



Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Board Meeting

Item 10

11:05 a.m. Darrell Pettis, County Administrator/Engineer

RE: Crane Creek Paving Contract

RE: CD #38 Joint Board

RE: Transit

RE: Intersection Lighting for CSAH 2 & 19

RE: Excel Energy Construction Agreement

RE: Bonding

RE: Leadership Workshop

RE: Sheriff Resolution

Staff Contact:

Scope of Work

VINE AGREES TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING WORK BY 12/31/16 TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF A TRI-COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM SERVING BLUE EARTH, NICOLLET, AND LESUEUR COUNTIES:

1. Schedule up to 40 visits with organizations, businesses, rural city councils, assisted livings, public housing etc. in rural Blue Earth, Nicollet, and LeSueur Counties to determine the transit needs of their constituents.
2. Determine the need for a transit survey for county residents. Implement survey, as appropriate.
3. Work with the cities of Mankato, North Mankato, St. Peter, and LeSueur to determine how a tri-county rural transit system would interface with existing MnDOT-funded public transit systems. Schedule meetings with existing transit systems in Brown, Watonwan, Sibley, and Faribault Counties to discuss collaboration.
4. Schedule meetings with Aging Services for Communities in Montgomery, Nicollet County Senior Transportation, and the Greater Mankato Area United Way to discuss collaboration.
5. Survey area organizations (assisted living facilities, group homes etc) that own small buses to determine their interest in leasing the vehicles to the tri-county transit system if it were to be developed.
6. Attend MNDOT sponsored conferences in St. Cloud and Rochester. Continue to communicate with MNDOT staff about project activities and potential for MnDOT funding for tri-county rural transit system.
7. Meet regularly with county administrators and designated commissioners for progress updates and direction.
8. As directed by county administrators, design a service plan for bus routes in the tri-county service area.

Proposed Costs

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Personnel | Combined professional staff time - 35 hrs/wk. total for 6 months @ \$47 / hour | \$42,770 |
| | Benefits @ 20% | \$8,554 |
| Travel and Meeting Costs | Mileage (40 meetings + 2 conferences) and meetings hosted at VINE | \$3,000 |
| Conferences lodging and meals | St. Cloud (lodging for 2 nights) - 2 rooms | \$350 |
| | Rochester (lodging for 2 nights) - 2 rooms | \$350 |
| Community Engagement | Survey design, implementation, and tabulation | \$10,000 |
| Graphic Designer Fees | 10 hrs @ \$60 | \$600 |
| Administrative Overhead | | \$4,376 |
| TOTAL REQUEST | | \$70,000 |

WEST METRO

Local governments 'ry foul over feds' move to limit tax-free muni bonds

Officials say move would stifle development projects in Minnesota, across U.S.

By John Reinan (<http://www.startribune.com/john-reinan/273043871/>) Star Tribune

MAY 31, 2016 — 8:07PM

Public officials in Minnesota and across the nation are scrambling to head off a proposal they say would deliver a devastating blow to their ability to fund infrastructure and economic development projects.

Affordable housing in Albertville, a community gym in Edina, a fire station in Pelican Rapids: These and other projects could become tougher to build and pay for if the IRS succeeds in clamping down on the use of tax-exempt municipal bonds.

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"It affects everything in the country that has bonding," said Lori Economy-Scholler, Bloomington's chief financial officer. "It could affect every piece of public financing as it pertains to port authorities and economic development agencies."

The IRS, she added, "is really overstepping their bounds."

IRS officials did not respond to requests for comment on the proposal. The open period for comments on the proposed rules ended May 23, and a hearing is scheduled June 6 in Washington.

The agency is proposing strict new limits on municipal bonding — so strict, critics say, that they would virtually end the use of tax-exempt bonds by port authorities, housing authorities and other economic development agencies.

Some cities might no longer be able to issue tax-exempt bonds for schools, hospitals and other infrastructure.

The regulations would rewrite the rules for bond issuers, including a new requirement that elected officials must exercise significant control over the agency issuing bonds. That would restrict or eliminate the ability of appointed or semi-independent economic development authorities to issue bonds.

Another change would allow the use of tax-exempt bonds only if the project provides no more than "an incidental benefit" to a private entity. That could rule out using tax-exempt bonds to finance items such as parking decks at the Mall of America.

Schane Rudlang, administrator of the Bloomington Port Authority, said the IRS is concerned about the misuse of tax-exempt bonds in some areas of the country. But the severe limits the agency is proposing, he said, "is like using a sledgehammer to kill a mosquito."

Drawing the line

Last year alone, economic development authorities in Minnesota issued more than \$275 million worth of bonds, according to Springsted Inc., a financial adviser to municipal governments. That figure doesn't include bonds issued by cities themselves.

Nationally, more than \$3.7 trillion in municipal bonds of all types are in force, according to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Tax-exempt bonds allow cities and development agencies to borrow money for development projects at below-market interest rates. If taxes were assessed on the bonds, the interest rates would go up a percentage point or more. That doesn't sound like a lot, but it could amount to extra payments totaling hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars over the life of a bond.

To make up the difference, cities would have to either assess local taxpayers more or scale back their projects.



(http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows_14592930848012)
AARON LAVINSKY/STAR TRIBUNE

The Mall of America is visible from beyond the adjacent Ramada hotel Tuesday. The Bloomington City Council approved the Port Authority's purchase of the Ramada, formerly the Thunderbird Hotel, which will then sell it to the Mall of America for the same \$18.5 million price. It is part of the Authority's longterm vision to urbanize the South Loop and could be considered Phase 4 of the mall's future expansion.

That might not be a bad thing, said Jay Kiedrowski, a senior fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and state commissioner of finance under Gov. Rudy Perpich from 1985 to 1987.

"There have been many critics of states and cities who say that tax-exempt debt has been overused as an economic development tool," Kiedrowski said. "Tax-exempt debt makes sense for streets, water projects, sewers, parks, schools. But when tax-exempt debt is used for economic development, it's always been fuzzy as to where that line should be drawn to prevent bad projects vs. good projects."

Minnesota cities overall have a track record of using bonding for worthwhile projects, local officials said.

"Our housing and port authorities have existed for a long time and have done a lot of good work," said Tom Grundhoefer, general counsel for the League of Minnesota Cities. "And that's why we're concerned about these proposals."

Rudlang said the IRS proposal would endanger public infrastructure improvements planned over the next few years in Bloomington's South Loop district, which the city planned to finance with tax-exempt bonds of up to \$100 million. The South Loop includes the Mall of America.

State Auditor Rebecca Otto called tax-exempt bonding "an extraordinary tool for local governments. We have 853 cities in Minnesota, and this tool is very important to make sure we can maintain and replace our infrastructure."

john.reinan@startribune.com 612-673-7402 sribguy



Running Effective Meetings and Leading With Civility

Presented in conjunction with University of Minnesota Extension

Learn how to run more effective meetings, handle disagreements constructively and turn things around when they've gone sideways.

Are you looking for a reset button on how you lead meetings?

Members of councils and boards often have different perspectives, making meetings more stressful and less productive than they could be.

This workshop will teach you skills to run more effective meetings, and handle disagreements constructively when conflicts arise. Discover what causes conflict and work through common situations that can derail meetings and undermine your effectiveness as a [council/board]. Explore how to interact with others in ways that build understanding and consensus and lead to better decision making.

You'll Learn How to:

- Recognize your leadership role in running effective meetings and managing conflict.
- Diagnose why conflict happens and understand conflict management styles.
- Identify strategies to make conflict productive and lead more effective meetings.
- Know where to find help and resources.

Registration Fee: \$45 per person (includes dinner)

Dates/Locations:

July 13– Bemidji

Northern Township Hall
445 Township Road NW, Bemidji

5:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: June 30

July 14 – Staples

National Joint Powers Alliance
202 12th Street NE, Staples

5:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: June 30

July 28 – Mankato

South Central Service Cooperative
2075 Lookout Drive, North Mankato

5:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: July 14

Space is limited! Each organization has a maximum of 15 attendees per workshop, so register today!

Please click [here](#) to register with your organization.



Office of
David D Tietz
Sheriff of Le Sueur County
Le Center, Minnesota 56057

CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF
Brett V.P. Mason

INVESTIGATOR
Bruce Collins
Bob Vollmer
Todd Waldron

PHONE 507 357-4440
Fax 507 357-4627

LE SUEUR COUNTY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the County of Le Sueur desires to improve efficiencies through participating in a more efficient court process with the Minnesota Judicial Branch; and,

WHEREAS, as the Minnesota Judicial Branch moves toward a more efficient court process, the eCourtMN initiative is committed to ensuring that non-court governmental agencies have appropriate access to court records and documents; and,

WHEREAS, Le Sueur County desires to subscribe to the Minnesota Court Data Services Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners approves and authorizes David D Tietz, Sheriff, to sign the Master Subscriber Agreement for the Minnesota Court Data Services for Governmental Agencies. This Agreement is between the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Office and the State of Minnesota.

BY:

Chairman, Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners

Attested by:

Darrell Pettis, County Administrator

Dated this _____ day of June, 2016.

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