

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE COUNTY BOARD
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota. County Commissioners Present: District 1 Commissioner Peter R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick (Rick) L. Goutermont, District 3 Commissioner Richard (Rick) C. Hogenson, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd, District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. County Commissioners Absent: None. Also present: County Administrator Matthew Huddleston and Laurel D. Buchanan, Clerk of the Board. Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Board Chair Rich Sve. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas vote. Members of the public were present. Commissioner Sve led the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HOGENSON: 01 – Approve agenda. Absent: None

An update on the gypsy moth program was provided by Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Pest Mitigation and Regulatory Response Unit Supervisor. Gypsy moth management strategies were discussed, including efforts toward eradication and suppression, and the MDA's participation in a project called Slow the Spread (STS), a national program to contain the gypsy moth. Federal, State, and local government agencies work cooperatively to control gypsy moth populations. Ms. Thielen Cremers discussed the regulated area of Cook and Lake Counties, the first quarantine in Minnesota due to the presence of reproducing populations of the gypsy moth. The quarantine has been in place since July 2014. She discussed aerial aviation projects, early detection surveys, and 2018 proposed treatment applications. The gypsy moth is a leaf-eating insect, a destructive, nonnative forest pest that can cause substantial damage to forest resources. A lack of natural predators has allowed this pest to invade North America's hardwood forests. Natural spread is limited because female gypsy moths are unable to fly. However, gypsy moths travel by human assisted movement. Gypsy moths may hitch a ride on outdoor household articles, lumber, vehicles and other objects. Ms. Thielen Cremers discussed treatment methods used to help slow the spread. *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.) is a microbial insecticide that only impacts caterpillars (moth and butterfly caterpillars) and may reduce populations of some spring feeding caterpillars. The timing of the proposed Btk treatments does not affect Monarch caterpillars. Mating disruption is another method of gypsy moth population control. The substance used for mating disruption has no effect on nontarget organisms. Proposed treatment sites are reviewed and approved by a Statewide Gypsy Moth Program Advisory Committee (GMPAC), including representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA, APHIS, PPQ); U.S. Forest Service; National Slow the Spread Foundation (USFS, STS); and the University of Minnesota. Ms. Thielen Cremers provided maps for three sites identified in Lake County for 2018 proposed treatment applications. Btk is proposed for the first two sites, and mating disruption is proposed for the third site. Maps were provided: 1) White Iron Lake treatment block, 77 acres located on a peninsula on the northeastern shore of White Iron Lake in Fall Lake Township, located within the proclamation boundary of Superior National Forest; 2) Two Harbors treatment block, 526 acres of private ownership sites located near Two Harbors; 3) Split Rock, Beaver Bay treatment area in Silver Creek township and Beaver Bay township, involving 73,509 acres, including some acreage that intersects the proclamation boundary of the Superior National Forest. Public scoping and environmental assessment are to be conducted. Ms. Thielen Cremers discussed outreach efforts for notification to residents and the public. The proposed Btk treatments do not affect bees but may affect other pollinators. Ms. Thielen Cremers also discussed the timing of the proposed aerial aviation projects and that property owners may cover plants or use sprinklers to protect other pollinators.

Lake County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board members Tom Lovdahl and Bob Entzion appeared before the Board of Commissioners to propose extending the partnership between Lake County and the Lake County HRA for management of the Lakeview Apartment Building. The HRA would like to extend the partnership for another two or three years of management. Previously a one year agreement was discussed, from July 2017 to July 2018. When the HRA took on the management responsibility in July 2017, there were seven (7) apartments. Now there are ten (10) apartments, with plans for additional apartments in the coming months. Plans are for up to fourteen (14) apartments. Affordable housing continues to be a need in the community. The HRA would recommend \$700,000 in improvements to the Lakeview Apartment Building. The HRA also has other priority projects for applications for funding that it plans to pursue. A funding application for the Lakeview Apartment Building may be prepared and submitted in a future funding cycle. In the meantime, the HRA is willing to continue the partnership with a minimal budget as established between Lake County and the HRA. The HRA is interested in continuing the partnership for financial commitment and leadership. Mr. Lovdahl and Mr. Entzion discussed the success of the Beacon Hill project in Grand Rapids. The HRA would like to be part of a similar success story in Lake County, as the community would benefit from more availability of affordable housing.

County Administrator Matthew Huddleston gave a brief overview of a proposed resolution that the County Assessor has brought forward. The County Assessor recommends an abatement for values for Wisconsin Central Ltd, a state assessed railroad property that a tax court petition was filed upon. The State of Minnesota settled the petition resulting in a lowered valuation for 2017 for taxes payable in 2018. The proposed resolution would result in no refund in 2018. County Assessor Gregg Swartwoudt provided a list of parcels being abated, their "Original Value", "the "Stipulated Value" and their "Value Reduction." Mr. Swartwoudt attended the meeting and answered questions regarding the proposed resolution. Mr. Swartwoudt explained that the court petition is a two-year petition. County Highway Engineer Krysten Foster discussed proposed Road and Bridge resolutions. Ms. Foster reviewed proposed resolutions revoking CSAH 17 subject to City of Two Harbors and City of Silver Bay approvals; revoking portions of CSAHs 29 & 30 and designating CSAHs 35 & 36 within the City of Two Harbors; formalizing the designation of CSAH 5 between Outer Dr. & Edison Blvd. within the City of Silver Bay; and designating CSAH 38 subject to City of Two Harbors and City of Silver Bay approvals. With these designation changes, the level of plowing and grading would remain the same. County Administrator Matthew Huddleston reviewed the courthouse security grant agreement in the amount of \$53,000. The grant dollars will be received once the agreement becomes fully executed. The grant dollars can only be used as a match. The grant must be completed by December 31, 2018, and final payments are to be made by March 1, 2019.

MOTION WALSH, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 02 – Recess the Board of Commissioners meeting at 3:15 p.m. Absent: None

The Board of Commissioners meeting was reconvened at 3:24 p.m. with all members present. County Administrator Matthew Huddleston continued with his report, referencing the Sheriff's requests for temporary staffing. Commissioners asked for more information. Mr. Huddleston provided an update about the possibility of a long-term shared service agreement for county engineer services, which would divide Ms. Foster's time between Lake County and Cook County, while both counties would maintain separate county highway departments. A Lake County Engineering Supervisor position would be needed if Lake County were to enter into a shared service agreement for county engineer services. Several Minnesota counties have effective delivery models for shared services agreements. This would be a shared supervisory position of county engineer. Ms. Foster confirmed that she is prepared to manage those challenges. County Commissioner Rick Goutermont left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Highway Engineer Krysten Foster provided an update on Transportation Sales Tax; \$490,000 has been collected from April through December 2017. Ms. Foster reminded that folks with inquiries about Highway 61 maintenance may contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) by phone at 218-725-2700. MnDOT is a great resource for inquiries about 2018 MnDOT Highway 61 and Highway 1 projects.

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 03 – Approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve County Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from December 26, 2017.
2. Approve County Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from January 2, 2018.
3. Approve Health and Human Services claims payments in the following amounts:
 - a. Administrative payments \$ 40,317.41
 - b. Special payments \$ 192,505.74
4. Approve North Country Trail Reroute letter which would utilize the Superior Hiking Trail and the Kekekabic Trail and approve the Lake County Board Chair to sign on the letter.
5. Award CSP-018-001 to the lowest responsible bidder, Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$189,000.00. Pending County Attorney review, approve and authorize the Chair to sign the contract for this 2018 gravel crushing project.
6. Resolution revoking CSAH 17 subject to City of Two Harbors and City of Silver Bay approvals.
7. Resolution revoking portions of CSAHs 29 & 30 and designating CSAHs 35 & 36 within the City of Two Harbors.
8. Resolution formalizing the designation of CSAH 5 between Outer Dr. & Edison Blvd. within the City of Silver Bay.
9. Resolution designating CSAH 38 subject to City of Two Harbors and City of Silver Bay approvals.
10. Resolution approving and authorizing Board Chair to sign Delegated Contracting Process Agreement No. 1030038 with Minnesota Department of Transportation for federally funded projects.
11. Authorize Board Chair and Highway Engineer to sign CP 0000-275367 (2018 Maintenance Striping Project) cooperative agreement with St. Louis County at a cost up to \$25,000.00.
12. Approve payment of Invoice No. 3909 in the amount of \$5,487.26 to CBS Squared, Inc. for Highway Department Site Survey.

13. Authorize Highway Department payment to Krech Ojard & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$6,502.50 for Fire Assessment Professional Services for a total of \$21,236.79 reimbursable from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust.
14. Authorize Highway Engineer to sign John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon special event permit for January 28, 2018.
15. Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign an extension of the 2017 Service Agreement with Randall Walz through February 28, 2018, with the amount remaining up to \$14,000.
16. Approve and authorize Board Chair to sign easement crossing SE ¼ of NW ¼ and SW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 2 Township 56, Range 7; to provide legal access to W ½ of NE ¼ Section 2, Township 56, Range 7.
17. Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Federal Representation Services Agreement between Lockridge Grindal Nauen, P.L.L.P. (LGN) and Lake County, Minnesota, for a six-month term, at the same monthly rate as 2017.
18. Authorize monthly payments of 2018 funding to Lake County Ambulance Service (LCAS) in the amount of \$41,666.67. 20.
19. Authorize the following payments to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT):
 - \$3,382 for Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's property and casualty insurance 2018 premiums (Invoice 18026R).
 - \$4,436 for Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2018 Workers' Compensation policy (Invoice 17622R).
 - \$138 for Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's Workers' Compensation, 2016 Audit. (Invoice WC253109)
20. Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the State of Minnesota Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative Grant Agreement. Absent: Goutermont.

MOTION HOGENSON, SECOND WALSH: 04 – Approve the resignation of Lucinda Kuehl, Administrative Clerk, effective December 29, 2017. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 05 – Approve the recruitment for one part-time Administrative Clerk. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION HURD, SECOND WALSH: 06 – Approve the 2017-2019 Non-Represented Board Resolution. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION HOGENSON, SECOND WALSH: 07 – Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the 2017-2019 Labor Agreement between Lake County and Minnesota Public Employees Association covering Dispatcher/Correction Officer Unit employees. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 08 – Abate the values of assessment 2017, taxes payable in 2018 for Wisconsin Central Ltd, per recommendation from the Lake County Assessor. Wisconsin Central Ltd. is state assessed railroad property that a tax court petition was filed upon. The State of Minnesota settled the petition resulting in a lowered valuation for 2017 for taxes payable in 2018. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HOGENSON: 09 – Approve selection of Kraus-Anderson Construction Company for Construction Management Services for the new Lake County Highway Department Facility. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 10 – Approve selection of CBS Squared, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for the new Lake County Highway Department Facility. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HOGENSON: 11 – Set the Interim Appointed Recorder 2017 salary at \$57,837 and the 2018 annual salary at \$59,241. Absent: Goutermont

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 12 – Adjourn Board of Commissioners' meeting at 4:25 pm. Absent: Goutermont

From the Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule:

- Meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, to be held in the Law Enforcement Center, 613 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota.
- Regular meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, to be held in the Split Rock River Room located on the main floor of the Lake County Service Center, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Chairperson
Lake County Board of Commissioners