

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

June 7, 2016

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota  
Present: Commissioners Boyle, Rukavina, Stauber, and Nelson  
Absent: Commissioners Jewell, Dahlberg, and Chair Raukar  
Convened: Commissioner Stauber called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

- Minutes of May 24, 2016
- Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting to Continue the Nurse-Family Partnership Home Visiting Program [16-236]
- Day Training and Habilitation and Semi-Independent Living Services Contracts for FY 2017 [16-237]
- Contract with AEOA for Volunteer Driver Services [16-238]
- Special Sale to the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority [16-239]
- Special Sale to the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority [16-240]
- Access and Utility Easement across State Tax Forfeited Land to Ronald W. Williams (Unorganized Township 55-21) [16-241]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Patterson, Bank of America (Non-Homestead) [16-242]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Potter, Ung S. Howell (Homestead) [16-243]
- General Obligation Bond Financed Declaration on State Tax Forfeited Land [16-244]
- Rescind St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 16-171 [16-245]
- Cancellation of Contract for Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Nordlund [16-246]
- Authorize a Supplemental Agreement for a Reclaim and Overlay on CSAH 44 (Unorganized Township 54-13 and Pequaywan Township) [16-247]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [16-248]
- Transfer and Reallocation of an Information Technology Service Worker Position to a PHHS Information Specialist I [16-249]
- Minnesota State Auditor's Performance Measurement Program – 2016 Report [16-250]

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## Establishment of Public Hearing

Nelson/Boyle moved to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 9:40 a.m., at Proctor City Hall in Proctor, MN, to solicit public input prior to considering a proposed tax abatement for the City of Duluth – the District at Miller Hill. [16-251]. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Boyle moved to authorize the appropriate county officials to enter into a professional services contract with DSGW Architects Incorporated of Virginia and Duluth, MN, and any amendments approved by the County Attorney's Office, for the planning, design, construction and bid documents, project administration, and project close out for the Government Services Center-Virginia construction project in an amount of \$854,515. [16-255]. St. Louis County Property Management Director Tony Mancuso said the planning process will take ten months and he expects bid specifications to be ready in September or October of 2017. After further discussion, the motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

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## **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Jewell/Raukar moved to appoint the following County Commissioners to serve as members of the "Executive ATV Permit Committee," created under Ordinance Number 64 THE MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF ROADS UNDER THE COUNTY'S JURISDICTION, through December 31, 2016. Subsequent appointments will be made annually at the organizational meeting of the County Board. [16-256].

- Commissioner Pete Stauber, Public Works and Transportation Committee Chair
- Commissioner Tom Rukavina, Member
- Commissioner Keith Nelson, Alternate

The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

The Committee recessed at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:06 a.m. with Commissioners Boyle, Rukavina, Stauber, and Nelson present.

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Terri Heaton, of Springsted, Inc., St. Paul, MN, gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the issuance of capital improvement bonds for the purpose of implementing the Amended Transportation Improvement Plan and discussed savings as a result of refunding 2013A bonds. St. Louis County Auditor Don Dicklich said the Internal Finance Committee met in May and approved bringing the recommendation to the Board.

Nelson/Stauber moved to establish a public hearing on an Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 9:45 a.m., at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN. [16-252]. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

Nelson/Boyle moved to establish a public hearing on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 9:50 a.m. at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, for the purposes of obtaining input from the public on the 2016-2020 Amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan, and on the Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds. [16-253]. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Stauber/Boyle moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., of Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$926,426.55 for combined project: A.) CP 0004-226569 TST/SAP 69-604-075 (Low), County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4/Rice Lake Road between 386 feet South of Airpark Boulevard and 89 feet south of Norton Road, length .49 mile; and B.) CP 0004-252401 TST (Tied), CSAH 4/Rice Lake Road between 386 feet south of Airpark Boulevard and 89 feet south of Norton Road, length .12 mile, in Duluth [16-254]. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

Nelson/Rukavina moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors, of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$2,927,946.11 for combined project: A.) CP 0016-289398 TST (Low), CSAH 16 between Itasca County line and TH 73, length 2.06 miles; B.) CP 0005-289397 (Tied), CSAH 5 between County Road (CR) 743/West Toivola Road and CR 750/Oja Road, length 3.8 miles; C.) CP 0018-289399 TST (Tied), CSAH 18 between Itasca County Road 572 and Trunk Highway (TH) 73, length 3.65 miles; D.) CP 0133-289400 TST (Tied), CSAH 133 between Itasca County line and TH 73, length 3.24 miles; and E.) CP 0837-299737 TST (Tied), CR 837/Laurie Road between CR 832/Floodwood Road and CR 186/Savanna Road in Hibbing, Cedar Valley, Halden, Lavell, and Toivola Townships. [16-254]. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

Rukavina/Boyle moved to direct the County Public Works Director and the appropriate county officials to implement a deferral of scheduled bridge replacement project (CP 0021-215030 TST, SAP 69-621-0314 BR 286) on CSAH 21 to the 2017 construction schedule; and further, the bid awarded to Northland Constructors of Duluth, LLC, as approved by County Board Resolution No. 16-241, dated April 12, 2016, is hereby increased by an additional \$48,000 to accommodate the costs incurred by the contractor for delaying the bridge replacement project. [16-257]. Commissioner Rukavina asked the Committee to consider the resolution due to the length of the detour and the impact of school bus re-routing by two school districts (Ely and St. Louis County). Commissioner Nelson said that he would not support the motion as road projects should be determined by road conditions and not politics. St. Louis County Public Works Jim Foldesi discussed the background of the bridge and provided an in-depth review of the considerations Public Works takes into account when working on a project. Director Foldesi said that approximately 14% of the traffic will be impacted by the 9-mile detour. Commissioner Stauber indicated that he would vote against the motion and discussed various construction projects and resulting impacts to local businesses. Commissioner Boyle expressed concern regarding the cost to delay the project and asked if the school districts provided cost estimates due to the re-routing of school buses. Director Foldesi said the Ely School District estimated the cost impact would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000; the St. Louis County School District did not provide an estimate. After further discussion, the motion failed; one yea (Rukavina), three nays (Boyle, Stauber, Nelson), three absent (Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Boyle said the annual Operation K-9 fundraising event will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Amsoil Center in Superior, WI.

Commissioner Stauber talked about the cooperation between local K-9 units.

Commissioner Nelson indicated that the Executive Committee of Camp Esquagama met recently and there is good news regarding the camp; the Board will be updated soon.

Commissioner Rukavina discussed a meeting he had with a credit card company regarding a national pilot program. Customers could earn points by making purchases at local businesses and have the ability to apply the points towards their property taxes.

Commissioner Stauber highlighted the quality service that the St. Louis County Veterans Service Office provides and discussed a proposal to eliminate state income tax on military pension payments.

Commissioner Rukavina discussed staffing changes at the Ely Veterans Service Office.

At 1:33 p.m., Nelson/Rukavina moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (4-0, Jewell, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)



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Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board