

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

September 8, 2015

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015 at 9:03 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, and Brian Napstad. Commissioner Anne Marcotte was absent. County Administrator Nathan Burkett, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to approve the September 8, 2015 agenda.

Craig Schmid, Deputy Director, Division of Forestry, MN Department of Natural Resources surprised Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Commissioner by presenting him with the prestigious Partnership Award, along with a letter of recognition, for his leadership and work with the northern long eared bat and forest management in Aitkin County and beyond.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: August 25, 2015 to September 7, 2015; B) Approve County Board Minutes: August 25, 2015; C) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$67,021.85, Road & Bridge \$28,740.97, Health & Human Services \$548.05, Trust \$13,917.70, Forest Development \$8,799.29, Long Lake Conservation Center \$2,123.43, Parks \$2,261.92 for a total of \$123,413.21; D) Approve Auditor Warrants – Tax Overpays: Taxes & Penalties \$1,034.57; E) Approve Auditor Warrants – Taconite Payments to Cities/Townships: Agency \$12,248.00; F) Adopt (3) Resolutions: 1. 2016 Unorganized Road & Bridge, 2. 2016 Unorganized Fire Protection, 3. 2016 Unorganized Cemetery; G) Approve Letter to Security State Bank – Treasurer’s Office; H) Adopt Resolution – Repurchase Tax Forfeited Property - Bice; I) Adopt Resolution – Repurchase Tax Forfeited Property - Johnson

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to adopt resolution – 2016 Unorganized Road & Bridge:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following sums of money be levied against the tax capacity of the Unorganized Townships of Aitkin County, for the year collectible 2016 for Road and Bridge purposes:

Unorg Township	
52-22	\$3000
45-24	\$2000
47-24	\$7500
52-24	\$1500
50-25	\$4000
51-25	\$0
52-25	\$4000
50-26	\$2000
48-27	\$4500
49-27	\$9000
50-27	\$0
51-27	\$0
52-27	\$3500

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVED AGENDA**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PARTNERSHIP AWARD TO MARK JACOBS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 20150908-048 2016 UNORGANIZED ROAD & BRIDGE**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to adopt resolution – 2016 Unorganized Fire Protection:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following sums of money be levied against the tax capacity of the Unorganized Townships of Aitkin County, for the year collectible 2016 for Fire Protection purposes:

Unorg Township	
52-22	\$8500
51-22	\$150
45-25	\$600
47-25	\$1750
52-26	\$1500
50-28	\$1800
51-26	\$225
52-27	\$2250
50-29	\$1800
48-28	\$3500
49-28	\$6000
50-30	\$350
51-27	\$1000
52-27	\$2900

**RESOLUTION  
20150908-049  
2016  
UNORGANIZED  
FIRE  
PROTECTION**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to adopt resolution – 2016 Unorganized Cemetery:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following sums of money be levied against the tax capacity of the Unorganized Townships of Aitkin County, for the year collectible 2016 for Cemetery (Revenue):

Unorganized Township Cemetery:	
Shovel Lake Cemetery	
51-27	\$600
52-27	\$600
Hebron Cemetery	
50-25	\$1,500

**RESOLUTION  
20150908-050  
2016  
UNORGANIZED  
CEMETERY**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to approve letter to Security State Bank authorizing the Aitkin County Treasurer, Lori Grams, to handle the financial matters of Long Lake Conservation Center.

**LETTER TO  
SECURITY  
STATE BANK**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting to adopt resolution – Repurchase Tax Forfeited Property – Bice:

**WHEREAS**, Arthur W. and Ella R Bice of 236 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave Fairbault, Mn 55021, the owner at the time of forfeiture, has made and filed an application with the County Auditor for the repurchase of the hereinafter described parcel of tax forfeited land, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, of amended, which land is situated in the County of Aitkin, Minnesota and described as follows, to-wit:

Plat of Buck’s Addition to Hill City - Lots Five (5) and Six (6) Block Eight (8)

**AND WHEREAS**, said applicant has set forth in his application that:

Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:

- a. Forfeiture of this land will cause the loss of my family’s history and legacy. This land has been in my family for many years. It was past down to me and would be past down to future generations. My family will feel the loss of connections to their ancestors. Most of our ancestors are buried at Hill Lake Cemetary. I personally will feel loss of ties to my current family and future generations do to the loss of this land if I loose this land.
- b. The repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest, because: Repurchase of this land will promote home and family of past generations, currant and future generations. I will show that although we fell onto financial hard times, if we work together we can make it right. By allowing us to retain this land, it will keep it on the tax books income & will continue to be a well maintain property, not abandoned or vacant land. When we use this land (home) with family and friends we support local businesses and other families. We love this are & had planned to spend our retirement years in this home.

**AND WHEREAS**, this board is of the opinion that said application should be granted for such reasons,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the application of Arthur W and Ella R Bice for the purchase of the above described parcel of tax forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Repurchase Tax Forfeited Property – Johnson:

**WHEREAS**, Shane J. Johnson of 3213 Tuxedo Blvd Mound, Mn 55364, the owner at the time of forfeiture, has made and filed an application with the County Auditor for the repurchase of the hereinafter described parcel of tax forfeited land, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, of amended, which land is situated in the County of Aitkin, Minnesota and described as follows, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION  
20150908-051  
REPURCHASE  
TAX FORFEITED  
PROPERTY -  
BICE**

**RESOLUTION  
20150908-052  
REPURCHASE  
TAX FORFEITED  
PROPERTY -  
JOHNSON**

Plat of McGrath Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8) Block Eight (8)

**AND WHEREAS**, said applicant has set forth in his application that:

Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:

- a. The economy took a dive. We are in the drywall construction industry and we lost a significant amount of money and work. Me and my parents lost our house to foreclosure. We all had to move but stayed in Mound, Mn. We have moved 5 times since the property has been in my name. I was living with my family to help financially support them. I now live at 3213 Tuxedo Blvd, Mound, Mn 55364.
- b. The repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest, because:  
It would be good for our family, our relatives that currently live in McGrath, and the public. I have owned the property since I was in high school. I am 35 years old now. I do not want to lose my property. It would be in the best interest for my family and the public to keep my property.

**AND WHEREAS**, this board is of the opinion that said application should be granted for such reasons,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the application of Shane J. Johnson for the purchase of the above described parcel of tax forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

John Welle, County Engineer discussed with the Board the fiscal challenges in maintaining public drainage ditches, specifically Aitkin County Ditch 37.

Break: 10:46 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Nathan Burkett, County Administrator discussed the proposed 2016 Budget with the Board. The Preliminary budget will be set on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, another budget presentation will be given at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the annual Budget Hearing will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and the final levy will be set on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Board reported on the following: HRA, Enbridge Pipeline meeting in McGregor, BWSR, Lessard-Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council, NCLU CB, Historical Society, AIS, and Mille Lacs Lake.

**PUBLIC  
DRAINAGE  
DITCH  
MAINTENANCE /  
CO. DITCH 37**

**BREAK**

**2016 BUDGET**

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried (4-0), all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m. until Tuesday, September 22, 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