

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 27, 2015

Location: Grand Lake Town Hall, Twig, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Raukar

Convened: Chair Stauber called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda without item #4, Special Sale to the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority [15-469]. Chair Stauber noted that item #2, CY 2016 Specialized CHIPS Psychological Evaluations [15-467] was removed from the consent agenda because the resolution was previously adopted by the Board on October 6, 2015. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

- Minutes of October 13, 2015
- Advertising for Applications to the Heading Home St. Louis County Leadership Council [15-466]
- Special Sale to Bradford Saxhaug [15-468]
- Revocation of 7th Avenue and Ash Street (CR 832) and Reversion to the City of Floodwood [15-470]
- Acquisition of Right of Way by Condemnation Proceedings – Replacement of County Bridge 261 (Toivola Township) [15-471]
- Transfer Abandoned Portion of CSAH 23 (Unorganized Township 64-21) to Potlatch [15-472]
- Agreement with LHB for Construction Administration and Inspection Services – Bridge 616 (Great Scott Township) [15-473]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [15-474]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Jewell moved to establish a hearing on a land exchange involving county fee owned land on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 beginning at 9:40 a.m. at the St. Louis County Courthouse, County Board Room, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen input on a proposed exchange of county fee owned land [15-475]. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Jewell moved to accept the 2016 allocation of the Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) in the amount of \$194,136 into Fund 230, Agency 232008, Revenue Object 530660; that a vacant 0.6 FTE Social Service Specialist position (0934-003) is eliminated; and that PHHS and County Administration are directed to adjust the PHHS 2016 budget to use the \$31,269 which has been budgeted and funded within the budget to continue staffing the PSOP at the 3.0 FTE Social Worker level [15-476]. St. Louis County Health & Human Services Director Ann Busche discussed the Parent Support Outreach program. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Boyle/Stauber moved to authorize the transfer of up to \$311,000 from the Prevention and Innovation Fund Balance Account (Fund 230, Object 311405) to be used to support St. Louis County foster families through the proposed incentives, with rigorous cost effectiveness reporting and evaluation as proposed; and that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the implementation of the Start-Up Fee program, the Supplemental Emergency Rate, the Relative Foster Family Voucher (through an expansion in the use of the existing grocery store voucher program) and the Foster/Respite Care Referral program [15-477]. St. Louis County Health & Human Services Director Ann Busche discussed challenges relating to the recruitment of foster families and providing respite services. Director Busche discussed the possibility of foster families attending Camp Esquagama as a way of offering respite services; based on the camp fees and number of kids, the estimated cost would be \$20,000.00. Boyle/Stauber moved to amend the amount allocated to Respite Care Referrals from “up to \$10,000” to “up to \$30,000.” After further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Environmental & Natural Resources Committee

Rukavina/Stauber moved to that the St. Louis County Board has reviewed the request to appeal the map designation for prescriptive easement No. RD-ID-15970, and has decided to retain prescriptive easement No. RD-ID-15970 to ensure the road will be available to the county’s land managers and open for public travel in perpetuity. [15-478]. The motion passed without recommendation for consideration at the November 10, 2015 Board meeting. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Nelson/Stauber moved that the St. Louis County Board has reviewed the requests to appeal the map designation for prescriptive easement No. RD-ID-20391, and has decided to retain prescriptive easement No. RD-ID-20391 to ensure the road will be available to the county’s land managers and open for public travel in perpetuity. [15-479]. The motion passed without recommendation for consideration at the November 10, 2015 Board meeting. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Rukavina/Jewell moved to approve the sale of state tax forfeited land, as described in Board Letter 15-469, to the Duluth HRA for \$40,000 plus the following fees: 3% assurance fee of \$1,200, deed fee of \$25, deed tax of \$132, recording fee of \$46, for a total of \$41,403 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund). The St. Louis County Auditor shall offer for sale at public auction the state tax forfeited land described here if the Duluth HRA does not purchase the land by March 31, 2016. The motion passed without recommendation for consideration at the November 10, 2015 Board meeting. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Stauber/Nelson moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., of Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$3,453,633.57 for combined project: A.) CP 0004-216101, SAP 69-604-077(Low) TST, CSAH 4 (Vermilion Trail) from CR 274 (Thompson Lake Road) to 1,000' South of Marshall Truck Trail, length 11.24 miles; and B.) CP 0274-273921 Tied, CR 274 (Thompson Lake Road) from CSAH 4 (Vermilion Trail) to TR 2616 (Tracy Road), length 0.87 miles, Gnesen and Unorganized Township 54-14 [15-480]. Commissioner Rukavina stepped out of the meeting from 1:21 p.m. to 1:23 p.m. The motion passed. (5-0, Rukavina, Raukar absent)

Rukavina/Jewell moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., of Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$352,800.00 for project CP 0488-190852 TST, Bridge 69K38, location: CR 488 between TH 53 and CR 540 over Flint Creek, length 0.114 miles, Field Township [15-480]. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Commissioner Jewell said that the County Attorney and County Administrator have requested that the resolution to reallocate an Assistant County Attorney position to an Assistant County Attorney-Division Head Classification be pulled from the agenda. [15-483]. Item removed from agenda.

Dahlberg/Jewell moved to reappoint Diana Werschay, Roger Skraba and Raymond Svatos to the St. Louis County Planning Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2018. The County Auditor is authorized to advertise and accept applications until December 15, 2015 for one vacant position on the St. Louis County Planning Commission for a term ending December 31, 2018. [15-481]. Chair Stauber stepped out of the meeting from 1:25 p.m. to 1:26 p.m. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)

Nelson/Dahlberg moved to reappoint Sonya Pineo, David Pollock, Steven Filipovich, and Tom Coombe to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment with terms expiring December 31, 2018. The County Auditor is authorized to advertise and accept applications until December 15, 2015 for one vacant position on the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment with one term ending December 31, 2016. [15-482]. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Raukar absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson provided the Committee with a handout outlining discussion points from the October 26, 2015, Arrowhead Regional Corrections Board Retreat and talked about current cost allocation challenges relating to St. Louis County.

County Auditor Don Dicklich discussed the impact to St. Louis County resulting from the current Arrowhead Regional Corrections funding formula.

Commissioner Nelson stated that P&H Mine Pro - Joy Global has donated \$102,500 to the Virginia Community Foundation. Commissioner Nelson handed out a copy of a news article that highlighted Joy Global's most recent donation.

Commissioner Dahlberg stepped out of the meeting from 1:38 p.m. to 1:41 p.m.

Commissioner Nelson talked about the importance of agriculture in St. Louis County and highlighted Takala Farm. Commissioner Nelson stated that the farm employs 14 people and produces 10 million 8-ounce glasses of milk annually.

Commissioner Nelson said that constituents in the area he represents will not be purchasing products from Fitger's Brewhouse, Vikre Distillery, Bent Paddle Brewing, Thirsty Pagan Brewing, and the Duluth Grill due to their anti-mining stance.

Commissioner Rukavina talked about the importance of mining to St. Louis County and how mining affects population growth.

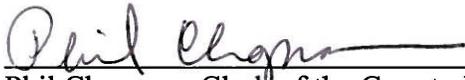
Chair Stauber discussed a recent fire at an assisted living facility located in Hermantown and commended the effort and cooperation between the responding agencies. Chair Stauber told Administrator Gray that the Board was thinking of him due to the recent passing of his father.

Administrator Gray discussed the passing of his father and thanked the Board for their continued support.

At 1:55 p.m., Boyle/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Raukar absent)



Pete Stauber, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board