

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

September 22, 2015

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota  
Present: Commissioners Jewell, Boyle, Dahlberg, Rukavina, Nelson, and Chair Stauber  
Absent: Commissioner Raukar  
Convened: Chair Stauber called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Dahlberg moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

- Minutes of September 8, 2015
- CY 2016 Specialized CHIPS Psychological Evaluations [15-422]
- Final Plat Approval – Wolf West (Morse Township) [15-423]
- Class I Demolition Disposal Contract Adjustment [15-424]
- Class I Demolition Waste Haulage Contract Adjustments [15-425]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Dickson [15-426]
- Rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 15-403, Contract Cancellation [15-427]
- Transfer and Reallocation of Public Works vacant position to IT Business Analyst [15-428]

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Rukavina/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board recommends that the tax forfeited parcel described in Board Letter No. 15-431 be conveyed to the City of Mountain Iron pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a.(f); subject to the reservation to the state, in trust of the taxing districts, all mineral rights; and reservation to the state, in trust of the taxing districts, all iron-bearing tailings material currently owned by the state in trust of the taxing districts. [15-431]. Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 1:12 p.m. to 1:13 p.m. Gary Cerkvenik, of Britt, MN, and City of Mountain Iron Mayor Gary Skalko discussed the City of Mountain Iron's request to reacquire the tax-forfeited property for economic development purposes.

The Committee recessed at 1:39 p.m. and reconvened at 1:46 p.m. with all members present except Commissioner Raukar.

Commissioner discussion continued regarding the resolution to convey tax forfeited land to the City of Mountain Iron. Commissioner Nelson stepped out of the meeting from 1:53 p.m. to 1:54 p.m. Commissioner Jewell exited the meeting at 2:04 p.m. Commissioner Dahlberg stepped out of the meeting from 2:02 p.m. to 2:06 p.m. Commissioner Nelson distributed a map and email relating to the East Mountain Iron Tailings Basin's mineral rights. After further Commissioner discussion, the Resolved Further section of the resolution was amended to "RESOLVE FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board recommends that the tax forfeited parcel described in Board Letter No. 15-431 be conveyed to the City of Mountain Iron pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a.(f); subject to the

explicit reservation to the state, in trust for the taxing districts, all surface and subsurface mineral rights; specifically including but not limited to: all iron-bearing tailings material currently owned by the state in trust for the taxing districts with reservation of access to the mineral rights.” The amended motion passed without recommendation. (5-0, Jewell, Raukar absent)

Boyle/Stauber moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors, LLC, of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$1,377,685.25 for project CP 0356-9546 TST Bridge 69591, Approach Grading and Bridge 69591 (County Bridge 637) located on CR 356 (Range Line Road) between CR 491 (Gustafson Road) and CR 923 (Leander Road) over Sturgeon River, length 0.05 miles, Sturgeon Township [15-429]. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Raukar absent)

Rukavina/Stauber moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors, LLC, of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$588,921.20 for project CP 0668-187005 TST Bridge 69A32, Approach Grading and Bridge 69A32 (County Bridge 616) located on CR 668 (Sherwood Anderson Road) between CR 791 (Dark Lake Road) and CR 461 (Osborn Road) over Dark River, length 0.05 miles, Great Scott Township. [15-429]. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Raukar absent)

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### COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Nelson distributed bags of rye wheat to Board and St. Louis County staff members. Commissioner Nelson grew the rye on his farm and said that he distributed the bags to highlight farmers and agriculture in St. Louis County. Commissioner Nelson suggested that a rye bread baking contest could be held at a future Board meeting.

St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin distributed and discussed a letter from Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson regarding tort liability insurance limits.

At 2:43 p.m., Boyle/Nelson moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0, Jewell, Raukar absent)



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Pete Stauber, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board