



## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 9:30 A.M.**

**Duluth Town Hall  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN**

*DIRECTIONS: By way of MN Highway 61 (Expressway), Homestead Road is 17 miles north of downtown Duluth and 10 miles south of Two Harbors. The Duluth Town Hall is approximately 1.5 miles north of MN Highway 61 on Homestead Road.*

**PETE STAUBER, Chair  
Fifth District**

**FRANK JEWELL  
First District**

**PATRICK BOYLE  
Second District**

**CHRIS DAHLBERG  
Third District**

**TOM RUKAVINA  
Fourth District**

**KEITH NELSON  
Sixth District**

**STEVE RAUKAR, Vice-Chair  
Seventh District**

County Auditor  
Donald Dicklich

County Administrator  
Kevin Gray

County Attorney  
Mark Rubin

Clerk of the Board  
Phil Chapman

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. The Board encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda, you will be allowed to address the Board when a motion is on the floor. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Standing Rules of the County Board, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda.

When addressing the Board, please sign in at the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please address the Board as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Commissioners or staff are not permitted. The St. Louis County Board promotes adherence to civility in conducting the business of the County. Civility will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issue before the Board. Tools of civility include: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, do not gossip, show respect, be agreeable, apologize, give constructive criticism and take responsibility [County Board Resolution No. 560, adopted on September 9, 2003]. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes.

**\*\*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify Property Management 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218)725-5085.\*\***

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Auditor's Office, 100 North 5th Avenue West - Room No. 214, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Agenda is also available on our website at <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/BoardofCommissioners.aspx>

**AGENDA**  
**St. Louis County Board**  
**October 6, 2015**  
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9:30 A.M. Moment of Silence  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

AT THIS TIME CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. [Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.]

FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE BOARD AGENDA OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA, CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT THE TIME A MOTION IS ON THE FLOOR.

9:40 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING, pursuant to Resolution No. 15-583, adopted September 22, 2015, to consider the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC d/b/a Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC, Portage Township. **{15-432}**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be enacted by one unanimous motion. If a commissioner requests, or a citizen wishes to speak on an item on the consent agenda, it will be removed and handled separately.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Environment & Natural Resources Committee – Commissioner Rukavina, Chair**

1. Conveyance of tax forfeited land to the City of Mountain Iron and rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386. **{15-431} [Without recommendation.]**

**ADJOURNED:**



## Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License (Portage Township)

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC d/b/a Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC, Portage Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota, has applied for an off-sale intoxicating liquor license; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 340A.405, Subd. 2(d), requires that a public hearing be held prior to the issuance of an off-sale intoxicating liquor license; and

WHEREAS, A public hearing was held on October 6, 2015, at 9:40 a.m., in the Duluth Town Hall, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of considering the off-sale intoxicating liquor license; and

WHEREAS, With regard to the application for said license, Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC has complied in all respects with the requirements of Minnesota Law and St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28; and

WHEREAS, The Liquor Licensing Committee of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners has considered the nature of the business to be conducted and the propriety of the location and has recommended approval of the application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License shall be issued to Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC d/b/a Myrtle Lake Resort, LLC, Portage Township, located in Area 3, and in accordance with the St. Louis County Fee Schedule, the annual fee is \$150;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That said liquor license shall be effective through June 30, 2016;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That said license is approved contingent upon payment of real estate taxes when due;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if named license holder sells the licensed place of business, the County Board may at its discretion, after an investigation, transfer the license to a new owner but without pro-rated refund of license fee to the license holder.

# **BOARD LETTER NO. 15 - 431**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE NO. 1**

### **OCTOBER 6, 2015 BOARD AGENDA NO. 1**

**DATE:** September 22, 2015                      **RE:** Conveyance of Tax Forfeited  
Land to the City of Mountain  
Iron and Rescind St. Louis  
County Board Resolution No.  
12-386

**FROM:** Kevin Z. Gray  
County Administrator

Mark Weber, Director  
Land and Minerals

#### **RELATED DEPARTMENTAL GOAL:**

Financial return to the county and taxing districts.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to approve the City of Mountain Iron's request to reacquire tax forfeited property for economic development purposes, and to rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386, adopted on June 26, 2012.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2005, the City of Mountain Iron conveyed a parcel of land pursuant to a development agreement which contained a right of reverter. The purchaser defaulted on the development agreement, and the land forfeited before the city exercised its right of reverter. In 2012, the County Board denied a request from Mountain Iron to reacquire the property pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a.(f), because it was determined to be in the public's best interest to retain the land for minerals management.

The City of Mountain Iron would like to regain ownership of the land for economic development purposes, and has provided St. Louis County with a certified resolution stating that the city is entitled to the subject parcel under the development agreement. Mountain Iron is currently working with a company to locate a large facility on the site that will be investing \$70 million in new plant, equipment and working capital, and will be a significant consumer of wood fiber. Discussions are at a critical stage and time is of the essence relating to this development.

Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a.(f) states that the Commissioner of Revenue shall convey a parcel of non-conservation tax forfeited land by quit claim deed upon favorable recommendation of the county board if the governmental subdivision has certified that it was entitled to the parcel under a written development agreement.

The 52 acre parcel overlays the Biwabik Iron Formation, and contains iron and magnetic taconite resources. The surface of this parcel contains the Mountain Iron East Fine Tailings Basin where the state and county have ownership interests. It is likely that any mineral rights also forfeited with the surface in 2011. It is believed that a conveyance of the parcel by quitclaim deed will reserve the mineral rights for the state, in trust of the taxing districts. It is likely that the tailings in the Mountain Iron East Fine Tailings Basin also forfeited with the surface in 2011. If this is the case, conveyance of the surface will include ownership of the iron-bearing tailings.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386, adopted on June 26, 2012, be rescinded, and that the City of Mountain Iron's request to reacquire tax forfeited property be approved, 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.

**Conveyance of Tax Forfeited Land to the City of Mountain Iron and  
Rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The following described land forfeited to the State of Minnesota on November 31, 2011, for nonpayment of taxes:

PART OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 LYING ELY OF DM&IR RR RT OF WAY & PART OF NE1/4 OF SW1/4 LYING WLY OF CO RD 102 RT OF WAY & N OF N LINE OF EXISTING RAILROAD WACOOTAH SPUR RT OF WAY & PART OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4 LYING ELY OF DM&IR RR RT OF WAY & NLY OF N LINE OF EXISTING RAILROAD WACOOTAH SPUR RT OF WAY EX HWY RT OF WAY EX THAT PART OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 & SW1/4 OF SW1/4 COMM AT NE COR OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 THENCE S 00 DEG 51' 26" W ASSIGNED BEARING ALONG E LINE 853.51 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE CONT S 00 DEG 51' 26" W ALONG E LINE 97.65 FT THENCE S 65 DEG 07' 39" W 251.23 FT THENCE S 53 DEG 47' 55" W 221.29 FT THENCE S 28 DEG 46' 58" W 146.92 FT TO N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4 THENCE CONT S 28 DEG 46' 58" W 47.45 FT THENCE S 18 DEG 57' 17" W 88.91 FT THENCE S 33 DEG 08' 30" W 121.43 FT THENCE S 43 DEG 34' 04" W 62.81 FT THENCE N 85 DEG 26' 13" W 86.86 FT THENCE N 59 DEG 24' 12" W 85.11 FT THENCE N 34 DEG 18' 34" W 74.90 FT THENCE N 04 DEG 15' 24" W 174.64 FT TO N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4 THENCE CONT N 04 DEG 15' 24" W 203.12 FT THENCE N 20 DEG 40' 31" W 77.58 FT THENCE N 42 DEG 54' 35" W 165.96 FT THENCE N 37 DEG 39' 35" W 226.53 FT THENCE S 90 DEG 00' 00" E 1054.39 FT THENCE S 36 DEG 45' 35" E 158.07 FT TO PT OF BEG & EX ALL THAT PART OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 & SW1/4 OF SW1/4 COMM AT NE COR THENCE S 00 DEG 51' 26" W ASSIGNED BEARING ALONG E LINE OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 726.86 FT THENCE W 1150.88 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE CONT W 29.60 FT THENCE S 14 DEG 30' 16" E 342.64 FT THENCE SELY ALONG A TANGENTIAL CURVE 697.23 FT RADIUS OF 2120.96 FT AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 18 DEG 50' 06" THENCE S 33 DEG 20' 22" E TANGENT TO SAID CURVE 160.16 FT THENCE N 00 DEG 47' 37" W 244.63 FT THENCE N 59 DEG 24' 12" W 85.11 FT THENCE N 34 DEG 18' 34" W 74.90 FT THENCE N 04 DEG 15' 24" W 174.64 FT TO N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4 THENCE CONT N 04 DEG 15' 24" W 203.12 FT THENCE N 20 DEG 40' 31" W 77.58 FT THENCE N 42 DEG 54' 35" W 165.96 FT THENCE N 37 DEG 39' 35" W 226.53 FT TO PT OF BEG, SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 58 NORTH, RANGE 18 WEST; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386, adopted on June 26, 2012, resolved that it is in the public's best interest to retain the tax forfeited parcel describe above for minerals management, and that any future application for repurchase shall be denied; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mountain Iron has certified to the County Board that prior to forfeiture it was entitled to the property under a written development agreement, and that it desires to reacquire the property for economic development purposes pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a.(f);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 12-386, adopted on June 26, 2012, is rescinded;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board recommends that the non-conservation tax forfeited parcel described above 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 sub-surface minerals and mineral rights, specifically including but not limited to: all surface and sub-surface iron-bearing tailings material currently owned by the state in trust for the taxing districts with reservation of access to the mineral rights.



*Resolution*  
of the  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
*St. Louis County, Minnesota*  
Adopted on: June 26, 2012 Resolution No. 12-386  
Offered by Commissioner: Sweeney

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**Retention of State Tax Forfeited Land for Minerals Management**

WHEREAS, the following described land forfeited to the State of Minnesota on November 30, 2011, for nonpayment of taxes:

PART OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LYING ELY OF DM&IR RR RT OF WAY & PART OF NE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LYING WLY OF CO RD 102 RT OF WAY & N OF N LINE OF EXISTING RAILROAD WACOOTAH SPUR RT OF WAY & PART OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LYING ELY OF DM&IR RR RT OF WAY & NLY OF N LINE OF EXISTING RAILROAD WACOOTAH SPUR RT OF WAY EX HWY RT OF WAY EX THAT PART OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 COMM AT NE COR OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 THENCE S 00° 51' 26" W ASSIGNED BEARING ALONG E LINE 853.51 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE CONT S 00° 51' 26" W ALONG E LINE 97.65 FT THENCE S 65° 07' 39" W 251.23 FT THENCE S 53° 47' 55" W 221.29 FT THENCE S 28° 46' 58" W 146.92 FT TO N LINE OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 THENCE CONT S 28° 46' 58" W 47.45 FT THENCE S 18° 57' 17" W 88.91 FT THENCE S 33° 08' 30" W 121.43 FT THENCE S 43° 34' 04" W 62.81 FT THENCE N 85° 26' 13" W 86.86 FT THENCE N 59° 24' 12" W 85.11 FT THENCE N 34° 18' 34" W 74.90 FT THENCE N 04° 15' 24" W 174.64 FT TO N LINE OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 THENCE CONT N 04° 15' 24" W 203.12 FT THENCE N 20° 40' 31" W 77.58 FT THENCE N 42° 54' 35" W 165.96 FT THENCE N 37° 39' 35" W 226.53 FT THENCE S 90° 00' 00" E 1054.39 FT THENCE S 36° 45' 35" E 158.07 FT TO PT OF BEG & EX ALL THAT PART OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 COMM AT NE COR THENCE S 00° 51' 26" W ASSIGNED BEARING ALONG E LINE OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 726.86 FT THENCE W 1150.88 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE CONT W 29.60 FT THENCE S 14° 30' 16" E 342.64 FT THENCE SELY ALONG A TANGENTIAL CURVE 697.23 FT RADIUS OF 2120.96 FT AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 18° 50' 06" THENCE S 33° 20' 22" E TANGENT TO SAID CURVE 160.16 FT THENCE N 00° 47' 37" W 244.63 FT THENCE N 59° 24' 12" W 85.11 FT THENCE N 34° 18' 34" W 74.90 FT THENCE N 04° 15' 24" W 174.64 FT TO N LINE OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 THENCE CONT N 04° 15' 24" W 203.12 FT THENCE N 20° 40' 31" W 77.58 FT THENCE N 42° 54' 35" W 165.96 FT THENCE N 37° 39' 35" W 226.53 FT TO PT OF BEG, SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 58 NORTH, RANGE 18 WEST.

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain Iron has certified to the County Board that prior to forfeiture it was entitled to the property under a written development agreement, and that it desires to reacquire the property pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a(f); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals recommends against the conveyance or repurchase of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board has determined that it is in the public's best interest to retain the tax forfeited parcel described above for minerals management, and that any future application for repurchase shall be denied.

Commissioner Sweeney moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:  
Yeas – Commissioners Jewell, O'Neil, Dahlberg, Forsman, Sweeney, Raukar, and Chair Nelson – 7  
Nays – None

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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of County Auditor, ss.  
County of St. Louis

I, DONALD DICKLICH, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 2012, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D., 2012.

DONALD DICKLICH, COUNTY AUDITOR

By

Deputy Auditor/Clerk of the County Board



# CITY OF MOUNTAIN IRON

"TACONITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

PHONE: 218-748-7570 • FAX: 218-748-7573 • [www.mtniron.com](http://www.mtniron.com)  
8586 ENTERPRISE DRIVE SOUTH • MOUNTAIN IRON, MN • 55768-8260

September 21, 2015

Saint Louis County Board

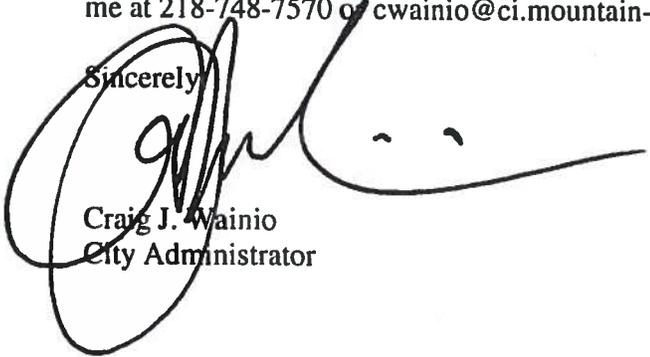
Dear Commissioners:

The City of Mountain Iron respectfully requests that the County Board reconsider Resolution 12-386 adopted on June 26, 2012 and convey the subject property to the City of Mountain Iron. Mountain Iron is currently working with a large biochemical facility to possibly locate on the site and will be a significant customer for raw wood. Time is of the essence relating to this development; please consider this request at your earliest convenience.

We would like to thank the County for meeting with the City on this matter and apologize for the timing of communications concerning this matter.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 218-748-7570 or [cwainio@ci.mountain-iron.mn.us](mailto:cwainio@ci.mountain-iron.mn.us).

Sincerely,

  
Craig J. Wainio  
City Administrator



# CITY OF MOUNTAIN IRON

"TACONITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

PHONE 218-748-7570 • FAX 218-748-7573 • www.mtniron.com  
8586 ENTERPRISE DRIVE SOUTH • MOUNTAIN IRON, MN • 55768-8260

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 08-12

### CERTIFYING ITS ENTITLEMENT TO LAND PURSUANT TO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNTAIN IRON,  
MINNESOTA, that:

#### Section I. Recitals.

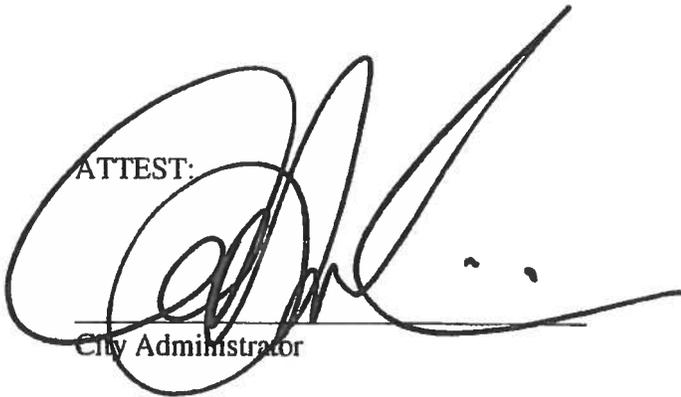
- 1.01 The City of Mountain Iron (the "City") entered into a Development Agreement dated August 17, 2005, as amended, a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment A (the "Development Agreement"), by and among the City, the Mt. Iron Economic Development Authority, a public body, corporate and politic, and a political subdivision, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota (the "Authority"), and Mountain Timber Properties, LLC, a limited liability company duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota (the "Developer").
- 1.02 Pursuant to the terms of the Development Agreement the Developer agreed to purchase the Development Property, and construct the Minimum Improvements on the Development Property, as both terms are defined in the Development Agreement.
- 1.03 The Development Agreement and the deed transferring the Development Property to the Developer, a copy of which attached hereto as Attachment B, contain a right of reverter stating that ownership of the Development Property reverts back to the City! Authority in the event the Developer does not construct the Minimum Improvements (the "Right of Reverter").
- 1.04 With the permission of the City and the Authority, in the Developer transferred a portion of the Development Property to another entity. The portion of the Development Property remaining after said transfer is legally described on Attachment C attached hereto and is referred to herein as the "Tax-Forfeit Property."
- 1.05 The Minimum Improvements have not been constructed on the Tax-Forfeit Property and Developer is in default of the Development Agreement.
- 1.06 Developer failed to pay the property taxes on the Tax-Forfeit Property, it has gone tax-forfeit, and is now owned by the State of Minnesota.
- 1.07 Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 282.01 Subdivision 1a.(t), the commissioner of revenue shall convey a parcel of non-conservation tax-forfeited land to a local

government subdivision upon the favorable recommendation of the county board if the governmental subdivision has certified to the board that prior to forfeiture the subdivision was entitled to the parcel under a written development agreement, but the conveyance failed to occur prior to forfeiture.

Section 2. Certification to the Board of Commissioners for St. Louis County. The Council hereby certifies to the Board of Commissioners for St. Louis County that the City is entitled to the Tax-Forfeit Property pursuant to the Development Agreement and the Deed, but the conveyance failed to occur prior to forfeiture.

**DULY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2012.**

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Gary Skalko



# St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. This drawing is a compilation of recorded information and data located in various city, county, state and federal offices. St. Louis County is not responsible for any incorrectness herein.

**St. Louis County**

- Tax Forfeit Parcels
- Tailings Basin
- Proposed Project Site