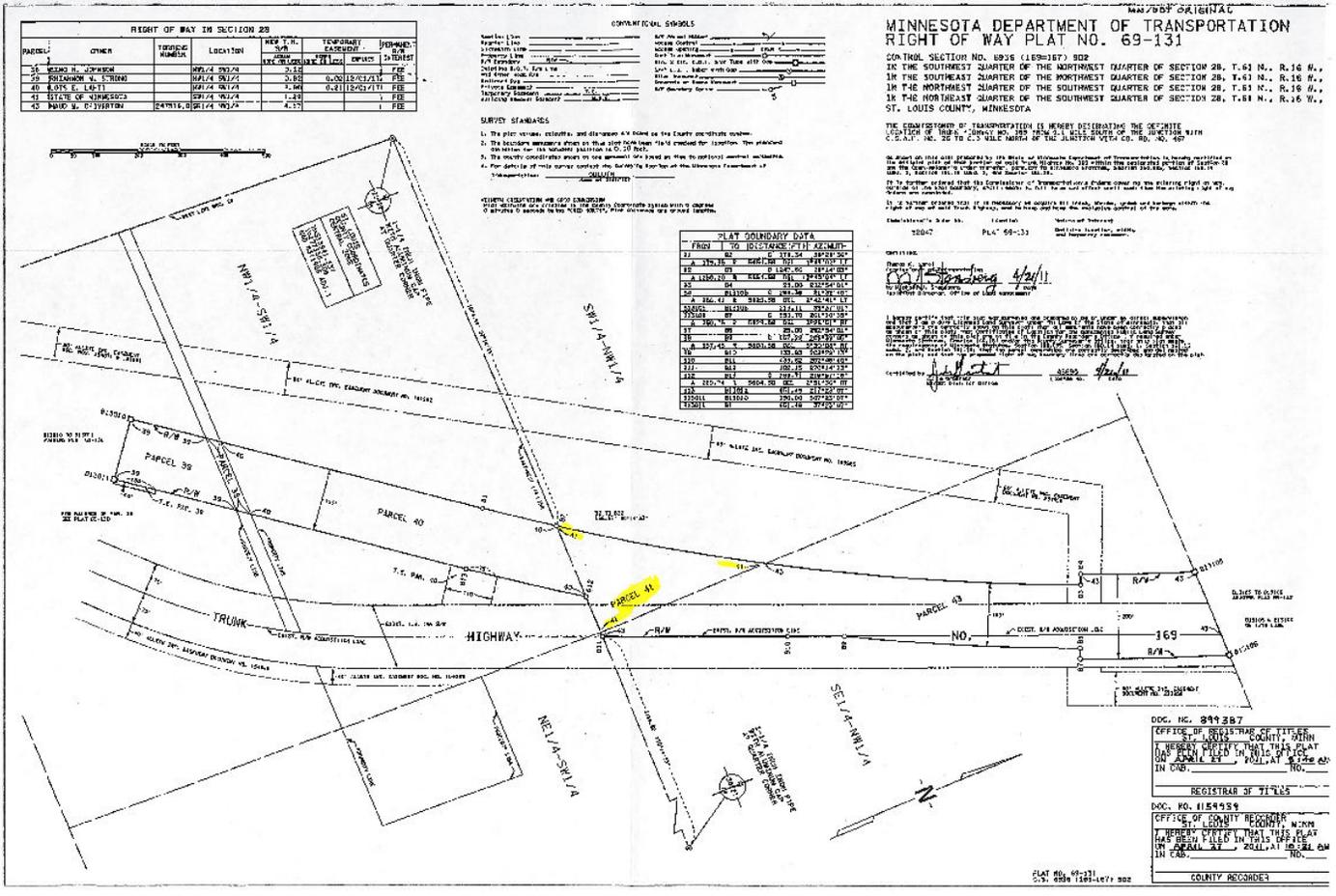
WHEREAS, this parcel of land has not been withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8; and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, this parcel of land has been classified as non-conservation land pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board approves the sale of the state tax forfeited parcel described above to the State of Minnesota for the appraised value of \$2,000 plus the following fees: administration fee of \$100, 3% assurance fee of \$60, deed fee of \$25, deed tax of \$6.60, recording fee of \$46; for a total of \$2,237.60, to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).



St. Louis County Land Department Tax Forfeited Land Sales

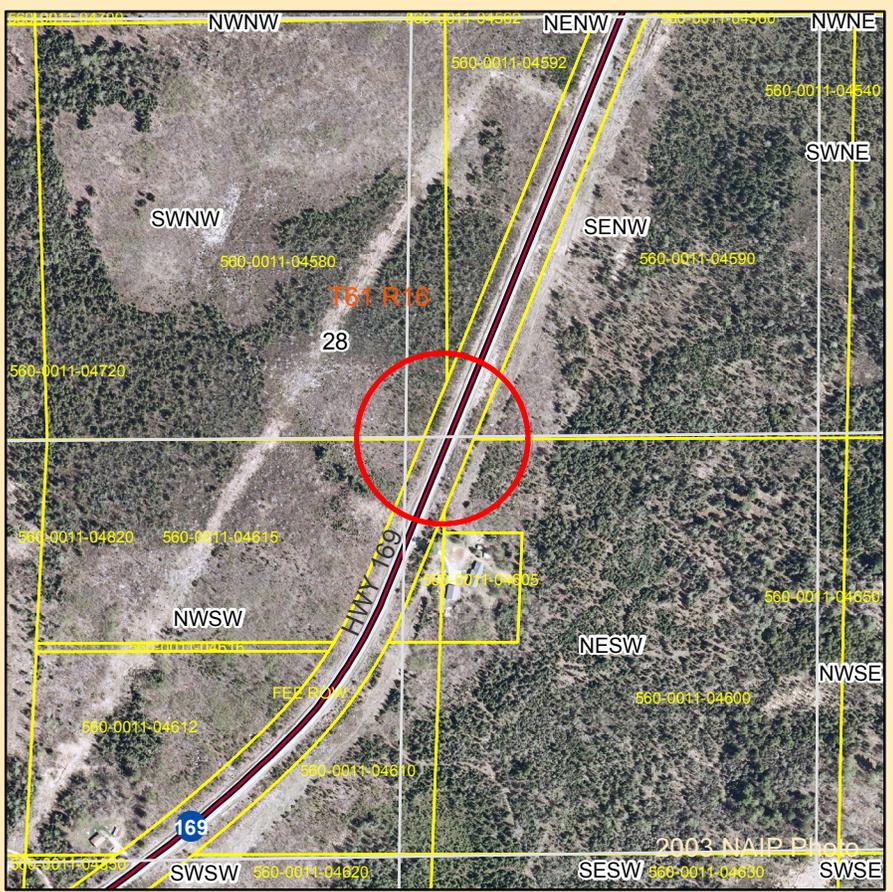


- State Tax Forfeited Land
- Water
- Road
- Area of Interest
- Tract

St. Louis County, Minnesota

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St. Louis County
Land Department



2003 NAIP Photo

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 423

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 3

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011 **RE:** Cancellation of Contract for
Repurchase of State Tax
Forfeited Land - Olson

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Robert Krepps
Land Commissioner

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Performing public services; financial return to the county and taxing districts.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to cancel a contract for repurchase of state tax forfeited land.

BACKGROUND:

The County Auditor has attached information in reference to a state tax forfeited land contract which has been entered into under the provisions of Minn. Stat. Chapter 282. The repurchase agreement has defaulted due to the purchaser's failure to provide proof of insurance. The purchaser, Tracy Olson of Gilbert, MN, has been served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by civil process but has failed to cure the default.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board approve cancellation of this contract and authorize the disposal of abandoned personal property that may remain on the site.

Tracy Olson, Gilbert, MN

Legal Description	CITY OF GILBERT LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 17 GILBERT Parcel Code: 060-0010-03850 C22100092
Purchase Price	\$740.34
Principal Amount Remaining	\$647.80
Date of Last Payment	10/8/2010
Installment Payments Not Made	\$0.00
Subsequent Del Taxes and Fees	\$130.59
Amount Needed to Cure Default	\$130.59
Insurance	Failure to provide insurance

Cancellation of Contract for Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land - Olson

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the contract with Tracy Olson of Gilbert, MN, for the repurchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for failure to provide proof of insurance; and

WHEREAS, the purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by civil process and has failed to cure the default for lands legally described as:

CITY OF GILBERT
LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 17
GILBERT
Parcel Code: 060-0010-03850
C22100092

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d) and 504B.271 authorizes the County Auditor to dispose of abandoned personal property; and

WHEREAS, the previous owner of the property will be notified by posting of the property or by mail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract for the repurchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to dispose of abandoned personal property from the above described state tax forfeited property.



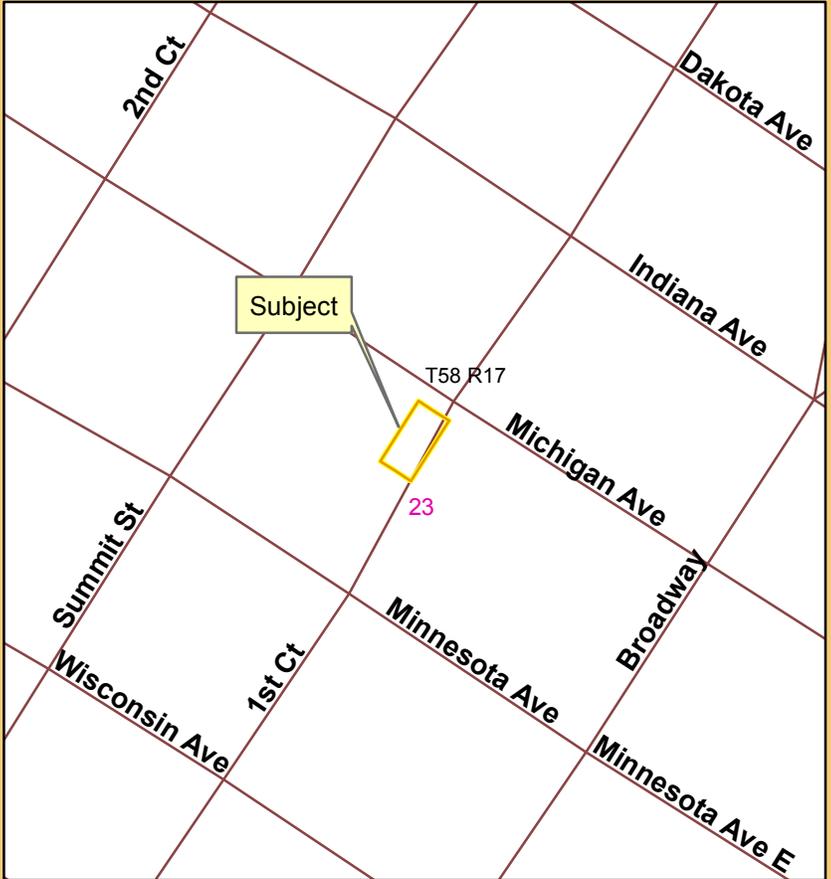
St. Louis County Land Department Tax Forfeited Land Sales

Cancellation of Contract

Legal : CITY OF GILBERT
LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 17
GILBERT

Parcel Code : 060-0010-03850

LDKEY : 62261

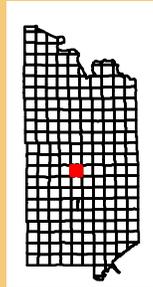


City of Gilbert Sec: 23 Twp: 58 Rng: 17



Commissioner District # 6

- State Tax Forfeited Land
- Water
- Road
- Area of Interest
- Tract



St. Louis County, Minnesota

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**St. Louis County
Land Department**

November 2011



2003 NAIP Photo

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 424

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CONSENT NO. 4

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011 **RE:** Acquisition of Right of Way
County Project 128460 (Waasa
Township)

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

James T. Foldesi
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

To provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize the acquisition of right of way for County Project 128460, and to authorize an exchange of parcels of real property to accomplish the acquisition.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department plans to replace County Bridge Number 518 (State Bridge 7821) over Spring Mine Creek and reconstruct part of the adjacent County Road 615 (Salo Road). The project is located approximately 6.5 miles east of County State Aid Highway 21 in Section 24 of Waasa Township (T60N-R14W). Additional Right of Way will be needed from adjacent private parcels of land for this project. One of these private parcels abuts, on three sides, a one acre (208 ft x 208 ft) tract of land currently owned in fee simple by the county (parcel ID # 565-0010-03762). This one acre parcel was acquired by Warrantee Deed in 1918 as the site of County School Number 99. The property is currently vacant serving no identifiable public purpose. The parcel is non-compliant with current zoning standards and is of little value except as annexed to the adjoining property. The owner of the larger parcel is interested in negotiating an exchange of this parcel for the needed highway right of way of same or similar value.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize the acquisition of right of way necessary for this project and to proceed with a land exchange in accordance with Minn. Stat. Chapter 373.01(d). Right of Way acquisition is payable from Fund 200, Agency 203001.

**Acquisition of Right of Way County Project 128460
(Waasa Township)**

BY COMMISSIONER _____

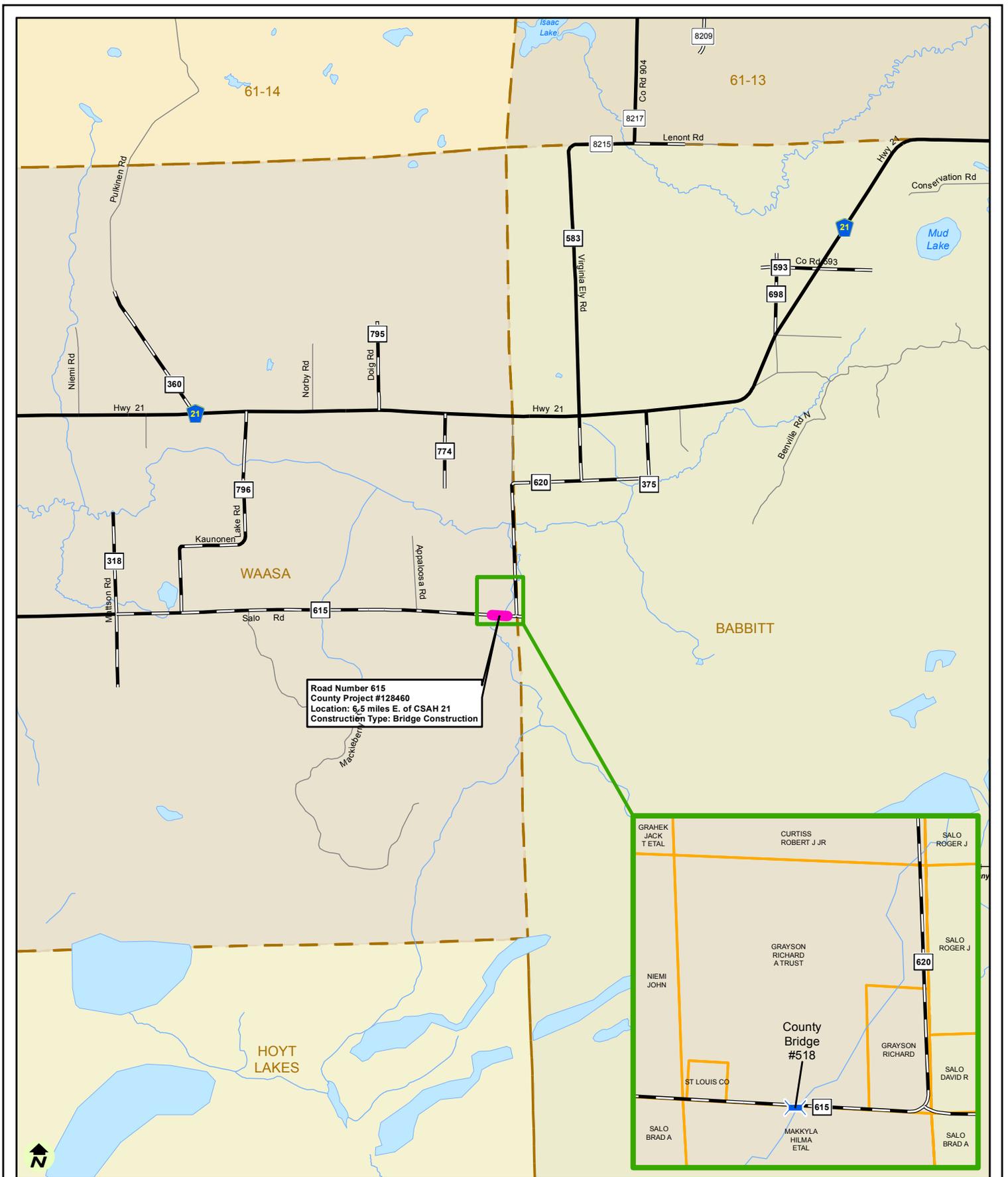
WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Public Works Department plans to replace County Bridge 518 and to reconstruct part of the adjacent County Road 615 (Salo Road) located approximately 6.5 miles east of County State Aid Highway 21 in Waasa Township (T60N-R14W); and

WHEREAS, these improvements consist of bridge replacement and realignment, widening and reconstruction of the roadway as determined necessary for the safety and convenience of the public; and

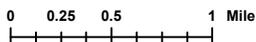
WHEREAS, additional land is required for this construction (together with temporary construction easements).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the acquisition of the necessary land and temporary easements for this project, payable from Fund 200, Agency 203001, Objects 636500 and 637500.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that an exchange of a small parcel of county fee land for the highway right of way needed for this project of same or similar value is hereby authorized in accordance with Minn. Stat. Chapter 373.01 (d). Said parcel is described as that part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, Township 60 North, Range 14 West beginning at a point 20 feet east from the southwest corner of said Section 24, thence 208 feet North, thence at right angles 208 feet West, thence at right angles South to the point of beginning.



St. Louis County 2011 Road & Bridge Construction



Map Components

2011 Road & Bridge Construction

- Bridge Construction
- Interstate Highway
- U.S./State Highway

- County/Unorg. Twp. Road - Paved
- County/Unorg. Twp. Road - Gravel
- Railroad
- Parcel Boundary
- Commissioner District

- Township Boundary
- City/Town
- Lake
- River/Stream

Purchase of Radial Stacking Conveyors

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the 2011 Public Works Department equipment budget includes replacement of two radial stacking conveyors for filling salt-sand domes; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department presented specifications and requested pricing for the Power Screen Model 7436 stacking conveyor, due to its quality and specific design; and

WHEREAS, THECO, INC., St. Michael, Minnesota responded with the lowest acceptable quote for this purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of two stacking conveyors from THECO, INC., St. Michael, Minnesota, at its quoted price of \$182,832, plus 6.875% State of Minnesota sales tax of \$12,569.70, for a total cost of \$195,401.70, payable from Fund 407, Agency 407001, and Object 665000.

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 426

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 6

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011 **RE:** Cook Timberwolves Trail
Authorization across County
Fee Owned Property (Beatty
Township)

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Tony Mancuso, Director
Property Management

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Facilitate county fee land purchase, sale and easement activities.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club to construct a winter only snowmobile trail across St. Louis County fee owned land in **Beatty Township**.

BACKGROUND:

The Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club has requested to cross St. Louis County fee owned land which is the site of a Public Works Gravel pit (Beatty Pit). The trail would use an existing forest logging road with a short length of new trail being constructed. The Public Works Department has reviewed this route and has no objections to the trail location. This proposed trail will provide access from Lake Vermilion to the Arrowhead Snowmobile Trail. The authorization requires the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club to indemnify and hold the county harmless from any and all claims. The Cook Timberwolves must also provide proof of current liability insurance and shall list St. Louis County as additional insured.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize the Property Management Department to issue a Trail Authorization Letter to the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club.

**Cook Timberwolves Trail Authorization across County Fee
Owned Property (Beatty Township)**

BY COMMISSIONER_____

WHEREAS, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club has requested permission to construct and operate a snowmobile trail across the following St. Louis County fee owned land.

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, T63N, R18W
(Beatty Township)

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department which operates the Beatty Gravel Pit at this location, has no objections to the proposed trail route.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Property Management Department to issue a Trail Authorization Letter to the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club to operate and maintain a trail on the above described property.

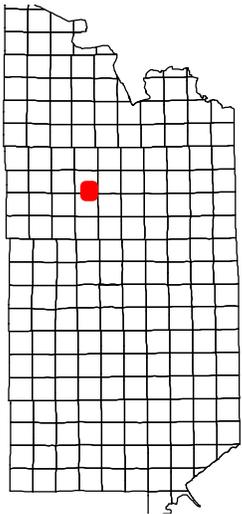


Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Trail St. Louis County Property Management Dept.

Parcel Codes: 260-0055-00170, 00180
260-0014-00787, 00789

Legal Description: SW of SE Section 34, T63N, R18W
Beatty Township

Commissioner District # 4



BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 427

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 7

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011

RE: Data Communications Network
Services Agreement with
Northeast Service Cooperative

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Martin Buscombe, Director
Information Technology

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

To provide efficient, effective government.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize a network services agreement with the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) in support of the Middle Mile Fiber Project.

BACKGROUND:

St. Louis County operates facilities to provide services to its citizens in a large number of diverse locations throughout the county. Almost universally, data communications connections are required to operate the facilities. Through a federal grant NESC is installing a large integrated fiber optic data communications network that will connect the largest of these facilities. This network, which will be phased into operation over the next two years, will provide an exponential increase in available data communications bandwidth to these facilities at minimal additional expense over the cost of the existing infrastructure.

The first circuits are due to be operational in early 2012. Among the first locations to be connected will be the Emergency 911 Communications/Public Safety Building on Arlington Avenue in Duluth, as well as the Government Services Center and the Duluth Courthouse. When fully operational this agreement will cover 27 of the county's largest sites including all three courthouses and all primary county government services centers. The network service agreement for these sites will be phased in as the services from the NESC become operational and as service contracts for the existing circuits expire with the current vendors.

For entering into a ten year contract, the Northeast Service Cooperative has agreed to waive all one time installation charges for the 27 locations at a cost savings of \$2,500 per site, or a savings to the county of \$67,500.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the St. Louis County Board authorize a network services agreement with the Northeast Service Cooperative for a period of ten years at a cost not to exceed \$170,400 per year for the first five years and then a cost not to exceed \$170,400 plus an incremental increase based on the Urban Consumer Price Index or a maximum of 3% annually whichever is lower for the subsequent five years. All costs for this agreement will be paid out of Fund 100, Agency 116002, Object.622900.

**Data Communications Network Services Agreement
with Northeast Service Cooperative**

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Board supports the goal of providing efficient and effective government and of supporting the Northeast Service Cooperative Middle Mile Fiber Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a Network Services Agreement with the Northeast Service Cooperative for a period of ten years at a cost not to exceed \$170,400 per year for the first five years and a cost not to exceed \$170,400 plus an incremental increase based on the Urban Consumer Price Index or a maximum of 3% annually whichever is lower for the subsequent five years, payable from Fund 100, Agency 116002, Object 622900.

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 428

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT & INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 8

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011 **RE:** 2012 Federal Lobbying
Services Contract – Lockridge,
Grindal & Nauen

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Develop and implement broad policy directives for St. Louis County through the Board of Commissioners.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize an agreement with Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen, P.L.P.P., for the purpose of general lobbying services in Washington, DC.

BACKGROUND:

For over a decade, St. Louis County has used Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen (LGN) Government Relations Team for federal general-purpose lobbying efforts. Since that time, LGN has represented the county's interests in a wide variety of issues. This year's federal legislative program includes health care, transportation, law enforcement, corrections, community development block grant, environment and energy, homeland security, and social services issues. The 2012 proposed contract amount is \$55,125, which is 5% more than was allocated in 2011.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize an agreement with Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen in 2012 for federal legislative services, upon approval of the County Attorney, in an amount not to exceed \$55,125 payable from Fund 100, Agency 105001, Object 629900.

2012 Federal Lobbying Services Contract – Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, St. Louis County requires the services of a consultant to assist with federal legislative and administrative matters; and

WHEREAS, Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen has demonstrated professional expertise and knowledge of federal legislation and administrative activities; and

WHEREAS, the contractor desires and is capable of providing federal legislative consultant services to St. Louis County during 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an agreement with Lockridge, Grindal & Nauen in 2012, upon approval of the County Attorney, for an amount not to exceed \$55,125, payable from Fund 100, Agency 105001, Object 629900.

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 429

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT & INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 9

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011 **RE:** 2012 State Lobbying Services
Contract with DeLaForest
Consulting, LLC

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Develop and implement broad policy directives for St. Louis County through the Board of Commissioners.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize an agreement with DeLaForest Consulting, LLC for the purpose of general lobbying services during the 2012 Minnesota Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND:

Because of the wide variety and large volume of county related issues to be addressed in the 2012 legislative session, it is necessary to supplement the county's inter-governmental efforts with an individual who has a strong background and experience in these public policy areas.

This year's state program includes state sales tax exemption for equipment purchases related to 800 Mhz/ARMER Public Safety Radio Systems, protection of payment in lieu of tax payments, preservation of Disparity Reduction Aid and County Program Aid, promotion of several county tax-forfeited land issues, Minerals Management Account – Fix to include Tax Forfeited Land Trust as part of any excess distribution, other issues that have been mutually agreed upon by St. Louis County and the contractor.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize an agreement with DeLaForest Consulting, LLC in 2012 for state legislative services, upon approval of the County Attorney, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 payable from Fund 100, Agency 105001, Object 629900.

2012 State Lobby Services Contract with DeLaForest Consulting, LLC.

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, St. Louis County requires the services of a consultant to assist with state legislative and administrative matters; and

WHEREAS, DeLaForest Consulting, LLC has professional expertise and knowledge of state legislation and administrative activities; and

WHEREAS, the contractor desires and is capable of providing state legislative consultant services to St. Louis County during 2012 Minnesota Legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an agreement with DeLaForest Consulting, LLC., upon approval of the County Attorney, for an amount not to exceed \$20,000, for state legislative lobbying services in 2012, payable from Fund 100, Agency 105001, Object 629900.

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 430

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 10

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011

RE: Establish Public Hearing for
Suspension/Revocation of
Liquor Licenses for Property
Tax Non-Payment

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Donald Dicklich
County Auditor

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Provide mandated and discretionary licensing services in a timely manner.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to establish a public hearing to consider the suspension/revocation of liquor licenses of several establishments in the county with property taxes not current.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, past due or delinquent real or personal property taxes assessed to the licensed premises must be paid in full at the time of application and thereafter must be paid when due. Failure to pay real estate or personal property taxes when due shall result in suspension of any liquor license until such time as the taxes are paid or the license expires or revocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that a public hearing on the matter be scheduled for December 13, 2011, at 9:40 a.m., in the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota.

**Establish Public Hearing for Suspension/Revocation of
Liquor Licenses for Property Tax Non-Payment**

BY COMMISSIONER _____

RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, in the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota, for the purpose of considering the suspension/revocation of liquor licenses for failure to pay real estate or personal property taxes when due, pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28.

BOARD LETTER NO. 11 - 431

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE NO. 1

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: November 8, 2011

RE: Tobacco Products License
Application (Fayal Township)

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Donald Dicklich
County Auditor

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Provide mandated and discretionary licensing services in a timely manner.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to approve the application for a Tobacco License.

BACKGROUND:

The following Tobacco Products Licensing Application has been submitted for Board approval:

Keith/Lois Nelson d/b/a At Your Convenience, Fayal Township, Tobacco Products License No. T124, *RENEWAL*.

The business is a gas and convenience store located on Minnesota Highway 53, in Fayal Township.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board approve the requested tobacco license.

Tobacco Products License Application (Fayal Township)

BY COMMISSIONER _____

RESOLVED, that pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 51, the application for license to sell tobacco products, at retail, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 59239, is approved and the County Auditor is authorized to issue the license as follows;

Keith/Lois Nelson d/b/a At Your Convenience, Fayal Township, Tobacco Products License No. T124, *RENEWAL*.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that if named license holder sells their licensed business, the County Board, at its discretion may, after an investigation, transfer the license to a new owner, but without pro-rated refund to the license holder.

2012 Proposed Legislative Agenda

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the County Board was presented with a draft of legislative priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session at its Committee of the Whole meeting on November 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Intergovernmental Relations Director John Ongaro discussed each item with commissioners and received input in finalizing the list of priorities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board approves the "2012 Legislative Session - St. Louis County Priorities" as found in County Board File No. _____, and directs its Intergovernmental Relations Director to work to achieve these outcomes during the 2012 Legislative Session.