

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

Grand Marais, Minnesota
October 25, 2016

The Board met in regular session this 25th day of October, 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 Moe, seconded by Gamble, 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. Commissioner Gamble requested pulling items #E & F.

- A. Claims
- B. Cook County Board Minutes for September 20, 2016
- C. Donation. Pat Eliassen/ Braidy Powers
- D. Renewal of Liquor and Tobacco Licenses.
- E. Firewise Contract
- F. SCDP Housing Grant

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

RESOLUTION # 2016-75

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following claims totaling \$81,765.44 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

A E O A - SCDP	62,841.00
A M E E Central	645.00
A-1 Disposal	90.19
Aitkin County Sheriff	2,872.94
Allied Generators	1,948.10
Association Of MN Counties SWAA	100.00
Bucks Hardware Hank	364.03
Consulting Radiologist LTD	140.00
Dalco	221.85
Dell Marketing L P	2,656.90
Lunde/Leif	425.68
M C I S	2,142.50
Marxen/Mark	98.00
MN State Auditor	3,180.00
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	465.00
North Shore Health	151.00

North Shore Superior Pest Management	175.00
Northern Wilds Media Inc.	237.00
Pace Analytical Services Inc.	66.85
Pranis/Bob	1,315.56
Rexrode/Melissa	54.00
Sundew Technical Services LLC	10.00
Watkins/Rowan	150.24
<u>Airport</u>	
Back Office Services LLC	90.00
Boreal Access	14.95
Duluth Lawn & Sport Inc.	109.05
North Shore Waste	140.40
Pace Analytical Services Inc.	285.00
Westmor Fluid Solutions	775.20

Gamble requested clarification on the agreement with Skildum Enterprise on the responsibility of liability if a fire got out of control. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Moe, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the service agreement with Skildum Enterprise for hazardous fuel reduction on Gust Lake to be paid from the Twin lakes grant in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 with completion by December 31, 2016.

Gamble asked for clarification on a Grant for Residential Owner Rehab between the State of Minnesota, acting through the Department of Employment and Economic Development, Business and Community Development Division, and Cook County. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Sivertson, and carried by unanimous vote to approve Grant # CDAP-15-0058-O-FY16 for Residential Owner Rehab for eight properties in Lutsen in the amount of \$226,800.00, and authorize Auditor Powers and Board Chair Doo-Kirk to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Diane Booth, Community Center/Extension Director, appeared before the Board. Booth explained there are some safety concerns related to the Community Center front door not having a window and the issue of people not returning keys as requested. Booth presented two options to solve the problem; replace the front door and rekey major doors at the Community Center building or go to a card reading system with programmed key cards, replacing the front door and adding electric strike plates to the major doors of the Community Center. Motion was made by Moe, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve replacing the front door and rekey major doors at the Community Center building at a cost of \$6,344.00.

Bill Lane, Planning & Zoning Administrator, appeared before the Board to request rezoning a parcel from Single Family Residential/General Commercial to Single Family Residential on Property adjacent to Skou Road in Schroeder. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve rezoning a parcel from Single Family Residential/General Commercial to Single Family Residential on Property adjacent to Skou Road in Schroeder.

Jeff Cadwell, County Administrator, appeared before the Board to present a request from the Gunflint Trail Historical Society for a letter of support to expand the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. Motion was made by Sivertson, seconded by Gamble, and carried by unanimous vote to approve sending a letter of support to expand the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center.

Jeanne Anderson, District 5 School Board Member, and Superintendent Dr. Bill Crandall, appeared before the Board on behalf of Community Ed to present the 2017 Cook County Discretionary Fund request for \$15,000.00 to help support and maintain youth programs.

David Betts, County Highway Engineer, presented to the Board the bids for Winter Maintenance on Subordinate Governmental Service District Roads. Betts recommended approval of the low bids or sole bids as follows: On Evergreen Road to Mike Rose Excavating at \$90.00 per hour for 2-15 inches and \$120.00 per hour for 15 or more inches; Mile-O-Pine Road to Greg Gecas at \$125.00 per hour for 2-15 inches and \$125.00 per hour for 15 or more inches; Voyageur's Point to Christianson Plow Service at \$100.00 per hour for 2-15 inches and \$100.00 per hour for 15 or more inches; West Rosebush Lane to Ray Block at \$70.00 per hour for 2-15 inches and \$70.00 per hour for 15 or more

inches; and Rosebush Hill to W Labor LLC at \$99.00 per time for 2-15 inches and \$99.00 per time for 15 or more inches; and Irish Creek Road, to Anders Zimmer at \$725.00 for 2-15 inches and \$900.00 for 15 or more inches; Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Moe, and carried to award the Winter Maintenance on Subordinate Governmental Service District Roads on Evergreen Road to Mike Rose Excavating; Mile-O-Pine Road to Greg Gecas; Voyageur's Point to Christianson Plow Service; West Rosebush Lane to Ray Block; Rosebush Hill to W Labor LLC and Irish Creek to Anders Zimmer.

Betts presented a proposed winter maintenance agreement for Old TH 61, also known as Rollins Creek Road, from the Minnesota Department of Transportation requesting the Cook County Highway Department provide winter maintenance services to include plowing, winging, sanding, salting, and snow removal on the roadway and shoulders. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Doo-Kirk, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the winter maintenance agreement for Old TH 61, also known as Rollins Creek Road, from the Minnesota Department of Transportation requesting the Cook County Highway Department provide winter maintenance services to include plowing, winging, sanding, salting, and snow removal on the roadway and shoulders at a proposed lump sum payment of \$3,320.00 and authorize the Highway Engineer to sign the work order.

Betts informed the Board that the Highway Department and the Highway Committee have been working together to prioritize projects on the Transportation Sales Tax List. CR 45 is one of the top priorities and needs to be put out for proposals for design services. Motion was made by Gamble, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve authorizing the Highway Department to solicit proposals for CR 45 design services.

Sue Hennessy, Grand Marais Playhouse Artistic Director, and Karen Blackburn, appeared before the Board. Hennessy presented a 2017 budget request of \$4,000, which would be used for Grand Marais Playhouse summer intern programming.

Cadwell presented a request of support from Kathleen Atkinson, Regional Forester, regarding the Superior National Forest - Minnesota School Trust Lands Project. Under this proposal, 53,000 acres of BWCAW land would be purchased by the U.S. Forest Service with the 30,000 other acres being swapped with Superior National Forest land. Motion was made by Moe, seconded by Storlie, and carried with the following vote to approve sending a letter of support to Kathleen Atkinson, Regional Forester, regarding the Superior National Forest - Minnesota School Trust Lands Project hybrid purchase/exchange framework. Ayes: Moe, Storlie, Sivertson, and Doo-Kirk. Nays: Gamble.

Cadwell presented three positions requesting Board approval to hire. Public Health and Human Services requested the hiring of Heidi Akins for the vacant Social Work position. Akins is available to start on October 31, 2016. Steven Veit to fill the position of Wetlands/Land Use Specialist. Karl Smit to fill the part time position of Tofte Transfer Station Attendant. Motion was made by Sivertson, seconded by Storlie, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Heidi Akins for the vacant Social Work position at a C43-3 level. Steven Veit to fill the position of Wetlands/Land Use Specialist at the pay level of C-4-1 Step 1. Karl Smit to fill the part time position of Tofte Transfer Station Attendant at the wage level of A-1-1, Step 1.

Cadwell asked to confirm the designated voting delegates for the 2016 Annual Conference Meeting of the Association of Minnesota Counties to be held on December 5-6, 2016.

Doo-Kirk requested rescheduling the November Board meetings as the November 8, 2016 date conflicted with Commissioner's Room being used as a City polling office on Election Day. Board consensus was to meet on November 15, 22, and 29, 2016.

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. Moe has also invited the EDA to talk about their initiatives in Cook County.

Doo-Kirk stated there will be a Town Hall meeting October 19, 2016 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse to talk with about County services.

Gamble stated he is hosting a town hall event on Thursday, October 27, 2016 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook County Community Center.

Commissioner Ginny Storlie stated she would like to host a Town Hall meeting in the West End of Cook County on Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Correspondence – Memos:

A. MN DNR Letter

B. Arrowhead Regional Corrections Board Materials

Commissioner Doo-Kirk reported that she would attend the WTIP interview on October 26, 2016.

Senator Bakk, State Representative Rob Ecklund and IRRRB Director Mark Phillips, appeared before the Board. Senator Bakk provided an update on legislative issues and invited comments and questions from the Commissioners.

County Attorney Molly Hicken requested the Board close the regular session, to review the K. Johnson law suit and to review the lockdown procedure. Commissioner Gamble made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Storlie, to close the regular session and to open a closed session to review the K. Johnson law suit and the Lock Down procedure.

Commissioner Doo-Kirk made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Storlie, to close the closed session and to re-open the regular session. Motion was approved unanimously. No action was taken.

Doo-Kirk requested setting the 2017 Discretionary Funding for the Budget Committee to not go any higher than the cost was last year, which would include adding the Violence Prevention Center request which wasn't on the list last year. Motion was made by Moe, seconded by Doo-Kirk, and carried by the following vote to approve setting the 2017 Discretionary Funding to not exceed that of the 2016-dollar amount of \$170,500.00. Ayes: Moe, Doo-Kirk, Gamble, and Storlie. Nays: Sivertson.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

HEIDI DOO-KIRK, Chair
Cook County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: **BRAIDY POWERS**
Auditor-Treasurer