

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 22, 2016

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda without Item #11, Land Lease for Minnesota Power Solar Garden Project [16-126] and without Item #12, 2015 Fourth Quarter Budget Changes [16-127]. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of March 8, 2016
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land (Homestead) – Kangas, Lull, Kujala, Carl, Cuff [16-116]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land (Non-Homestead) – Burritt, Babb, Zapp (LaRue), K. Maki, Sherwood, Sorenson/Klinksiek, E. Maki, Cuff [16-117]
- Application for St. Louis County Class “B” Land Exchange [16-118]
- Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation [16-119]
- Special Sale to City of Virginia [16-120]
- Rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 16-53 (Repurchase Contract – Rother) [16-121]
- Easements across State Tax Forfeited Land to the Minnesota Department of Transportation [16-122]
- Appointment of County Agricultural Inspector [16-123]
- Special Sale to the Minnesota Department of Transportation [16-124]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement of County Bridge 516 (Waasa Township) [16-125]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [16-128]
- Ely Service Center Roof Replacement [16-129]
- Amendment and Renaming of the Boundary Waters Drug Task Force [16-130]
- Application and Acceptance of the 2015 Operation Stonegarden Homeland Security Grant [16-131]

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Raukar/Stauber, moved to award a bid to Redstone Construction, LLC, of Mora, MN, in the amount of \$784,719.65 for project CP 0965-128462, located on CR 965 (Hingeley Road) between CR 927 (Silica Road) and CR 442 (South Townline Road), length 0.14 mile, Lavell Township. [16-132]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Boyle moved to authorize the purchase of two (2) new NetApp Storage Area Network hardware devices including software, professional services, and maintenance from Datalink Corporation of Edina, MN, under the Western States Contracting Alliance agreement, in the amount of \$363,611. St. Louis County Information Technology Director Jeremy Craker provided an overview of the agreement and said that system capacity will improve and the Public Safety Campus will serve as a back-up IT center. [16-133]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Boyle moved to authorizes a lease agreement with United States Solar Corporation of Minneapolis, MN, with a 25-year initial term and two (2) five-year extension options, with an initial annual lease rate of \$2,500 and a 2% increase each consecutive year. [16-126]. Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 11:51 a.m. to 11:52 a.m. St. Louis County Property Management Director Tony Mancuso discussed terms of the lease agreement. Commissioners asked that a letter be sent to Minnesota Power requesting the use of local products. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Raukar moved to approve the 2015 fourth quarter budget changes. [16-127]. Commissioner Nelson requested that Commissioners direct their questions to Administration or the Auditor over the next two weeks, and asked that all Commissioners be copied on responses. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Nelson moved to confirm and verify the authority of St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman to execute the Master Subscriber Agreement for the Minnesota Government Access system on behalf of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office; and further, that the St. Louis County Board confirms and verifies that St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman 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. [16-134]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Dahlberg/Stauber, moved to authorize the use of Public Safety Innovation Funds for Team 25 for a 21-month initiative from April 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017; that the appropriate county officials are authorized to enter into a contract with Arrowhead Regional Corrections for St. Louis County and to authorize payment at a 21-month cost of \$193,992; and further, that an additional 1.0 FTE Social Worker be added to PHHS for this initiative, to be paid out of the transfer of funds from the Public Safety Innovation assigned fund balance account in the amount of \$189,408 to a new agency in the Sheriff's Office budget for this grant program, and that the additional \$20,000 be transferred into this agency for training and mileage expenses. If the Team 25 initiative is terminated, these additional positions will be eliminated. [16-135]. Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 12:33 p.m. to 12:34 p.m. Commissioner Boyle stepped out of the meeting from stepped out of the meeting from 12:47 p.m. to 12:48 p.m. Commissioner Dahlberg expressed concern regarding staffing increases. Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting at 12:52 p.m. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Jewell absent)

Commissioner Jewell returned to the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson discussed the Jim Takala farm and said their herd of milking animals has grown from 190 to 325 and five full-time positions have been added. The farm is a 24-hour milking operation.

Commissioner Stauber commented on the passing of former Arrowhead Juvenile Center (AJC) superintendent Jen Wright.

Commissioner Dahlberg acknowledged St. Louis County Land Commissioner Mark Weber for getting tax forfeit land back on the tax rolls in a timely manner. Commissioner Dahlberg said that the Grow Together event will be held on March 24, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at City Center West and encouraged people to participate. Commissioner Dahlberg thanked St. Louis County Veterans Services Director Sherry Rodriguez for assisting him in his effort to reach out to military veterans.

Commissioner Rukavina expressed concern about the lack of response from Governor Mark Dayton regarding a letter, sent on behalf of the Board, requesting additional information concerning Governor Dayton's stance on Twin Metals.

Commissioner Raukar recommended that St. Louis Intergovernmental Relations Director John Ongaro inquire on the status of the letter with the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Stauber said that Governor's Office never responded to a previous request asking Governor Mark Dayton to declare the Minnesota Air National Guard 148th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit as a community asset and allowing local community law enforcement to use the EOD unit and was concerned about the impacts to public safety.

At 1:06 p.m., Stauber/Nelson moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board