



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2F
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: May 12, 2015

Title of Item: Polymet Mining NorthMet Project

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Nathan Burkett		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title):		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: Request Board approval of the attached proposed resolution.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Adopt the attached resolution.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Support Polymet Mining NorthMet Project

WHEREAS, nonferrous ores contain metals essential to modern daily life – copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold – found in countless products including cell phones, computers, diabetes test strips, joint replacements, electrical wiring, hybrid cars, catalytic converters, and wind turbines; and

WHEREAS, the significant domestic demand for these metals exceeds our national supply due to very few mines in the U.S. producing them, creating an unhealthy imbalance and outside reliance on indispensable raw materials, even with the high rate of recycling (the U.S. currently imports nearly 90 percent of its platinum, more than 50 percent of its palladium, approximately 35 percent of its copper and gold, and does not have any active nickel mines); and

WHEREAS, the proposed PolyMet site is located near the community of Hoyt Lakes, within an existing mining district where operating and former iron mines and processing facilities already exist and, with the existing infrastructure in place, the site is viewed as conducive for such an initiative without threatening our region's environment; and

WHEREAS, the ore industry has for generations supported tens of thousands of families in our region, dozens of communities, schools, commerce and recreation centers, and has created opportunities for scores of children to attend universities and technical schools to develop their own careers and families within the region; and

WHEREAS, an independent research study conducted by the University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics indicated that the evolution of nonferrous mining in the region has the potential to generate more than 600 indirect jobs in goods and services; \$515 million annually in St. Louis County alone in wages, benefits and other spending (more than \$10 billion over the 20-year life of mine); \$15 million annually in state and local tax revenues (\$300 million over the life of mine); \$45 million annually in federal tax revenue (\$900 million over the life of the mine); and more than \$2 million annually for northeastern Minnesota schools; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast region is well positioned to support the addition of PolyMet Mining to the complement of local employers due to the high availability of skilled and dedicated workers and a comprehensive employment and training system to develop the appropriate workforce; and

WHEREAS, as the primary administrator of workforce development programs and funding in the region, the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training is actively engaged in supporting a responsible natural resource-based economy through the investment of millions of dollars in job training for a skilled workforce. Particularly during the last decade, we have witnessed a decline in job opportunities within our region. For this reason, we welcome responsible economic opportunities such as those provided through the proposed PolyMet initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Local Elected Official Board of the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training has declared its support for the existing open, transparent, and comprehensive environmental review and permitting process in place for various nonferrous mining initiatives, including Polymet's proposed NorthMet mining project, currently planned for development in Northeast Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Aitkin County Board supports the success of these projects, for the above stated reasons and believes by meeting Minnesota's strict environmental standards through a comprehensive environmental permitting process, PolyMet will be poised to play a significant role in contributing to the sustainability of our region's economy by mining the metals we need every day without harming our region's air and water quality.

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

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

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 12th day of May A.D., 2015, 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 12th day of May A.D., 2015

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy