

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

March 1, 2016

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioners Dahlberg and Nelson

Convened: Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 11:56 a.m.

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Commissioner Dahlberg entered the meeting at 11:57 a.m. Commissioner Nelson entered the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Bob Manzoline and Frank Loetterle gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the Northern Lights Express (NLX) Passenger Rail Project. The proposed high-speed intercity passenger rail project will provide four round trips a day between Duluth and Minneapolis with stops in Duluth, Superior, Hinckley, Cambridge, Coon Rapids, and Minneapolis. The average speed will be 60 mph. If funding is received, the project could be operational by 2020.

At 12:53 p.m., the Committee recessed. At 2:23 p.m., the Committee re-convened with all members present.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Rukavina moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #6, Agreement with Northeast Technical Services for Geotechnical Services [16-95]; Item #8, Cooperative Agreement with City of Duluth for Intersection Improvements – CSAH 34/Kenwood Avenue and West Arrowhead Road [16-97]; Item #10, Designating Unorganized Precinct 24 as a Mail Ballot Precinct [16-99]. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of February 16, 2016
- Extension of Addendum to the Procurement Card Policies and Procedures [16-90]
- Award of Bid: Broadcast Application of Herbicides [16-91]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Showalter, Gustafson, Martinson, Ilse, Armstrong [16-92]
- Amend Zoning Ordinance No. 62, Zoning Map (Fayal Township) [16-93]
- Amendment to the 2014 and 2015 Natural Resources Block Grant from Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources [16-94]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Resurface of CSAH 32/Arrowhead Road (Duluth and Hermantown) [16-96]
- Rescind No Parking Zone on CSAH 2/West Tischer Road and CSAH 34/Howard Gnesen Road (City of Rice Lake) [16-98]

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## **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

Boyle/Nelson moved to approve the proposed 2016 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid allocations; that the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute contracts negotiated by the Planning and Community Development Director and a representative of the County Attorney in order to implement the aid program; and that the St. Louis County Board will continue this project application process for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid for future years provided the State of Minnesota continues funding the aid program. [16-101]. St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Director Barb Hayden gave the Committee an overview the allocation process. The following representatives spoke regarding projects: Ward Nelson of the Burntside Lake Association, Pat Conzemius of Wildlife Forever, Doug Grann of Wildlife Forever, and Jeff Lovegren of the Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Dahlberg/Boyle moved to add parcel 010-0930-00270, also known as Pastoret Terrace, to a list of tax-forfeited lands to be filed with the County Auditor to be withheld from repurchase for one year because the County Board is of the opinion that the property may be acquired by a municipal subdivision for redevelopment purposes. [16-102]. City of Duluth Planning Director Keith Hamre provided the Committee a brief history of the parcel. Duluth Area Chamber President Dave Ross discussed safety and community issues relating to the property. Mike Conlan, representative for Pastoret Terrace, discussed plans for the site and touched on various funding issues. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Dahlberg/Nelson moved to add parcel 010-4510-00490 to a list of tax-forfeited lands to be filed with the County Auditor to be withheld from repurchase for one year because the County Board is of the opinion that the property may be acquired by the City of Duluth for reinvestment purposes. [16-103]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

At 3:50 p.m., the Committee recessed. At 4:02 p.m., the Committee re-convened with all members present except Commissioners Jewell and Dahlberg.

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## **Health & Human Services Committee**

Boyle/Stauber moved to authorize the removal of the State of Minnesota representative as a voting Council member on the Leadership Council, to instead serve the Council in an advisory, ex-officio capacity; that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the creation of a new position in a category to represent Persons of Color; and that the County Board authorizes the County Auditor to advertise county wide for the newly created position representing Persons of Color to serve on the Heading Home St. Louis County Leadership Council by notifying county newspapers and posting the application on the county's website. [16-100]. Commissioner Jewell entered the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Rukavina stepped out of the meeting from 4:04 p.m. to 4:06 p.m. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

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## **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Rukavina/Stauber moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, with LHB Corporation of Duluth, MN, for construction administration and inspection services using Transportation Sales Tax (TST) funds, for the

following St. Louis County bridge projects: Bridges Numbered 197 (CP 0196-243856), 261 (CP 0185-243860), 305 (CP 0936-213059), 344 (CP 8121-247641/SAP 069-599-040), 355 (CP 0597-243861), 361 (CP 0024-229056/SAP 069-624-020), 367 (CP 0116-243925/SAP 069-716-011), 369 (CP 0779-243926), 650 (CP 0916-243933), 656 (CP 0488-190852), 705 (CP 0540-243937), 783 (CP 0611-213067) and 867 (CP 0180-21306). The total cost of these services is \$1,092,162 [16-104]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Rukavina/Raukar moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, with Northeast Technical Services of Virginia, MN, for geotechnical investigations/evaluations, asbestos testing, and material testing on various county projects from April 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The total cost of these services is not to exceed \$100,000. [16-95]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Boyle/Stauber moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Duluth, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, to replace the traffic signal at the intersection of County State Aid Highway 34/Kenwood Avenue and complete other improvements near this intersection. [16-97]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

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### **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Stauber moved to authorize the purchase of 2016 fleet vehicles from the recommended vendors in accordance with the bid specifications, including State Sales Tax for a total amount of \$1,111,299.51. [16-105]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Nelson/Raukar moved to authorize the appropriate county officials enter into a professional services contract with LHB, Inc. of Duluth, MN, in an amount not to exceed \$1,234,817 for architect and engineering design services for the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) and Range Mental Health Center (RMHC) facility construction project in Virginia, MN. [16-106]. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

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

Raukar/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board confirms and verifies the authority of St. Louis County Attorney Mark S. Rubin to execute the Master Subscriber Agreement for the Minnesota Government Access system on behalf of the St. Louis County Attorney's Office; and that the St. Louis County Board confirms and verifies that St. Louis County Attorney Mark S. Rubin has the authority to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the Minnesota Judicial Branch to maintain the county's connection to the Minnesota Government Access system and tools offered by the state. [16-107]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Jewell/Nelson move to designate Unorganized Precinct 24 as a mail ballot precinct for all future state and county elections pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 204B.45. [16-99]. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Rukavina/Nelson moved to direct the Board Chair to write a letter in support of the Minnesota Broadband Vision. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

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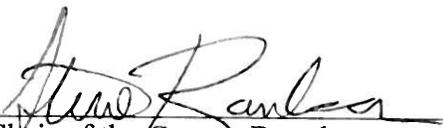
### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Rukavina exited the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Commissioner Nelson indicated that St. Louis County employees are no longer being housed in the Arvig Building. Commissioner Nelson mentioned that Arrowhead Regional Corrections have changed their method of calculating funding for capital improvements, which will result in cost savings to St. Louis County.

Commissioner Raukar encouraged people to participate in caucuses tonight and discussed the "Recharge the Range" event he attended on Monday, February 29, 2016.

At 4:47 p.m., Nelson/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0, Dahlberg, Rukavina absent)



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Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board