

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

February 10, 2015

Location: Solway Town Hall, Saginaw, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Stauber called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Raukar moved to approve the consent agenda. Chair Stauber noted that there were replacement resolutions for Item #2, Access Easement across State Forfeited Land to Jeff Coombe (Vermilion Lake Township) [15-45] and for Item #3, Access Easement across State Forfeited Land to in the Plat of Linwood (Unorganized Township 56-14) [15-46]. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of February 3, 2015
- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program Grant Application [15-44]
- Access Easement across State Tax Forfeited Land to Jeff Coombe (Vermilion Lake Township) [15-45]
- Access Easement across State Tax Forfeited Land in the Plat of Linwood (Unorganized Township 56-14) [15-46]
- Withdrawal of State Tax Forfeited Land from Memorial Forest Status [15-47]
- Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation [15-48]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement of County Bridge 867 (Leiding Township) [15-49]
- Agreement with SRF Consulting Group for Design Services – Bridge 286 on CSAH 21 (Unorganized Township 61-13) [15-50]
- Agreement with SRF Consulting Group for Design Services – Bridge 883 on CR 442 (Lavell Township) [15-51]
- Purchase of Cherwell IT Service Management Software [15-52]
- Establish a Public Hearing to Consider Tax Abatement for Hermantown Market Place Project - Hermantown (9:40 a.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2015, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [15-53]
- Establish a Public Hearing to Consider Amending the 2015 Fee Schedule (9:40 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2015, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN) [15-58]

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At 10:54 a.m. representatives from the Arrowhead Regional Health and Wellness Center Steering Committee, the YMCA and the City of Hermantown spoke to the Board regarding the Arrowhead Regional Health and Wellness Center project.

A recess was taken from 11:56 a.m. to 12:14 p.m.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Jewell/Nelson moved to ratify the 2015-2016 Civil Service Basic contract and authorize the appropriate county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement [15-54]. St. Louis County Human Resources Director Jim Gottschald discussed the two-tier health plan. Assistant Human Resources Director Melissa Honkola discussed timeliness of the bargaining process. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Raukar moved to ratify the 2015-2016 Merit System Basic contract and authorize the appropriate county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement [15-55]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Minnesota Judicial Branch and St. Louis County. The St. Louis County Board authorizes a 2015 lease to the State of Minnesota Judicial Branch for 1,787 square feet of office space, at the 2015 rate of \$15.11 per square foot in the County Courthouse, Duluth, MN. [15-56]. Commissioner Stauber stepped out of the meeting from 12:37 p.m. to 12:39 p.m. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby supports special legislative authority to provide certain adjacent property owners the "first right of refusal" at appraised value for the sale of thirty-six (36) conforming state tax forfeited lots located in the Park Point neighborhood of Duluth, MN. The County Board affirms that the "first right of refusal" for the purchase of certain conforming tax forfeited lots in Park Point, as provided in County Board Resolution No. 14-597, cannot be offered to adjacent residents without special legislative authority from the 2015 Minnesota State Legislature, and that all thirty-six (36) parcels will also be sold at public auction, should such legislation fail to be enacted. [15-57]. Commissioner Dahlberg stepped out of the meeting from 12:56 p.m. to 12:57 p.m. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Nelson discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter investment activity and recognized the work of St. Louis County Auditor Don Dicklich and the Auditor's Department for maximizing interest earnings.

St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Linnea Mirsch said that St. Louis County subsidizes approximately \$1,180,000 to provide facilities for court purposes.

Chair Stauber asked St. Louis County Administration to include the Hermantown Market Place proposed tax abatement as a discussion item to the March 3, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioner Raukar said St. Louis County employees held their bonspiel on February 7, 2015 in Hibbing. Duluth defeated Hibbing, so next year's bonspiel will be held in Hibbing.

Commissioner Jewell commented on Commissioner Raukar representing St. Louis County at a highway-funding forum held yesterday by U.S Representative Rick Nolan.

St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin discussed a situation involving the death of a Native American and the requested release of the body to the Mille Lac Band of Ojibwe. Attorney Rubin stated that the St. Louis County Attorney's Office was asked to assist with the situation and the body was turned over to the family early Monday morning.

Commissioner Nelson commented on the diligence of the St. Louis County Attorney's Office.

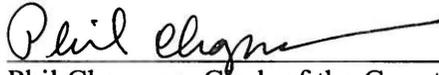
Commissioner Boyle said that future the job description for medical examiner should include ethnic and religious training.

At 1:53 p.m., Raukar/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Pete Stauber, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board