

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015 at 9:31 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Brian Napstad, Anne Marcotte, County Administrator Nathan Burkett, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the May 12, 2015 amended agenda. Item 5F - Adopt 2 TZD Resolutions, was added.

**APPROVED AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: April 28, 2015 to May 11, 2015; B) Approve County Board Minutes: April 28, 2015; C) Approve April Manual Warrants: General Fund \$69,610.44, Road & Bridge \$33,316.18, Health & Human Services \$15,320.95, State \$29,312.07, Trust \$-2,189.51, Forest Development \$53.90, Taxes & Penalties \$-60.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$2,563.02, Parks \$516.50 for a total of \$148,443.55; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$100,313.79, Road & Bridge \$9,782.84, Health & Human Services \$550.08, Trust \$3,918.24, Forest Development \$1,592.49, Long Lake Conservation Center \$17,518.82, Parks \$54,030.49 for a total of \$187,706.75; E) Authorize Sale of Motor Pool Vehicles; F) Adopt Resolution – Support Polymet Mining NorthMet Project; G) Adopt Resolution – High Lifter Quadna Mud Nationals; H) Adopt Resolution – Roberts-Glad VFW Post #1717 – Form LG214; I) Authorize Sale of Vehicle as Salvage – Sheriff’s Dept.; J) Approve 3.2% Malt Liquor Licenses; K) Approve Cooperative Agreement – Highway Dept.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to authorize the sale of the following Motor Pool vehicles: 1999 Ford Contour, and 2002 Mercury Sable.

**AUTHORIZE SALE OF MOTOR POOL VEHICLES**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – 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

**RESOLUTION 20150512-023 SUPPORT POLYMET MINING NORTHMET PROJECT**

**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.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – High Lifter Quadna Mud Nationals:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application for Large Assembly:

ATV/SxS Event – High Lifter Quadna Mud Nationals (High Lifter Products, Inc., d/b/a Mud National Events, LLC) – City of Hill City and Hill Lake Township

This is scheduled to take place June 12th – 14th, 2015 from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. daily.

**RESOLUTION  
20150512-024  
HIGH LIFTER  
QUADNA MUD  
NATIONALS**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Roberts-Glad VFW Post #1727 – Form LG214:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the following Premises Permit Application - Form LG214, of the Roberts-Glad VFW Post 1727, at the Roberts-Glad VFW Post 1727 – Aitkin Township. This establishment has an address of 36558 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Aitkin, MN 56431

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to authorize sale of 1995 Honda LX as salvage – Sheriff’s Office.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following 3.2 Malt Liquor Licenses for a period ending April 30, 2016:

ON Sale:

- Jacobson Community Volunteer Fire Dept, d/b/a Jacobson Volunteer Fire Dept – Ball Bluff Township
- Sherwood Forest Owner’s Assc. Inc., d/b/a Sherwood Forest – Hazelton Township

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve Cooperative Agreement between Aitkin County, Carlton County, Itasca County, and Lake County for the Installation of Chevron Signs.

Kirk Peysar and Tiffany Gustin, Aitkin County Fair Board members updated the Board on the status of the new food service building at the county fairgrounds, and reminded everyone that this year’s County Fair will be held July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>.

John Welle, County Engineer reviewed with the Board bids received for purchase of three tandem plow trucks. Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to approve Highway Department purchase of three 2015 Mack GU713 tandem cab/chassis from Nuss Truck Group Inc. at a cost of \$246,082.74, plus three boxes, snowplow components and hydraulic systems from Berts Truck Equipment at a cost of \$285,060, for a total cost of \$531,142.74, plus sales tax on the truck cab/chassis amount only.

John Welle, County Engineer reviewed the abstract of bids for SAP 001-600-017. Only one bid was received and it came in higher than expected. Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to table this item until the next Board meeting.

**RESOLUTION  
20150512-025  
ROBERTS-GLAD  
VFW POST #1727  
FORM LG214**

**AUTHORIZE SALE  
OF VEHICLE AS  
SALVAGE**

**3.2 MALT LIQUOR  
LICENSES**

**COOPERATIVE  
AGREEMENT FOR  
INSTALLATION OF  
CHEVRON SIGNS**

**COUNTY FAIR  
FOOD SERVICE  
BLDG UPDATE**

**THREE TANDEM  
PLOW TRUCKS –  
HIGHWAY DEPT.**

**ABSTRACT OF  
BIDS FOR  
SAP 001-600-017**

Nathan Burkett, County Administrator discussed the following with the Board:

- First Quarter Financial Review
- Long Term Financial Projections
- Budget Schedule
- Capital Improvement
- IT Strategic Objectives

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Support Toward Zero Deaths Coalition:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board supports the Toward Zero Deaths Coalition.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – TZD Fiscal Agent Agreement:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toward Zero Deaths enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for traffic safety projects during the period from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that Kirk Peysar, Aitkin County Auditor, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of Toward Zero Deaths and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

The Board reported on the following: TZD, Forest Advisory, ATV, NCLUCB, State General Tax, PILT, ACA, Community Notification Hearing in Hill City, Parks, Aitkin Airport, AIS.

Break: 12:22 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.

Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator held a Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m. for Northland Hydraulic Service TAF request. Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - Northern Hydraulic Service Tax Rebate Financing:

**WHEREAS**, Northland Hydraulic Service, (hereinafter Property Owner), has filed an application for Tax Rebate Financing pursuant to Minnesota Statute Sections 469.1812 to 469.1815 (Tax Abatement) to construct a 2,400 sq. ft. addition to the existing Northern Hydraulic Service shop and office building parcel # 57-0-002903; and

**WHEREAS**, Property Owner has requested Tax Rebate Financing from the County of Aitkin for taxes payable to the County of Aitkin in an annual amount of \$850.00 over a maximum term of ten (10) years, commencing with taxes payable in 2017 and ending with taxes payable in 2026, the total abatement requested is \$8,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Rebate Financing assistance to be provided to Property Owner will be contingent on Property Owner employing two additional FTE employees, to be certified

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION 20150512-026 SUPPORT TOWARD ZERO DEATHS COALITION**

**RESOLUTION 20150512-027 TZD FISCAL AGENT AGREEMENT**

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

**BREAK**

**RESOLUTION 20150512-028 NORTHERN HYDRAULIC SERVICE TAX REBATE FINANCING**

annually by May 15<sup>th</sup>, at a wage rate of 140% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a Family of Four and completing the construction of the 2,400 square foot expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Rebate Financing will be in the form of a rebate of taxes paid by Property Owner to the County of Aitkin on parcel # 57-0-002903, commencing with taxes payable in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Property Owner's application meets the Criteria for awarding Tax Abatement Financing (TAF) in the TAF Policy for Aitkin County, Minnesota, including increasing the tax base and providing additional employment opportunities in Aitkin County; and

**WHEREAS**, Property Owner will add new employees at or above 140% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a Family of Four and construct a 2,400 square foot expansion to Northern Hydraulic Service; and

**WHEREAS**, Property Owner's application is not considered a business subsidy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 116J.993; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was conducted on the Tax Rebate Financing application from Property Owner on May 15, 2015 at the Aitkin County Courthouse pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 - 1815, and 116J.993; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aitkin County Board finds that it is reasonable to waive the 5 job requirement of the Aitkin County Tax Abatement policy due to current employment circumstances in the Hill City area and the quality of jobs to be created by this action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners approves the Tax Rebate Financing for Northland Hydraulic Service as contained above.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m. until Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

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J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Nathan Burkett, County Administrator