

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



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 4-2-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Resolution – Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder Positions

Requested Meeting Date: 4-9-13 Estimated Presentation Time: _____

Presenter: _____

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- For discussion with possible action
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- 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
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Other (please list) _____
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____

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) _____

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: Resolution Supporting H.F. 800 and S.F. 966 to Allow All 87 County Boards the Ability to Appoint the County Auditor, County Treasurer, and County Recorder Positions

DATE: April 2, 2013

At the March 26th Board meeting the County Board members provided updates of different topics that they felt were significant during the recent Association of Minnesota Counties conference. The commissioners reviewed a handout (attached) relating to appointing certain elected official positions (Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder). The Board discussed the fact that more than 70% of Minnesotans live in a county where one or more of these positions have been appointed with legislative approval. H.F. 800 and S.F. 966 would put in place a uniform process for elected county boards and local citizens across the state to make this transition if they so choose.

Under current law every County Board has to seek special legislation to appoint any of the three officials addressed in H.F. 800 and S.F. 966. This typically requires additional trips to the state capitol to provide testimony. If the legislature approves these bills, special legislation will not be required for the remaining Counties.

A handout from AMC is attached that clearly shows the process that Counties would have to follow to appoint one of these three positions, and how the public would be involved.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Appointment of County Officers: *Providing More Local Control*

H.F. 800/S.F. 966



Under Minnesota general law, each county in the state is required to have an elected auditor, treasurer and recorder. However, since 1967, the Legislature has gradually granted more and more counties the authority to turn these elected offices into appointed positions. Today, more than 70% of Minnesotans live in a county where one or more of these positions have become appointed with legislative approval. H.F. 800/S.F. 966 would put in place a uniform process for elected county boards and local citizens across the state to make this transition if they so choose.

Local Control and Citizen Involvement

This bill does not does not mandate any changes in any county. This bill simply puts the local decision of how to find, attract and retain the best and most qualified people for the increasingly technical and complex positions of auditor, treasurer and recorder in the hands of the locally-elected policy makers.



By any measure, local citizens will always have the final say in determining how they are governed.

Benefits of Appointment

Efficiency and Streamlining

County boards should be granted the necessary flexibility to organize the structure of their county to meet the needs of citizens today in the 21st century. Current statutory requirements serve as a barrier to counties' efforts to improve internal efficiencies and collaborate across county lines.

The ability to appoint these positions does not mean counties simply replace elected officials with appointed employees. Rather, the bill grants counties the flexibility to initiate and direct any reorganization, consolidation, reallocation, or delegation of these duties for the purpose of promoting efficiency in county government, as long as the county continues to meet its statutory obligations. Counties across the state have used this authority to enact major system-wide reforms within their organization, improve service delivery, and eliminate internal inefficiencies caused by the silo effect of having these services delivered in multiple departments.

Recruiting and Retaining Expert Staff

The duties of auditors, treasurers and recorders have become more technical as counties have adapted to 21st century technology and increased mandates from the state. When voters choose who fills these positions, they are limited to selecting from the narrow pool of candidates that actually live in the county (which are as small as 3,500 people) and who are willing to file for public office, knowing that their job could last as little as one term. In many cases, voters really have no choice, as incumbents often run opposed. Further, the candidates available to voters have no minimum training or education standards from which to be judged.

Moving to an appointed process, county boards can choose from candidates across or outside the state, compete for candidates from the private sector by offering more permanent employment, and ensure that all candidates for these important positions meet certain minimum standards of training, education and experience.

March 2013

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED April 9, 2013

By Commissioner: xx

040913-0xx

Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder Positions

WHEREAS, more than 70% of Minnesotans live in a county where one or more of the Auditor, Treasurer, and Recorder positions have been appointed with legislative approval, and

WHEREAS, under current law every County Board is required to seek special legislation to appoint any of the three officials, and

WHEREAS, Senate File 966 and House File 800 would provide a uniform process for elected County Boards and local citizens in the State of Minnesota to make this transition if they so choose, and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is not currently seeking special legislation, but recognizes there would be significant cost savings, and

WHEREAS, if legislature approves these bills, special legislation would not be required for the remaining counties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports S.F. 966 and H.F. 800.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 9th day of April A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 9th day of April A.D., 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor
BY _____, Deputy