

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 9, 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 10:22 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of September 2, 2014
- Design Services Agreement for Reconstruction of Bridge 388 on CSAH 59 (Ellsburg Township) [14-330]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [14-331]
- Fire Protection/First Responder Services Contracts for Unorganized Territories – 2015 [14-332]
- Establish Public Meetings on the 2015 Property Tax and Operating Budget (Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Virginia, MN and Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [14-333]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Allegations of Liquor Law Violation – The Auto Club Group/Canosia Township (Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 9:40 a.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [14-334]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Allegations of Liquor Law Violation – Alborn Rail Station/Alborn Township (Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 9:45 a.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [14-335]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Violation Allegations of St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28 – Ash-Ka-Nam Resort and Lodge/Unorganized Township 68-19 (Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 9:50 a.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [14-336]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Allegations of Liquor Law Violation – A. P. Liquor/Gnesen Township (Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 9:40 a.m., Mesabi Station, Eveleth, MN) [14-337]

REGULAR AGENDA

Health & Human Services Committee

Stauber/Raukar moved to authorize the Public Health & Human Services Department (PHHS) to execute purchase agreements and professional service contracts to implement a four-county regional Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) and that the County Board decreases the PHHS Technology Improvements fund balance by \$387,470 and increases the expenditure budget by

\$387,470. In addition, the County Board authorizes a 1.0 FTE Technical Services Analyst II position within the Information Technology (IT) Department, estimated to cost \$69,226, effective January 1, 2015. The County Board requests that PHHS work with county administration to incorporate ongoing software maintenance and IT support into the department's 2015 operating budget and authorizes PHHS to enter into contracts with Cook, Lake, and Carlton counties for this regional project including hosting the EDMS and allocating ongoing costs in a proportionate manner, subject to County Attorney review and approval. [14-338]. Public Health and Human Services Director Ann Busche and Information Technology Director Jeremy Craker discussed the proposal. Commissioner Boyle exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m. and returned at 10:51 a.m. Commissioner Jewell exited the meeting at 10:51 a.m. and returned at 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Dahlberg exited the meeting at 10:55 a.m. and returned at 10:56 a.m. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

Stauber/Jewell moved to authorize the Public Health & Human Services Department (PHHS) to execute purchase agreements and professional service contracts to implement an Internal Document Management System (IDMS) in the PHHS Department and that the County Board decreases the PHHS Technology Improvements fund balance by \$1,060,908 and increases the expenditure budget by \$1,060,908. In addition, the County Board authorizes a 1.0 FTE Technical Services Analyst II position within the IT Department, estimated to cost \$69,226, effective January 1, 2015. The County Board requests that PHHS work with county administration to incorporate ongoing software maintenance and IT support into the department's 2015 operating budget. [14-339]. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

A recess was taken from 11:12 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.

A presentation was held regarding the St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern. Bill Majewski, St. Louis River Alliance, introduced speakers and briefly touched on discussion topics. Diane Desotelle, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, reviewed the Area of Concern. Jim Sharrow, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, discussed dredged material and the separation process. Commissioner Nelson exited the meeting at 11:55 a.m. and returned at 12:06 p.m. Jeff Borling, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, talked about the role the Seaway Port Authority takes when developing contaminated sites. Ross Lovely, City of Duluth Economic Development, discussed re-development of the Western Corridor.

A recess was taken from 12:34 p.m. to 1:52 p.m.

Representatives from the Metropolitan Inter-County Association (Keith Carlson, John Tuma, Nancy Silesky, and Steve Novak) gave a presentation regarding the 2014 legislative session, impacts to St. Louis County, and discussed the 2015 session. Commissioner Jewell exited the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Raukar moved to certify the maximum property tax levy for 2015. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation and will be considered at the September 23, 2014 St. Louis County Board meeting [14-340]. (6-0, Jewell absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Boyle discussed an article in Sunday's Duluth News Tribune and the editorial response in today's paper regarding the death of a 14-month old Duluth girl.

Administrator Gray introduced Pat Schaffer, Division Head in the St. Louis County Attorney's Office of Public Health and Human Services. Ms. Schaffer discussed changes in sex-offender laws and impacts to St. Louis County.

Commissioner Dahlberg expressed concerns regarding happenings in the community and noted that the largest cost item in the City of Duluth's budget was the police department. Commissioner Dahlberg discussed the Highland Street construction project and said the expected completion date of the project is November 1, 2014. Commissioner Dahlberg said that there was a savings of approximately \$300,000 in taxpayer dollars due to project fill being transferred to the city.

Commissioner Nelson commented that over the past ten years St. Louis County has spent approximately sixty million dollars on improvements to streets and roads in Duluth. Commissioner Nelson discussed an award ceremony hosted by Minnesota Power and stated that Chair Forsman was presented with a distinguished service award. Commissioner Nelson said that former St. Louis County Commissioner Fink was recently appointed to the evaluation team for the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. The team consists of five members and is responsible for making recommendations on approximately 8.2 million dollars worth of projects.

Commissioner Stauber commented on a recent homemade video that was posted on the Duluth News Tribune website and stated that the video was not "kids being kids". Commissioner Stauber offered to arrange a police ride-along for any Commissioner who would like view happenings in the community from a law enforcement perspective.

Commissioner Nelson said that the relaying of the Virginia Courthouse cornerstone will take place tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and indicated that the Grand Marshall of the Masons of the State of Minnesota will conduct the ceremony.

At 3:19 p.m., Dahlberg/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)



Mike Forsman, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board