

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Location: Mesabi Station, Eveleth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Forsman called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Raukar/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #4, Life Insurance Award of Proposal and without Item #5, Establish Public Hearing to Consider Implementation of the Greater Minnesota Transportation Sales and Use Tax. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of October 14, 2014
- Acquisition of Right of Way – CSAH 4 Sidewalk Project (Duluth) [14-403]
- Award of Bid – Lubricating Oils, Greases, Coolants and Fluids [14-404]
- 2014 Third Quarter Budget Changes [14-405]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Allegations of Liquor Law Violation – Crossroads Convenience and Liquor Store – Clinton Township (Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 9:40 a.m., City Council Chambers, Hibbing, MN) [14-408]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Imposing the Remainder of Penalties from a Liquor Law Violation Adjudicated on November 5, 2013 – Crossroads Convenience and Liquor Store – Clinton Township (Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 9:45 a.m., City Council Chambers, Hibbing, MN) [14-409]

REGULAR AGENDA

Central Management & Inter-Governmental Committee

Stauber/Jewell moved to accept the Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee's 2013 Annual Report and to ratify the Bylaws of the Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee. The motion was amended to add one (1) representative from the Bois Forte Band and one (1) representative from the Fond du Lac Band [14-410]. Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee Chair Pat Ives and St. Louis County Health and Human Services Director Ann Busche reviewed the report and provided a brief overview of the revised bylaws. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Raukar moved to award the contract for basic life insurance services to National Insurance Services and authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute contracts with National Insurance Services effective January 1, 2015; and further, authorize the appropriate county officials to terminate the current agreement for basic life insurance coverage through US Able Life effective January 1, 2015.

[14-406] Commissioner Stauber stepped out of the meeting from 11:16 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. St. Louis County Human Resources Director Jim Gottschald discussed cost savings. The motion passed. (7-0)

Stauber/Nelson moved to declare support for the proposed incorporation of the Town of Rice Lake as a city governmental jurisdiction under the laws of the State of Minnesota. [14-411] The resolution was amended to change the wording of the second WHEREAS to “The County of St. Louis envelops the “affected territory” currently known as Rice Lake Township, and has been given notice of the proposed incorporation pursuant to Minn. Stat. §414.02”. Commissioners Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar, and Boyle expressed interest in receiving additional information regarding the potential impacts of the proposed incorporation and asked that the motion be made without recommendation. Commissioner Nelson felt that moving forward without recommendation would be disrespectful to Township government and withdrew his support of the motion. Commissioner Nelson said he was not supportive of moving forward without recommendation. Commissioner Dalberg offered support of the amended motion. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (6-1, Nelson)

Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 11:52 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

Commissioner Boyle stepped out of the meeting from 11:53 a.m. to 11:54 a.m.

Environmental & Natural Resources Committee

A discussion was held regarding the Fond du Lac Band’s application for Class I Air Quality Redesignation [14-412]. After Commissioner discussion, the Board voted to direct St. Louis County Administration to prepare and finalize comments and questions for submission. Moved by Commissioner Stauber/Nelson; the motion passed. Commissioner Boyle abstained from the vote due to his working relationship with the tribe. (6-0-1, Boyle abstained)

Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 12:31 p.m. to 12:32 p.m.

Raukar/Nelson moved to authorize a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:50 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, 402 East 21st Street, Hibbing, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the proposed implementation of a 0.5% local option sales tax for transportation (Greater MN Transportation Sales and Use Tax) and a \$20 per motor vehicle excise tax. [14-407] After further discussion, the motion was amended to authorize a Special Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., in the County Board Room of the St. Louis County Courthouse, 100 North 5th Ave. West, Duluth, MN, and continuation of the public hearing on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:50 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, 402 East 21st Street, Hibbing, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the proposed implementation of a 0.5% local option sales tax for transportation (Greater MN Transportation Sales and Use Tax) and a \$20 per motor vehicle excise tax. A recess was taken from 12:53 p.m. to 1:08 p.m. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Raukar said there will be a meeting this Thursday at the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc. to discuss a letter expressing concerns with changes to the Volunteer Driver Program.

Commissioner Nelson discussed an October, 24, 2014 Duluth News Tribune article about an upscale housing project and the need for a TIF district in the City of Duluth.

Commissioner Boyle said he felt that open dialog with the City of Duluth regarding TIF districts is necessary and suggested that this be a discussion topic at a Board workshop.

Commissioner Dahlberg agreed that future dialog with the City of Duluth regarding TIF districts is necessary and talked about West Duluth housing issues.

Commissioner Jewell expressed support of future communication with the City of Duluth and discussed various City of Duluth housing issues.

Commissioner Nelson discussed a recent Camp Esquagama Advisory Board meeting and talked about the need to re-energize the Advisory Board. Commissioner Nelson suggested that next April's Board meeting could be held at Camp Esquagama.

At 1:36 p.m., Raukar/Dahlberg 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