

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

Tuesday, October 14, 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 10:24 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of October 7, 2014
- State Contract Purchase of Tractor Backhoe Loader [14-394]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [14-395]

REGULAR AGENDA

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Dahlberg/Nelson moved to authorize the Planning and Community Development Department to develop a multi-year Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention plan and implementation guidelines, to be provided to the County Board for final approval and adoption; and further, the County Board approves the expenditure of a portion (not to exceed 10 percent) of the 2014 and 2015 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid for administrative costs to develop a multi-year plan and implementation guidelines. St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director Barb Hayden discussed the plan. [14-396] After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-1, Forsman)

Central Management & Inter-Governmental Committee

Jewell/Forsman moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to execute an agreement with Madden, Galanter and Hansen, LLP of Plymouth, MN, to act as the exclusive labor negotiator for St. Louis County, effective October 28, 2014 – December 31, 2016 at the hourly fee of \$135 for labor relations matters and at the hourly fee of \$140 for grievance and interest arbitrations. [14-397] Commissioner Stauber expressed concern because the agreement was made with a firm outside of St. Louis County and requested additional follow-up regarding the selection process. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Nelson handed out copies of St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 685, adopted on December 20, 2011, and discussed a recent meeting regarding the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Class I Air designation.

Commissioner Raukar questioned the reasoning for Commissioner Nelson distributing the above-mentioned Board Resolution. Commissioner Raukar said he feels commissioner discussion topics should be related to events or involvement in programs that could be beneficial for all commissioners and not political in nature. Commissioner Raukar discussed a press conference being held today at 2:00 p.m. in Duluth City Hall regarding the "Duluth Model" for addressing domestic violence.

Commissioner Stauber welcomed the Board to Hermantown and said that Hermantown is the fastest growing city north of the Twin Cities suburbs and the third largest city in St. Louis County. Commissioner Stauber discussed a ground breaking event for the Hermantown elementary school and talked about enforcing domestic abuse laws for the past twenty years.

Auditor Don Dicklich responded to a previously asked question by Commissioner Raukar during today's St. Louis County Board meeting regarding the estimated annualized tax gain due to the Park Point tax forfeited property sale. Auditor Dicklich said that the change in net capacity would be favorable, but negligible to all taxpayers.

Commissioner Dahlberg talked about a fund raising event for U.S. Marine Corporal Mark Litynski, a triple amputee survivor of the Afghanistan war. The event is being held on October 15th at the West Duluth American Legion and is sponsored by Commissioner Dahlberg, Brad Bennett, and Neil Atkins. Commissioner Dahlberg also discussed a Crow Wing County employee development program.

Commissioner Forsman apologized for comments previously made regarding his fellow Commissioners and stated that he felt the St. Louis County Board is one of the finest in the state.

Commissioner Nelson said the reason he distributed St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 685 is because he felt the Board may need to include additional language in the "Therefore, Be it Resolved" section if the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa receives Class I Air designation.

Administrator Gray discussed the three primary topics for discussion at the upcoming Board Workshop: blighted property discussion, tax forfeited land sale, and an update on the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Class I Air designation session.

At 11:24 a.m., Dahlberg/Raukar moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Mike Forsman, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board