

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

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Forsman called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Raukar moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Nelson requested that Administration provide additional information to Commissioners regarding item #4, Award of Bid: 2014 Bud Capping Application; the quote was significantly lower compared previous years' quotes. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of August 12, 2014
- Northern Habilitative Services Semi-Independent Living Services Contract [14-318]
- Approve Canister Site Compacted Solid Waste Haulage and Rescind County Board Resolution No. 14-351 [14-319]
- Special Sale to the Ely Economic Development Authority [14-320]
- Award of Bid: 2014 Bud Capping Application [14-321]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [14-322]
- Acceptance of County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant [14-323]

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## REGULAR AGENDA

### Health & Human Services Committee

Stauber/Raukar moved to authorize the County Auditor to advertise county wide for applicants for County Board appointments to the Heading Home St. Louis County Leadership Council, thus maintaining a current and active list of potential appointees [14-324]. The motion passed. (7-0)

### Public Works & Transportation Committee

Forsman/Raukar moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc. of Angora, MN, in the amount of \$157,752.03 for project CP 0422-190851, Bridge 69K16 located on CR 422, 6.2 miles south of Crane Lake, over Unnamed Stream in Portage Township [14-325]. The motion passed. (7-0)

## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Forsman moved that the St. Louis County Board, acting on behalf of unorganized townships for the purpose of road and bridge maintenance and construction, adopts and certifies a maximum levy of \$1,582,000 for the year 2015 to be levied only in such unorganized townships. After further discussion, the motion passed [14-326]. (7-0)

Raukar/Forsman moved to certify the Housing and Redevelopment Authority maximum property tax levy for 2015 in the amount of \$208,940 [14-327]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Raukar/Nelson moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to execute an agreement with Lenci Enterprises of Virginia, MN, in the amount of \$190,100 for the construction of the motor pool vehicle canopy structure at the Hibbing Annex/Courthouse [14-328]. The motion passed. (7-0)

A discussion was held regarding the Management and Compliance Report for year ended December 31, 2013. County Auditor Don Dicklich, Deputy Administrator Linnea Mirsch, Finance Director Cristen Christensen, and Internal Auditor Halene Wehseler discussed the report findings. Notable discussion points: The report was unmodified (no issues found) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) Statement No. 68 will affect the way pensions are reported in the future [14-329].

Commissioner Jewell exited the meeting at 12:33 p.m. and returned at 12:35 p.m.

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## **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Nelson discussed revisiting the white pine tree planting that took place in 2007 and 2008 at Brighton Beach near Duluth. Commissioner Nelson touched on parking issues at the Northland Building in Virginia and said that solutions to the problem are being discussed.

Administrator Gray said the Virginia City Council, Police Chief, and City Administrator have been engaged in resolving the parking issue.

Commissioner Stauber said he and Commissioner Jewell received a letter from the Duluth Boat Club President regarding Park Point property concerns. Commissioner Stauber commented on Commissioner Raukar's crayon tie (Commissioner Raukar wears the tie annually in celebration of the first day of school) and reminded everyone to use caution when driven because school is back in session.

Commissioner Nelson discussed a half-percent local sales tax increase that would be used to fund various road-related projects and equipment needs; Commissioner Nelson distributed a report detailing the proposed increase. Commissioner Dahlberg exited the meeting at 12:48 p.m. and returned at 12:51 p.m. Commissioner Boyle exited the meeting at 12:51 p.m. and returned at 12:52 p.m. Commissioner Nelson urged fellow Commissioners to seek feedback from their respective communities regarding the half-percent local sales tax increase.

Commissioner Nelson praised the public safety discussion that took place at the Floodwood Fair Building and expressed concerns regarding "excessive enforcement" comments and references to Jim Crow laws.

Commissioner Jewell agreed that the public safety discussion was a great discussion and said he brought up Jim Crow laws during the meeting because he thought it was worth reading. Commissioner Jewell said he was not questioning the work of the county attorney, corrections staff, or sheriff, but wanted to point out that many people see the world differently than Caucasians.

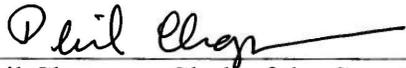
Administrator Gray said Minnesota Power will be holding a celebration at Whiteside Park in Ely, MN, on Friday to highlight improvements and investments in hometown hydroelectric facilities. As part of the celebration, Chair Mike Forsman will be honored as a hometown hero for his work in public service.

At 1:03 p.m., Raukar/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Mike Forsman, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board