

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 6, 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 12:34 p.m.

At 12:35 p.m., Keith Carlson, Nancy Silesky, Ryan Erdmann, and Steve Novak of the Minnesota Inter-County Association gave a presentation to the Committee, highlighting various legislative happenings and potential impacts to St. Louis County.

The Committee recessed at 1:02 p.m. and re-convened at 1:59 p.m. with all members present except Commissioner Dahlberg.

CONSENT AGENDA

Rukavina/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

- Minutes of August 9, 2016
- Contract with Vendor for PHHS Closed File Scanning in Virginia, Hibbing and Ely [16-372]
- Application and Acceptance of Planning Grant Funding for the Local St. Louis County Continuum of Care [16-373]
- Approval of Registered Land Survey No. 130 (Unorganized Township 63-17) [16-374]
- Adoption of Proposed Ordinance 60 Amendments, Subdivision Ordinance [16-375]
- Amend Zoning Ordinance No. 62, to Incorporate and Establish Zoning Map for Greenwood Township [16-376]
- Adoption of Proposed Ordinance 62 Amendments, Zoning Ordinance [16-377]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Abrahamson (Homestead) [16-378]
- Adjoining Owner Sale (Duluth Township) [16-379]
- Special Sale to the City of Chisholm [16-380]
- Request for Free Conveyance of State Tax Forfeited Land to the City of McKinley [16-381]
- Demolition of Structures on State Tax Forfeited Lands [16-382]
- Right of Way and Utility Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to the City of Chisholm (Garden Lands) [16-383]
- Right of Way and Utility Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to the City of Chisholm (Lakeview Addition) [16-384]
- Access Easement across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Judith Ann and Eric M. Mattson (Culver Township) [16-385]

- Access Easement across State Tax Forfeited Land to Judith Ann Mattson (Culver Township) [16-386]
- Access and Utility Easement across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Cellular Inc. Network Corp. d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Gnesen Township) [16-387]
- Award of Bid: Fuel Deliveries of Gasohol, Fuel Oil and Diesel Fuel [16-388]
- Acceptance of County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant [16-389]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [16-390]
- LANDesk Client Asset Management Software [16-391]
- Lawful Gambling Application (Gnesen Township) [16-392]

Establishment of Public Meetings

Nelson/Stauber moved to establish public meetings to gather comment on the proposed property tax levy and operating budget for year 2017 on Thursday, December 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Virginia, MN, and Thursday, December 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN. [16-393] The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Environmental & Natural Resources Committee

Commissioner Dahlberg entered the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve a joint repurchase of state tax forfeited property (non-homestead) through a single repurchase contract among the county, Prosperity House, and Mr. Hull, and authorize the appropriate county officials to negotiate and execute appropriate repurchase documents. If Prosperity House and Mr. Hull comply with all of the terms and conditions of the repurchase contract, the county shall ask the State of Minnesota to issue a single deed to Prosperity House and Mr. Hull. The repurchase amount shall be calculated in accordance with the repurchase statutes, and any amount received by the county in connection with the repurchase shall be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund. [16-394] Commissioner Dahlberg stated that he was abstaining from conversation and the vote due to a conflict of interest. St. Louis County Assistant Attorney Nick Campanario discussed various options to resolve the situation. Chris Hull discussed the contract for deed agreement. Commissioner Dahlberg stepped out of the meeting from 2:16 p.m. to 2:31 p.m. After further discussion, the motion passed; four yeas, two nays (Rukavina, Jewell), one abstention (Dahlberg).

Rukavina/Jewell moved to authorize the Land Commissioner to apply price reductions on current timber contracts impacted by 2016 storm and fire events by reducing the damaged portion of the contract volume and calculating a new weighted average price per species. [16-395] St. Louis County Deputy Land Commissioner Jason Meyer provided the Committee with an overview of the price adjustment formula. Scott Dane, Executive Director of the Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers of Minnesota, expressed concern using the weighted average calculation and feels the calculation would result in an artificial price. The motion was amended to remove reference to the weighted average calculation. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Rukavina/Nelson moved to award a bid to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., of Gilbert, MN, in the amount of \$1,051,354.60 for project CP 0000-213215, SP 069-090-030, TA 6916(215), recreational trail from Eagles Nest Town Hall to Camp Lake Road located in Eagles Nest Township. [16-396] The motion passed. (7-0)

Stauber/Raukar moved that the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of St. Louis County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects. The Chair of the County Board and County Auditor are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of St. Louis County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1026227". [16-397] St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi highlighted public works safety initiatives as a result of funding secured by the Public Works Department. Commissioners Rukavina and Raukar stepped out of the meeting from 2:57 p.m. to 2:58 p.m. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Stauber moved that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners fully supports the efforts of the Public Works Department to continue the implementation of the County Road Safety Plan and other highway safety strategies through multiple funding sources on St. Louis County roads; and further, authorizes the Public Works Director/Highway Engineer to apply for and accept highway safety related grants from federal, state and other sources that are consistent with implementation of the County Road Safety Plan. [16-398] Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 3:13 p.m. to 3:16 p.m. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Jewell/Nelson moved that St. Louis County will serve as the Local Government Unit (LGU) on behalf of the Mars Lakeview Arena in its effort to secure a James Metzen Mighty Ducks Grant Program, through the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC). The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners is requesting \$150,000 from the James Metzen Mighty Ducks Grant Program and will assume responsibility for a matching contribution of \$150,000, raised by the Mars Lakeview Arena, as outlined in the grant application submission materials. The Mars Lakeview Arena agrees to own, assume 100 percent operational costs for the facility or equipment, and will operate the facility or equipment for its intended purpose for the functional life of the facility or equipment which is estimated to be 20 years. The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners agrees to enter into necessary and required agreements with the MASC for the specific purpose of completing the project. A request for reimbursement be made to the MASC for the amount awarded after the completion of the project. Donald Dicklich, St. Louis County Auditor/Treasurer, is authorized and directed to execute said application and serve as the official liaison with the MASC. [16-399]. Brendan Flaherty, Director of the Mars Lakeview Arena, discussed improvements as a result of the grant. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

The Committee recessed at 3:35 p.m. and re-convened at 3:41 p.m. with all members present.

Nelson/Stauber moved that the St. Louis County Board, acting on behalf of unorganized townships for the purpose of road and bridge maintenance and construction, adopts and certifies a maximum levy of \$1,582,000 for the year 2017 to be levied only in such unorganized townships. [16-400]. Rukavina/Jewell moved to amend the maximum levy amount to \$1,300,000. The amendment failed; three yeas (Jewell, Rukavina, Raukar), four nays (Boyle, Dahlberg, Stauber, Nelson). St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi discussed how projects are prioritized and funded. After further discussion, the original motion passed. (5-2, Jewell, Rukavina)

Nelson/Raukar moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies the Housing and Redevelopment Authority maximum property tax levy for 2017 in the amount of \$212,074. [16-401]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Commissioner Dahlberg exited the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Nelson/Raukar moved to choose Option A and authorize the County Auditor to spread local levies for the provision of fire protection and/or first responder services to identified unorganized territories within the county beginning January 1, 2017 and to authorize the agreements with the listed corporations for the provision of these services. [16-402]. Rukavina/Boyle offered an amendment to select Option B. After further discussion, the amended motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Nelson/Raukar moved that the 2017 maximum property tax levy recommendation based on a preliminary proposed budget that will be provided to the County Board for consideration at the September 13, 2016 County Board meeting. [16-403]. The motion passed. (6-0, Dahlberg absent)

Chair Raukar exited the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

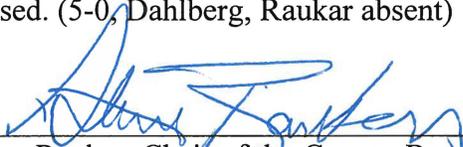
Rukavina/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board establish a "True County" Assessor System for the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, to ensure that property is fairly and consistently valued in all jurisdictions and that the property tax burden is distributed equitably, as defined by the State Legislature. The transition to a "True County" Assessor System shall become effective January 1, 2018, which is the second assessment date following adoption of this resolution. [16-404]. St. Louis County Director of Public Records and Property Valuation Mark Monacelli indicated there are seven entities currently doing local assessments. The motion passed. (5-0, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

Rukavina/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoint: Raymond Svatos (St. Louis County Association of Townships), Valerie Strukel (Eveleth), John Mulder (Hermantown), Ann Taray (At Large - Meadowlands), and Jessica Rich (At Large - Floodwood) to serve additional three-year terms, expiring April 30, 2019, on the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Advisory Committee; and further, authorize the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications for the seven vacancies on the CDBG Advisory Committee. The per diem for CDBG Advisory Committee members will be increased to \$50 for each meeting attended and reimbursement for round-trip mileage at the applicable federal CONUS rate, effective January 1, 2017. [16-405]. The motion passed. (5-0, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)

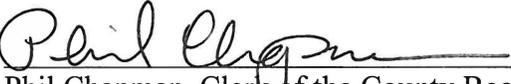
COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

None

At 5:05 p.m., Nelson/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0, Dahlberg, Raukar absent)



Steve Raukar, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board