

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Grand Marais, Minnesota
September 27, 2016

The Board met in regular session this 27th day of September, 2016, at the Courthouse in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Doo-Kirk, Gamble, Moe, Storlie, and Sivertson. Absent: None.
Also present were, County Administrator Jeff Cadwell, Auditor-Treasurer Braidy Powers, County Attorney Molly Hicken, and Office Support Specialist Bev Wolke.

County Board Chair Doo-Kirk led the Commissioners in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the agenda for the meeting as amended.

No citizens appeared for the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

The Board considered the consent agenda consisting of numerous items that the Board may approve as a whole. County Board Chair Doo-Kirk asked if any Commissioner wanted to remove any items from the consent agenda.

- A. Claims
- B. Extend the Date of Firewise Contracts
- C. New Firewise Service Agreement

Motion was made by Moe, seconded by Gamble, and approved to accept the consent agenda, including the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 2016-70

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following claims totaling \$56,336.06 having been audited and found to be true and correct claims against Cook County, are approved and the Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to draw warrants in payment of said claims:

Revenue Fund

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|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Aitkin County Sheriff | 1,329.00 |
| AmeriPride Services | 42.44 |
| Boreal Community Media | 26.85 |
| Cadwell/Jeffrey | 351.00 |
| Citi Lites | 108.00 |
| Cook County Home Center | 143.41 |
| Cook County News Herald Inc | 92.00 |
| Creative Product Sourcing INC | 378.98 |
| D S C Communications | 500.00 |
| Dalco | 220.55 |
| Dell Marketing L P | 1,307.10 |
| Dennis J Linder & Assoc | 1,518.00 |
| Essentia Health | 33.97 |
| Hicken/Molly | 80.00 |
| Lake County Sheriff | 4,700.00 |
| M R Sign Co Inc | 26.62 |
| My Brothers Place Auto Repair LLC | 38.00 |
| Nordic Electric Of Gm Inc | 384.62 |
| North Shore Health | 3,769.00 |
| PROPAC | 31,672.50 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Rogers/Rena | 125.28 |
| Sawtooth Mountain Clinic | 207.00 |
| Smith/Todd | 324.00 |
| Sonju Two Harbors LLC | 303.30 |
| Steve's Sports & Auto | 280.43 |
| Tire And Auto Lodge | 117.93 |
| Watkins/Rowan | 149.16 |
| Zallar/Joseph | 106.92 |
| <u>Fund 34</u> | |
| Fred Kolkmann Tennis & Sport Surfaces | 8,000.00 |

Braidy Powers, Auditor-Treasurer, and Mike Larson, appeared before the Board to present a Revolving Loan Fund Application for Mike Larson and Stephan Surbaugh. Powers explained that the loan would be used to complete the financing of purchasing and renovating the Norshor Building located in Grand Marais by Larson's and Surbaugh's company, 47N90W Enterprises, LLC. Larson requested the Board postpone the request until Larson and Surbaugh were able to work more with the City of Grand Marais on a zoning issue. Motion was made by Doo-Kirk, seconded by Gamble, and carried by unanimous vote to approve tabling the Revolving Loan Fund Application for Mike Larson and Stephan Surbaugh, 47N90W Enterprises, LLC until further notice.

Josh Beck, Public Health and Human Services Director, Yafa Napadensky, Fiscal Supervisor, and Alison McIntyre, Financial Assistant Supervisor, appeared before the Board. McIntyre stated that the Public Health and Human Services Offices were requesting the hiring of two part-time and one full-time positions in their office. Beck explained the reason for hiring additional staff is due to filling an existing position that is moving to part-time and due to State requirements. Motion was made by Sivertson, seconded by Doo-Kirk, and carried with the following vote to approve the hiring of Katy Smith as Office Support Specialist/Case Aide at B21-1 Step 2 at 21 hours per week effective October 3, 2016, and approve the hiring of Elis Walch as Office Support Specialist/Case Aide at B21-1 Step 2 at 22.5 hours per week effective October 3, 2016, and approve the hiring of Agne Smith as Eligibility Specialist at B23-1 Step 2 at 40 hours per week effective October 31, 2016. Ayes: Sivertson, Doo-Kirk, Gamble, and Storlie. Nays: Moe.

Powers requested approving an application for a temporary, one day liquor license for the Schroeder Area Historical Society wine tasting fund raiser event on October 6, 2016. Motion was made by Sivertson, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve a temporary, one day liquor license for the Schroeder Area Historical Society wine tasting fund raiser event on October 6, 2016.

Powers asked the Board to set the 2017 Cook County Proposed Budget and Levy. The preliminary levy requests were at a 26% increase over 2016. Cadwell explained that savings from the ½% transportation tax, eliminating several new requests in the general fund, and deferring non-highway capital requests could reduce the levy to 19.9% but that to make significant further reductions would require changes to the County service levels. Motion was made by Doo-Kirk, seconded by Sivertson, to set the 2017 Cook County Proposed Budget and Levy at 19.9%. Much discussion was had. Cadwell explained that the increase is largely comprised of commitments that the County made with respect to staff, union contracts, the Highway Capital Equipment Replacement Policy, and other increases in the PHHS budget. Motion was made by Moe to amend the motion to reduce the Budget and Levy from 19.9% to 9.9%. There was no second and the motion to amend failed. Doo-Kirk called the vote and the motion carried with the following vote to approve setting the 2017 Cook County Proposed Budget and Levy at 19.9%. Ayes: Doo-Kirk, Sivertson, and Storlie. Nays: Moe and Gamble.

Powers requested setting a Public Hearing date, to discuss with the public, the 2017 Cook County Proposed Budget and Levy. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Doo-Kirk, and carried by unanimous vote to approve setting a Public Hearing for the 2017 Budget and Levy, Truth and Taxation for December 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room.

Jeff Cadwell, County Administrator, appeared before the Board to present an Aquatic Invasive Species Billboard Lease Agreement between Superior Ridge Resort Motel and the County for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Motion was made by Moe, seconded by Gamble, and carried by unanimous vote to approve a lease agreement with Superior Ridge Resort Motel for a 10' by 20' billboard on North Highway 61 for one year starting November 1, 2016 and ending October 31, 2017 at an annual cost of

\$4,500.00 for the purpose of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and to add a signature line to authorize the Auditor/Treasurer to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Cadwell, along with David Betts, County Highway Engineer, and Lisa Sorlie, Highway Department presented a resolution authorizing and implementing a 1/2% countywide sales tax for transportation as provided for in Minnesota Statute 297A.993 and direct the County Auditor/Treasurer to certify the tax to the Minnesota Department of Revenue for collection of the sales tax on or before January 1, 2017. Commissioner Gamble moved the adoption of the following resolution and upon seconding by Commissioner Doo-Kirk was adopted by unanimous yeas of all members present:

RESOLUTION #2016 -71

Local Sales Tax For Transportation

WHEREAS, the quality of Cook County's transportation system has a direct impact on the safety of system users, the County's economy and future economic development, and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of the Cook County transportation system continues to outpace available levels of local, state and federal transportation funding, and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate transportation funding causes the deferment of many needed transportation projects and improvements every year, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 297A.993, Subdivision 1, authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to adopt a countywide sales tax for transportation of up to ½ percent (0.5%) after holding a public hearing and passing an official resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed transportation sales tax on August 15, 2016, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 297A.993, Subdivision 2, requires the sales tax to terminate when revenues raised are sufficient to finance the identified projects or improvements, and

WHEREAS, The Cook County Board desires to mitigate the impact of the road and bridge levy on local property tax, and

WHEREAS, proceeds of the sales tax for transportation related projects shall be spent only on projects listed on the Cook County Transportation Sales Tax Project List (The Project List), and

WHEREAS, the addition of projects, facilities or improvements not on The Project List, to be considered for funding by countywide sales tax for transportation, shall be presented at a public hearing and included in a resolution passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board desires to implement the countywide sales tax for transportation and have the State Department of Revenue collect and distribute the sales tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, Minnesota, authorizes and implements a ½ percent (0.5%) countywide sales tax for transportation as provided for in Minnesota Statute 297A.993.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the countywide sales tax for transportation shall continue each subsequent year until sufficient revenues raised are sufficient to finance all projects identified on the Cook County Transportation Sales Tax Project List or until the Cook County Board of Commissioners ends the sales tax by resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of Minnesota Statute 291A.99, Subdivisions 4, and 6 through 12, shall govern the imposition, administration, collection and enforcement of the tax.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the County Auditor-Treasurer to certify the tax to the Minnesota Department of Revenue for collection of the sales tax on or before January 1, 2017.

Moe informed the Board that there would be a public listening session on the 2017 Cook County Proposed Budget and Levy at the Hovland Town Hall on October 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Storlie asked Moe for an update on the Hovland Town Hall renovations.

Doo-Kirk stated Administer Cadwell is preparing to schedule a meeting for the public for information on what the County provides its residents.

Cadwell requested the appointment of Todd Smith as the new County Assessor. Cadwell explained that Smith has completed the Accredited Minnesota Assessor credentialing to be eligible to be appointed Cook County Assessor. Motion was made by Doo-Kirk, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Todd Smith as the new County Assessor.

Kim Shepard, Deputy Court Administrator, administered the oath of office to newly appointed County Assessor Todd Smith.

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
 } S.S.
COUNTY OF COOK }

I, Todd Smith, swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, that I will be diligent, faithful, and impartial in the performance of the duties of the office and trust that I now assume as Assessor for the County of Cook. So help me God.

Commissioner Gamble reported that he would attend the WTIP interview on September 28, 2016.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

HEIDI DOO-KIRK, Chair
Cook County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: **BRAIDY POWERS**
 Auditor-Treasurer