

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

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

Present: Commissioners Boyle, Dahlberg, Rukavina, Nelson, Raukar, and Chair Stauber

Absent: Commissioner Jewell

Convened: Chair Stauber called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Boyle/Raukar moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #4, CY 2015 Out-of-Home and Day Treatment Contracts for Services to Families and Children [15-24]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

- Minutes of January 13, 2015
- CY 2015 Forensic Psychological Services [15-21]
- CY 2015 Purchase of Service Contract with LSS Bethany Crisis Nursery [15-22]
- CY 2015 Trauma Assessment and Family Treatment Program Contract with Human Development Center [15-23]
- Agreement with Bois Forte Band of Chippewa for Projects near Pelican Lake [15-25]
- Agreement with Rice Lake Township for Reconstruction of Rice Lake Dam Road [15-26]
- Acquisition of Right of Way for the Reconstruction of CSAH 9/4th Street (Duluth) [15-27]
- Acceptance of Quotes for Purchase of Bridge Materials – Bridge 607 on CR 453/White Road (Cherry Township) [15-28]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [15-29]
- Reallocation of Information Specialist I to Information Specialist II – Sheriff's Office [15-30]
- Establish Public Hearing to Consider Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License – Kabetogama Township (9:40 a.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2015, Chisholm City Hall, Chisholm, MN) [15-31]

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## REGULAR AGENDA

### Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Dahlberg moved to authorize the purchase of service agreements for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 as outlined in Board Letter 15-24. Chair Stauber noted that a correction was necessary due to a clerical error; the Mesabi Academy chemical dependency program as changed from \$235.52 to \$242.59. [15-24] After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

A recess was taken from 10:20 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

At 10:26 a.m., Kurt Deter, Minnesota Ditch Law Consultant, gave a presentation on the process of partial ditch abandonment and ditch repair; specifically relating to the following petitions: partial abandonment of St. Louis County Ditch #1, partial abandonment of St. Louis County Ditch #6, and repair of a short stretch of St. Louis County Ditch #1. Mr. Deter reviewed timeframes and said the three petitions will be submitted to the County Auditor.

At 11:00 a.m., Bob Manzoline, Director of the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the Mesabi Trail. Mr. Manzoline gave an overview of the history of the trail and discussed various factors involved in building the trail.

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Boyle said he met with Chris Eng, of the Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA), and Dave Montgomery, of the City of Duluth, regarding Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and said he hopes that open dialog will continue between St. Louis County and the City of Duluth. Commissioner Boyle discussed a pilot program (Senate File 141) that allows placement of mentally ill individuals in treatment programs instead of serving jail time.

Commissioner Raukar said the annual St. Louis County Bonspiel will be held on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> in Hibbing, MN.

Commissioner Rukavina touched on broadband connectivity issues St. Louis County residents are experiencing relating to the Lake County broadband installation project. Commissioner Rukavina expressed concern about the tax status of veteran's clubs and thought legislation action may be necessary to change the tax status to tax-exempt. Commissioner Rukavina also inquired as to why Mesabi Nugget is not inspected by the St. Louis County mine inspector. Commissioner Rukavina requested follow-up from St. Louis County Administration regarding the above mentioned discussion topics.

Chair Stauber said that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) would be a discussion topic at the St. Louis County Board workshop in March. Chair Stauber said that Lieutenant Brad Wick, of the Duluth Police Department, is receiving a National Medal of Valor from the United States Department of Justice for actions he took during a 2011 shootout.

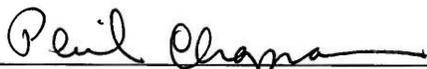
In reference to Commissioner Rukavina's comments regarding the tax status of veteran's clubs, Commissioner Nelson added that legislative action might be necessary to allow gaming in veteran's clubs. Commissioner Nelson discussed a proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district in Duluth and said that he will be bringing forward a resolution in opposition to the TIF proposal for Board consideration.

At 12:05 p.m., Raukar/Nelson moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)



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Pete Stauber, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board