

September 2017 Report

St. Louis County Board:

Two resolutions from the "Environment & Natural Resources Committee", were discussed at length. 1) Rescind resolution dated March, 2017 and authorize the special sale of state tax forfeited property to the Duluth Economic Development Authority (Steel Plant Terminal Addition). Following extensive discussion and input from citizens and developers, the resolution failed unanimously. It was determined that the parcel will go to auction in Oct. 2017. This parcel is located adjacent to Zenith Terrae and had the potential for construction of a Kwik Trip convenience store. 2) Cancellation of contract for repurchase of state tax forfeited land with Ronald Abrahamson of Tower, MN (non-homestead. Approved unanimously. The Regular Agenda had one item from the Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee. The County Attorney requested a closed session of the Committee of the Whole for litigation purposes, following adjournment.

Submitted by Gwen Thorson

October 2017 Report

St. Louis County Board:

The "Regular Agenda" had one item from the Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee, Commissioner Jugovich, Chair: Petition for Street Vacation-1st Street South, Virginia. It involved a resolution authorizing a petition process to vacate 1st Street South as part of the Government Services Center-Virginia project. Discussion followed and was extensive. Resolution passed 6 to 1.

Submitted by Gwen Thorson

January 2018 Report

St. Louis County Board Meeting: November 7, 2017

Public hearing to obtain comment prior to the adoption of the 2018 fee schedule for county services. Motion tabled.

Rural Rides Program funding: Motion approved to move forward with funding. 2018 Health and Dental Plan rates for employees and retirees. There was a 12% increase in insurance costs in 2017 and a proposed rate increase of 8% for 2018. Several members of the Teamsters Union were present to protest the increase.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was carried to approve the recommended increase for 2018.

Resolution declaring a "State of Local Disaster" in St. Louis County. The recent storm is estimated to have caused a total of \$3,500,000 in damage. McQuade Harbor is estimated to have sustained \$450,000 in damage, mainly for state and federal disaster eligibility. Motion carried. Submitted by Barbara Johnson

St. Louis County Commission Meeting: November 14, 2017

Prior to the "consent agenda" and "regular agenda", one private citizen addressed the board about an issue not on the agenda: property dispute. The board adjourned for 5 minutes because of the citizen's uncivil behavior.

Duluth Mayor, Emily Larson, addressed the board, thanking them for their action regarding Lakewalk repair funding (following recent storm), opioid litigation, and the county's dedicated sales tax for street repairs within the city limits of Duluth.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted October 10, 2017, the St. Louis County Board will consider bids received for the SALE OF SURPLUS FEE OWNED LAND and authorize the sale of the land to the party submitting the highest bid (Duluth).

The "Consent Agenda" was passed unanimously.

Several relevant items from the "Regular Agenda" were approved. - "Health and Human Services Committee"

Request for authorization to commence litigation against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. The County Attorney wants to proceed with the lawsuit, retention of another law firm for help. The attorney will work with law enforcement, and drug court-in anticipation of an increase in heroin traffic.-

"Environment & Natural Resources

Committee" Support for the purchase and exchange of School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Wilderness, proceeding in tandem. -"Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee" Proposed Legislative

Priorities for 2018 (including the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center and refurbishing the seal wall at the port of Duluth) and Ratification of the 2017-2019 Merit System Supervisory Unit contract and authorization of the execution of the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. Several union members were present to contest the proposal.

Submitted by: Gwen Thorson