

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 11-19-12

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Legislative Update

Requested Meeting Date: 11-27-12 Estimated Presentation Time: _____

Presenter: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion only with possible future action
- Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
- Approve/adopt proposal by motion
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) _____

Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)

- Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes _____ No _____ (attach explanation)
- What type of expenditure is this? Operating Capital Other (attach explanation)
- Revenue line account # that funds this item is: _____
- Expenditure line account # for this item is: _____

Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

- Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected. Yes No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision. Yes No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy. Yes No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level. Yes No



Supporting Attachment(s)

- Memorandum Summary of Item
- Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
- Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
- Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
- Bid/quote comparison worksheet
- Draft County Board resolution
- Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
- Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) Letters

Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Wussow, Aitkin County Administrator

RE: Legislative Update

DATE: November 19, 2012

Attached are copies of letters from Aitkin County Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, sent to Senator-Elect Carrie Ruud and Representative-Elect Joe Radinovich.

At Tuesday's meeting we can discuss these letters or any other legislative issues the Board would like to address.

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 16, 2012

Representative-Elect Joe Radinovich
310 3rd Avenue SW
Crosby, MN 56441

Dear Representative-Elect Radinovich:

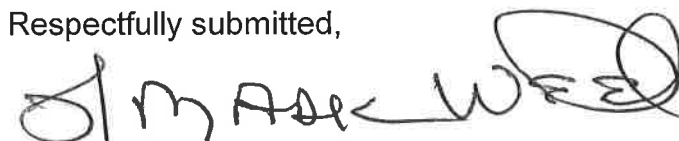
The County Board wants to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent election to the State Senate. The Board knows you will be busy and wants to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed on a couple of issues of concern to the Aitkin County Board.

The first issue is the numerous requirements for publishing in the newspaper, for example amending county financial statement publication requirements so that the counties may post on the county website (www.co.aitkin.mn.us). For Aitkin County the expense continues to rise when our residents inform us they don't read the local newspaper for that purpose.

The second issue is the State General Tax. Please review the attached letter that was sent in 2011 to Representative Davids. In summary, Aitkin County feels it is appropriate for the State to collect its own property tax. The State of Minnesota is the second largest property tax collector in Aitkin County (behind the county) and it doesn't hold its own Truth in Taxation meeting. It is also important for you to understand that under the State General Tax Aitkin County property owners pay about \$1.8 million dollars of the total \$41 million that is collected statewide for the Seasonal Recreational property tax.

We understand the staggering number of legislation that you have to deal with in a short period of time. With that in mind for the 2013 legislative session we plan to have the County Board review specific legislation at each board meeting and provide you with their comments. We know your time is limited so the Board summary comments will be short. If after reviewing the comments from Aitkin County Commissioners you have any questions please contact any of them or our County Administrator. A complete contact list is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair
Aitkin County Board

District 1: J. Mark Wedel – Chair
515 6th Ave SE
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-6500
mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund – Vice Chair
30517 270th Lane
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 320-684-2652
laurie.westerlund@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2009-2012, 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi
32340 State Hwy 47
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-9947
don.niemi@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 4: Brian Napstad
51227 Long Point Place
McGregor, MN 55760
Home: 218-426-3008
brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2009-2012, 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte
P.O. Box 192
Hill City, MN 55748
Home: 218-256-0277
anne.marcotte@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
217 2nd Street NW
Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
patrick.wussow@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-927-7276

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 16, 2012

Senator-Elect Carrie Ruud
8636 Bluebird Lane
Breezy Point, MN 56472

Dear Senator-Elect Ruud:

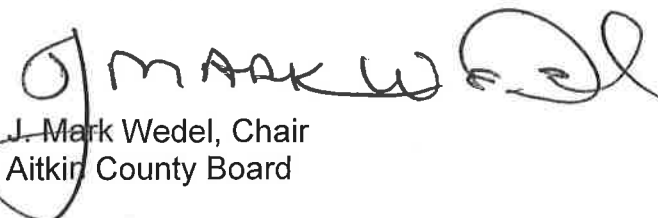
The County Board wants to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent election to the State Senate. The Board knows you will be busy and wants to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed on a couple of issues of concern to the Aitkin County Board.

The first issue is the numerous requirements for publishing in the newspaper, for example amending county financial statement publication requirements so that the counties may post on the county website (www.co.aitkin.mn.us). For Aitkin County the expense continues to rise when our residents inform us they don't read the local newspaper for that purpose.

The second issue is the State General Tax. Please review the attached letter that was sent in 2011 to Representative Davids. In summary, Aitkin County feels it is appropriate for the State to collect its own property tax. The State of Minnesota is the second largest property tax collector in Aitkin County (behind the county) and it doesn't hold its own Truth in Taxation meeting. It is also important for you to understand that under the State General Tax Aitkin County property owners pay about \$1.8 million dollars of the total \$41 million that is collected statewide for the Seasonal Recreational property tax.

We understand the staggering number of legislation that you have to deal with in a short period of time. With that in mind for the 2013 legislative session we plan to have the County Board review specific legislation at each board meeting and provide you with their comments. We know your time is limited so the Board summary comments will be short. If after reviewing the comments from Aitkin County Commissioners you have any questions please contact any of them or our County Administrator. A complete contact list is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair
Aitkin County Board

District 1: J. Mark Wedel – Chair
515 6th Ave SE
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-6500
mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund – Vice Chair
30517 270th Lane
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 320-684-2652
laurie.westerlund@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2009-2012, 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi
32340 State Hwy 47
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-9947
don.niemi@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 4: Brian Napstad
51227 Long Point Place
McGregor, MN 55760
Home: 218-426-3008
brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2009-2012, 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte
P.O. Box 192
Hill City, MN 55748
Home: 218-256-0277
anne.marcotte@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
217 2nd Street NW
Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
patrick.wussow@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-927-7276

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

September 9, 2011

Representative Greg Davids
585 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Davids:

The Aitkin County Board wishes to take this opportunity to again thank you for your recent visit to the Aitkin County Courthouse to respond to our questions related to the recently approved tax bill.

The Board appreciated your comments and the lively conversation relating to several of the key areas discussed including the effects of K-12 school funding, 2012 market value exclusion, and the state general tax. In fact the Board would like to work with you to follow up on the state general tax.

The County Board wants to reiterate our comments while they are still fresh in your mind that Aitkin County feels strongly that the State of Minnesota should collect their own "State General Tax." This issue was brought up by County Board members and the County's Economic Development Director. You agreed that this was a good idea and we don't want this idea to be shelved, but to proceed, as you identified it was a great idea and should move forward.

Our point is very simple, stop making the Counties your collection agent.

Along those lines we are asking you to go to the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes and request that they draft a bill, to bring forward early in the 2012 legislative session, that will require the state to collect its own property tax. Aitkin County will solicit support so that that bill moves forward.

We await your response to the progress of what you said was a good idea

Thank you for your time in considering our request.

Respectfully,

Laurie Westerlund
Aitkin County Chairperson

CC: Representative McElfrick, Senator Saxhuag, AMC Executive Director Jeff Spartz, Rep. Paul Thissen, Rep. Jim Davine, Rep. Carol McFarlane, Rep. Bob Gunther