

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 3-18-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Aitkin County 2013 Legislative Platform – Update/Modify

Requested Meeting Date: 3-26-13 Estimated Presentation Time: _____

Presenter: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion with possible action
- Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
- Approve/adopt proposal by motion
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) _____

Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)

- Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes _____ No _____ (attach explanation)
- What type of expenditure is this? Operating Capital Other (attach explanation)
- Revenue line account # that funds this item is: _____
- Expenditure line account # for this item is: _____

Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

- Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected. Yes No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision. Yes No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy. Yes No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level. Yes No



Supporting Attachment(s)

- Memorandum Summary of Item
- Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
- Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
- Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
- Bid/quote comparison worksheet
- Draft County Board resolution
- Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
- Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) Letter

Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

RE: Aitkin County 2013 Legislative Platform – Update/Modify

DATE: March 18, 2013

On February 12, 2013 the County Board reviewed and adopted their 2013 Legislative Priorities for 2013. Since that time the legislature has been in session for an additional six weeks. Recently we were informed by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) that the MAGIC Act is not going to move forward this year. Additionally, I have been informed that the state general tax elimination or modifications are also not very likely to happen this year.

Because the majority of the Board members will attend the AMC legislative conference, the Board may find other pertinent topics need to be discussed.

Does the Board want to reconsider the County's priorities or how would you like to move forward for the remainder of the 2013 legislative session

Please find a copy of the letter sent to our legislators in St. Paul, identifying the County's priorities.

Please contact me prior to the meeting if you have questions.

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February 14, 2013

Senator Carrie Ruud
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

Dear Senator Ruud:

Thank you for calling into the County Board meeting on Tuesday, February 12 to present your legislative update. We know your time is limited and we appreciate your sharing your time with the County Board. I have attached Aitkin County's 2013 legislative priorities and provided additional details as follows:

Aitkin County 2013 Legislative Platform

State of MN to Collect its share of Property tax

The County Board and AMC both would like the State of MN to collect the State General Tax through an electronic process that it has in place with the collection of sales tax, while the tax remains in place. The **objective** would be to eliminate the State General Tax.

PILT

With recent downturn in timber markets and property values PILT is important to the County's ability to provide the benefits of public land.

1. Maintain (important)
2. Increase (nice - but not likely)

Magic Act

Much of MS 282 and other statutes that apply to County land are outdated; but there is no consensus among Counties to do any overhauling. Currently most interpretations of statute lean toward prohibiting a practice if not specifically allowed by statute. Elements of the "magic act" would increase flexibility in providing benefits from County administered lands by allowing projects/practices not specifically addressed by statute.

Transportation Funding and Distribution

Aitkin County supports sustainable annual increases in gas tax and motor vehicle registration fees to keep pace with annual construction inflation. Aitkin County supports

the current constitutional formula for distribution of the highway user tax distribution fund.

Investments in Technology

A technology infrastructure which assures efficient administration of publicly funded services must be developed. Aitkin County supports the Department of Human Services and Department of Health efforts to modernize technology systems. Updating the state's aging technology infrastructure is essential to effective administration of programs and achieving client outcomes.

We look forward to working with you to accomplish our priorities.

Additionally, we understand the staggering amount of legislation that you have to deal with in a short period of time. With that in mind we plan to have the County Board review specific legislation at each board meeting and provide you with their comments. We know your time is limited so the Board summary comments will be short. If after reviewing the comments from Aitkin County Commissioners you have any questions please contact any of them or me. A complete contact list is attached.

The Board asks that you vote to approve each of the pieces of legislation listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

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