

NEWSPAPER RAISES TRANSPARENCY QUESTIONS AGAIN LIBRARY BOARD SELECTS NEW CHAIR and VICE CHAIR

by Bryan Olson — Special to the *Anoka County Record*

The Anoka County Library Board met Monday night Jan. 26 to set its meeting schedule for 2015 and select a new chair and vice chair.

Daniel Greensweig will be the new chair of the board, taking the gavel from Robert Thistle, who remains a member, and Melanie Keister was elected vice chair.

Greensweig was appointed to the Library Board last August and is an attorney with a discipline in local government. He is a former Circle Pines city councilor and has also served on the city's Park Board and Planning Commission.

Anoka County Library Board members receive a stipend of \$50 per meeting.

The board also determined its meeting schedule for 2015: February 23, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 14. Meetings are to be held in the library offices behind the Northtown Library at 5:30 pm on those Monday nights. The dates, times or location are subject to change.

A clean copy of proposed changes to the board's bylaws was included in the meeting packet however no strikethrough copy that would show the changes being made was provided. Library Director Marlene Moulton Janssen informed the board that any member could request the strikethrough copy and it would be provided to them. The *Anoka County Record* has requested the strikethrough copy but has not received it as of press time.

Another omission noticed by this reporter was the removal of the library system's bills and expenditures list for the previous month, which heretofore had always been included in the public meeting packet.

According to the minutes of the Library Board's December meeting, the bills and expenditures list will now be approved as a consent agenda item, "with review copies available at the meeting."

This raises the question as to when exactly do board members see this list? Not until the meeting? For the public to have access to the list, apparently one will have to attend the meetings or make a public data request.

The list was removed from the online version of the packet as well as the packet in the meeting room, which is required by state law to be available for public inspection. This reporter had to ask for a copy of the expenditures during the meeting. An electronic file of the list was provided to the *Record* the day after the meeting by Janssen.

The *Record* is also investigating a possible violation of the state's open meeting law as to how the board's vote for the vice chair position was handled. This newspaper has requested an explanation from county staff on the matter.

Among the items on the Jan. 26 agenda of note, was the approval of an expenditure not to exceed \$9,500 to install a display of original art pieces in the Northtown Library. The funds have been awarded to the Anoka County Library system from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, commonly referred to as "the Legacy Fund". These funds are sales taxes that have been collected state-wide.

Near the end of the meeting was an agenda item titled "Information" which has been a staple of the board's regular agenda for a long time. For this, the meeting packet will include a write-up of news of library operations, which Director Janssen often elaborates on verbally.

At the urging of County Commissioner Julie Braastad, liaison to the Library Board, the "Information" agenda item was hurried along, without Janssen's usual comments. Braastad said "that is the way we do it on the County Board." She also announced that new commissioner Mike Gamache had been designated to be the alternate liaison in her stead.

In another perplexing turn of events, the meeting packet in the room suddenly had "Do Not Remove from this Room" written on its cover. Frequently this reporter needs the packet to refer to after the meeting, and has taken it for archiving, as it nearly always contains material that was omitted from the packet that is posted on the library website.

State law requires that the meeting packet be available to the public to review during the meeting. There is nothing said about what has to become of the packet after the meeting. The packet in the meeting room is just a copy of the materials, it is not the only copy.

The *Record* has requested clarification from county administrator Jerry Soma about the changes in the conduct of the Library Board meetings and the withholding of public data.

Legislators fly under radar on out-of-state trips

By Tom Steward | Watchdog.Org Minnesota Bureau

ST. PAUL, Minn.— They may be elected to focus on Minnesota issues, but some state senators and representatives get around more like members of Congress.

"In Taichung, Taiwan we are served "hot dog" pizza to celebrate the anniversary of declaring our independence! Our Midwest legislative delegation is learning much about this island democracy," stated a Facebook post by Sen. Ann Rest, DFL-New Hope, and Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, on a 2014 trip to Taiwan sponsored by the Taiwanese government.



Social media can be the best way to track legislators on the move, such as the ten MN lawmakers at this 2014 Great Lakes conference in Quebec City — eight Democrats and the two Republicans pictured here, Senators David Senjem and Carrie Ruud.

It's legal, though under the radar, with no reporting requirement or government clearinghouse for constituents to check the cost, purpose and sponsors of informational trips for elected officials.

"We will kick off with an Opening Night Reception at the Comcast Headquarters—Check out the spectacular view we will have!" wrote Sen. Carrie Ruud, R-Breezy Point, on Facebook for the National Foundation for Women Legislators December conference in Philadelphia.

Facebook and Twitter remain the best way to track legislators' policy-related

TRAVEL JUNKETS TAKEN BY LEGISLATORS *continued on page 5*

MN House Forms Met Council Subcommittee

Wednesday, Speaker Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) and Chair of the House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) announced the formation of a new Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council Accountability and Transparency.

"We are forming this subcommittee to hold the Met Council accountable and ensure they are meeting the needs of people in the metro area," said Speaker Daudt. "This unelected board has grown more powerful over the decades, and legislators want to ensure that the Met Council is listening to the needs of all its constituents both in the cities and suburbs, providing the services for which they were given authority."

"The formation of this new subcommittee gives elected leaders, constituents and the Met Council the opportunity to holistically work together to create policies that well-serve the seven-county metro area," added Rep. Sanders. "Minnesotans demand a government that is both answerable to the people and transparent in policy, and it's the job of this committee to ensure Met Council is meeting those expectations."

The new subcommittee will be chaired by Representative Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines). Additionally, Rep. Runbeck is the chief House author of House File 75, a bill which aims to bring more accountability and transparency to the Met Council by fostering dialogue between the panel and locally elected officials.

Formed in the 1960s, the Met Council is a 17-member board appointed by the governor. Over time, their role has expanded from wastewater management to include transportation, parks, urban planning and housing. The seven counties in the metropolitan area are Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

Members appointed to serve on the committee include Chair Linda Runbeck, Rep. Jim Nash, Rep. Tony Albright, Rep. Kelly Fenton, Rep. Laurie Halverson, Rep. Carolyn Laine and Rep. Yvonne Selcer. All members appointed to the subcommittee live within the jurisdiction of the Met Council.

MN Legislative Bill Tracking: Anoka County

New for 2015, *Anoka County Record* will be providing readers with the list of all current legislation authored or co-authored by legislators that represent all or a portion of Anoka County.

It is our hope that readers will take the opportunity to contact legislators and provide input on these issues being advanced by our county legislative delegation. **This series will continue in subsequent editions of the *Record*.**

Senators may be contacted at www.senate.mn or by calling (651) 296-0504.

Representatives may be contacted at www.house.mn or by calling (651) 296-2146.

Senator Michelle Benson

Bill Number	Chief Author	Short Description
SF0069	Benson	Hydropower energy sources size limit removal for renewable energy standard
SF0095	Osmek	Nuclear power plant certificate of need issuance prohibition elimination
SF0102	Bonoff	Active trade or business income maximum income tax rate
SF0127	Chamberlain	Legislative commission on metropolitan government metropolitan council budget cycle modification and legislative approval requirement
SF0130	Thompson	Intercity high-speed rail use contiguous land homeowner buy the farm option
SF0132	Reinert	Minnesota seed law exemption authorization
SF0137	Clausen	Family assets for independence program provisions modifications and appropriation
SF0153	Rosen	MNsure oversight and governance modifications
SF0166	Osmek	Metropolitan council guidelines and plans to be advisory in nature
SF0172	Kiffmeyer	Trunk highway #101, U.S. highway #10 and #169 intersection construction bond issue and appropriation
SF0173	Kiffmeyer	U.S. highway #10 and U.S. highway #169 intersection adaptive signal control system installation bond issue and appropriation
SF0187	Gazelka	MNsure board of directors membership modification
SF0209	Saxhaug	Manufactured home space requirements modification
SF0218	Fischbach	Zero-based budgeting requirement
SF0222	Benson	Veteran-owned small business certification for state procurement modification and contract bid preference and appropriation
SF0230	Chamberlain	Aquatic invasive species prevention program requirements repeal
SF0231	Brown	Clean power plan for existing power plants proposed rule compliance legislative approval requirement
SF0248	Benson	I-35W and Lake Drive interchange and West Freeway Drive improvements bond issue and appropriation
SF0277	Chamberlain	Light rail transit (LRT) projects municipal prior consent process requirement
SF0294	Anderson	Military service retirement pay phased-in individual income tax subtraction allowance
SF0295	Anderson	Military service retirement pay individual income tax subtraction allowance; past military service credit repeal
SF0303	Nelson	Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act
SF0304	Nelson	Education expense credit and deduction application of expenditures for pre-kindergarten expenses authorization
SF0308	Reinert	USS Minnesota commissioning committee grant appropriation
SF0313	Nelson	Child care provider requirements for providers receiving child assistance payments modification
SF0329	Benson	Materials disseminated by public postsecondary institutions disclosures requirements
SF0342	Westrom	Child maltreatment screened-out reports use authorization
SF0348	Johnson	Legislative surrogacy commission establishment
SF0349	Nelson	Minnesota residents purchase of health coverage approved in other states authorization; MNsure provisions modifications

Senator Roger Chamberlain

Bill Number	Chief Author	Short Description
SF0101	Petersen, B.	Seat belt violations as primary offense prohibition
SF0127	Chamberlain	Legislative commission on metropolitan government metropolitan council budget cycle modification and legislative approval requirement
SF0166	Osmek	Metropolitan council guidelines and plans to be advisory in nature
SF0180	Scalze	Ramsey county twin cities army ammunition plant (TCAAP) redevelopment bond issue and appropriation
SF0181	Scalze	Ramsey county Twin Cities army ammunition plant (TCAAP) vicinity county highway construction appropriation
SF0182	Scalze	Ramsey county I-694 Rice Street interchange appropriation
SF0183	Scalze	Ramsey county I-694 Rice Street interchange bond issue and appropriation
SF0221	Thompson	Bullying provisions modifications
SF0229	Koenen	Lawful gambling modifications; casino style games prohibition; play at the pump, ATM, and internet lottery ticket sales suspension
SF0230	Chamberlain	Aquatic invasive species prevention program requirements repeal
SF0251	Chamberlain	Centennial volunteer firefighters relief association continued retirement coverage upon city withdrawal authorization
SF0271	Chamberlain	Reading income tax credit modifications
SF0276	Scalze	Mounds View U.S. highway #10 and I-35W noise barrier requirement
SF0277	Chamberlain	Light rail transit (LRT) projects municipal prior consent process requirement
SF0278	Chamberlain	Childhood literacy provisions modifications
SF0293	Clausen	College savings plans income tax credit and subtraction establishment and appropriation
SF0342	Westrom	Child maltreatment screened-out reports use authorization

BILL TRACKING *continued on page 4*

State takes shots at property rights; Deer population dropping

Separate discussions pertaining to wolves and property rights have made headlines lately. I thought I'd get local residents up to speed and send along my thoughts on those issues.

The subject of property rights popped up when Gov. Mark Dayton opened a can of worms by telling a group during a speech that he proposes "a 50 foot [grass or similar] buffer be placed around all state waters." This requirement would be "enforced by the DNR through aerial and other inspections."

That is a ridiculous plan. First of all, our government would be confiscating land from property owners. Think how that would chop up properties. You would have ribbons of untouchable land more than 100 feet wide running through properties.

Even if people were willing sellers, can you imagine what that would cost the state? And what would it cost to deploy a small army of enforcement agents to stomp around people's land to make sure people are complying?

Dayton's proposal has not been introduced to the House in bill form yet, but I would oppose expanding buffer strips the way he mentioned in his speech. Even Dayton's own Ag. commissioner is not enthused by ideas like this, so let's hope it does not see the light of day.

I talked more about this subject in a recent public TV appearance I made on a show called *Your Legislators*. (<http://www.pioneer.org/your-legislators.html>) where we touched on a wide range of subjects. (Note: The show usually features two Republicans and two Democrats, but no Democrats appeared despite a number of them being invited.)

The program allows for viewers to e-mail questions to us and two of the very first ones came from Forest Lake residents who wanted to know about timberwolf depredation and a decline in the deer population.

A House committee I chair recently took up related discussions and here is a recap:

A federal judge recently put timberwolves back on the endangered species list, which really ties our hands at the state level. This is a big issue in Minnesota, especially in northern regions. We no longer can have a wolf hunting/trapping season – it is a federal crime to kill one unless your life is in danger. There also is no longer a federal program to provide funding that would help us take care of problems wolves are causing in Minnesota.

I strongly disagree with the judge's decision, which impacts Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The other two states have far fewer wolves than ours and, without recourse, this is going to be devastating to our farmers and even further reduce Minnesota's diminishing deer and moose populations.

Here is a link to a Pioneer Press article from this week that shows exactly how this judge's decision has angered livestock producers: http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27401388/minnesota-cattlemen-angered-by-court-ruling-restoring-wolf

I have hunted in Lake of the Woods County in northern Minnesota since the 1970s and know first-hand how deer numbers have fallen. Hunting always had been tremendous up there, but it has gotten worse and worse over the last decade. It has gotten so bad that I have not even seen a deer from my stand the last three years.

The DNR is partly to blame for that dropoff, which coincided with more liberal bag policies it allowed. But this judge's decision to re-list wolves is only going to make things worse. We can appeal the case, but it will take years to reverse this decision – and its impacts – even if we are successful.

I will keep you posted as anything develops on either of these issues and more. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback.



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ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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Always on the lookout for governmental waste, fraud, and abuse in Anoka County

Quote of the Week: "I know there are times when I might have to step up on a certain vote and say there's a conflict there. But the job itself is not a conflict."

- State Senator David Tomassoni on his new job working for a government-funded organization

The Watchdog Says: Will Al Gore soon weigh in and declare there is "no controlling legal authority" on the issue?

THE ARROGANCE JUST GROWS

You would think that politicians who want nothing more in life than to remain in office would be smarter about their affairs.

Or maybe some politicians just become so arrogant and out of touch, they begin to believe they can do whatever they want and get away with it.

Over the past three weeks, the Watchdog has joined other media outlets in examining the arrogance of some DFLers in the legislature, whether it's Senator Tom Bakk pushing a \$90 million office building or Senator Jeff Hayden being a part of the debacle at Minneapolis Community Action.

Or the arrogance of Senator David Tomassoni, who continues to display either a tin ear for politics or simply a stunning level of arrogance.

Unless you're living in exile in North Korea, you know that Sen. Tomassoni, who has been in office for 23 years, took a job with an organization that frequently has business before the legislature.

If that wasn't enough to destroy the line between legislator and lobbyist, Tomassoni jammed a redwood tree into the eye of taxpayers this week by hiring a registered lobbyist to act as his attorney in this matter.

More importantly, this lobbyist represents clients who frequently have legislation that travels through Tomassoni's committee.

According to media reports, Tomassoni is represented by Michael Ahern, an attorney and registered lobbyist with the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney.

Ahern also represents a number of clients as a registered lobbyist, including many who would have legislation before the committee Tomassoni chairs, the Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Here is a partial client list:

- Atomic Recycling;
- CenterPoint Energy;
- Great Lakes Gas Transmission;
- Mining MN;
- MN Energy Resources Group;
- MN Telecom Alliance;
- Northern Border Pipeline Company;
- Northern Natural Gas;
- Northern Tier Energy;
- Randy's Environmental Services;
- Xcel Energy.

This is a finance committee that sets government expenditures for that program area as well as establishing regulations in that area of law.

Moreover, committee chairs have a great deal of

leverage over their committees, deciding which bills get heard and when, or, deciding which bills don't get heard.

So, putting aside Tomassoni's day job for a moment, what happens when his lawyer/lobbyist buddy has clients who have business with the Tomassoni Committee?

What benefits will be bestowed on the clients of Mr. Ahern who appear before that committee?

Will there be a fair hearing? Will opponents of Ahern's client be given a fair chance to be heard? Or is the deck stacked in favor of Ahern's clients?

In fact, what kind of beneficial treatment might these companies have already received by virtue of their sweetheart relationship between Tomassoni and his lawyer/lobbyist?

Who does Tomassoni represent? The taxpayer? His constituents? RAMS (his new job)? Michael Ahern?

It's getting harder and harder to tell.

And it doesn't end there.

Recall that Mr. Ahern works for Dorsey and Whitney, a big downtown Minneapolis firm.

He has colleagues that also lobby the legislature.

For example, Lynette Slater Crandall is a registered lobbyist with that firm.

So is Teresa Lynch.

Are these lobbyists and their clients also benefitting from the relationship?

The fact that Tomassoni chose a registered lobbyist with regular business before his committee to represent him shows the extent of the moral and ethical rot that can exist in government, especially when a politician holds office decade after decade without challenge (a cautionary note to all our Iron Range readers who mindlessly vote DFL year after year).

This whole sorry affair is like playing 3D chess, with differing levels of problematic relationships between lobbyist, lawyer, legislator, taxpayer, and institution.

Whether or not a technical conflict of interest exists here, there is a more problematic picture.

First, for our public institutions to govern with credibility, the citizens who live under the laws made by that institution must believe that there is a measure of equality before the law that prevails in that institution.

When average voters, who can't afford a lobbyist or spend their time at the Capitol, perceive that the special interests run the place, it undermines the credibility of the institution and its authority to effectively govern.

Second, if indeed this situation doesn't run afoul of the law or rules of the Minnesota Senate, it should.

A big part of preventing scandal, graft, and corruption is not allowing a situation where it can flourish.

Allowing Senator Tomassoni to do what he is doing, if it doesn't run afoul of the rules, creates an atmosphere where bad things can happen.

Some very important lines have been seriously blurred here.

The line between legislator and lobbyist has been blurred by Sen. Tomassoni.

Similarly, the line between lawyer and lobbyist has been blurred by Mr. Ahern.

Both undermine citizen confidence in the State Senate and therefore bring that body into disrepute.

Senator Tomassoni would be well advised to read the Rules of the Senate, which state, in part:

Improper conduct includes conduct that violates a rule or administrative policy of the Senate, that violates accepted norms of Senate behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.

BILL OF THE WEEK

Sometimes it pains the Watchdog, but we have to give credit where it is due, even when that credit belongs to a self-described liberal.

State Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL - Rochester) has introduced our Good Bill of the Week, HF 347.

HF 347 accomplishes a "twofer" on behalf of liberty.

First, the bill eliminates the prohibition of the Sunday sales of liquor. In fact, the bill also eliminates the ban on Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Thanksgiving sales.

Good for her and good for the people of Minnesota.

Second, the bill also eliminates that ban on selling cars on Sunday.

This is also interesting because it engenders so much whining on the part of some car dealers, who desire to use the threat of government force to keep their competitors closed on Sundays.

The reasons for keeping dealers closed on Sunday are as ridiculous as they are solvable through market-based solutions:

- It increases overhead;
- It makes financing difficult because financial institutions are closed on Sundays;
- It guarantees a day off without the threat of losing business to a competitor;
- And, of course, the argument from inertia. "It's always been that way."

None of these arguments withstands even the slightest amount of scrutiny and logic to demand that there be a criminal penalty for selling cars on Sunday.

Talk about an early form of crony capitalism.

Don't want to be open on Sunday? Don't want to lose business or face increased overhead? Just make it a crime for your competition to be open.

There is simply no good reason for government to prohibit this type of commerce and this type of free economic exchange on Sundays.

This is especially foolish when a citizen can buy eggs, gas, houses, art, pencils, lottery tickets, baseball cards, dog food, hammers, hamsters, underwear, toothpaste, tooth picks, towels, and nearly every other item on a Sunday.

In addition to her authorship of this bill, Rep. Liebling was also instrumental in passing the medical cannabis law that got the government out of that aspect of the doctor-patient relationship.

This publication has no choice but to salute Liebling here, even though she inexplicably goes the other way on issues like selling fireworks.

Shine on, you crazy diamond.

The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County. My intent is to provide you, the taxpayer, with the information you need to hold your local politicians accountable.

Visit my website and sign up for free weekly e-mail updates at www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com or contact me personally at harold@anokacountywatchdog.com.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

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ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Burglaries

01.19 4xx 144 Ave NW – new construction home; heater, tools
01.19 3xx 144 Ln NW – new construction home; tools
01.19 179xx Tulip St NW – license plate stolen off a vehicle

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.19 142xx Holly St NW – trailer locks broken; tools
01.20 32xx 153 Ave NW – vandalism to the front door; lock broken
01.20 170xx Argon St NW – unsecure vehicle; electronics

Arrests

01.17 15100 Block of 7th Ave NW – 4th Degree DWI; deputies responded to a call of an intoxicated driver. The deputies located the vehicle and stopped it for poor driving conduct. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The female was arrested. (.15)
01.21 44xx 148 Ln NW – 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son domestic. The son was arrested.

COLUMBUS

Burglaries

01.18 237xx Hwy 65 NE – business; front door shattered; lottery tickets
01.19 68xx 141 Ave NE – forced entry through service door; tools, wire
01.19 144xx Lake Dr NE – business construction site; tools

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.19 144xx Lake Dr NE – new construction home; tools and wire
01.21 94xx Lake Dr NE – counterfeit one hundred dollar bill used at the business

EAST BETHEL

Burglaries

01.19 12xx 226 Ave NE – forced entry through a service door; guns, jewelry, safe

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.17 37xx Edmar Ln NE – snowmobile stolen from the property
01.20 24100 Block Hwy 65 NE – vandalism to a fence; vehicle drove through it
01.20 216xx Durant St NE – vehicle window shattered; tools

Arrests

01.16 181xx Hwy 65 NE – 2nd Degree Assault; deputies responded to an assault that took place between two males. One of the males was arrested.
01.17 Hwy 65 NE/Miking Blvd NE – 3rd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for no license plate light. The passenger had two active felony warrants. During the search of the male narcotics were located. The male was arrested.
01.17 46xx 209 Ave NE - 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/daughter domestic. The daughter was arrested

01.19 181xx Hwy 65 NE – 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Warrant Arrest; a deputy located a male he knew had an active felony warrant while performing routine extra patrol at the location. During the search of the male narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

HAM LAKE

Burglaries

01.18 154xx Marmon St NE – new construction home; tools, wire
01.19 133xx Alamo St NE – vandalism to a home; window smashed
01.19 15xx 149 Ln NE – vandalism to a vehicle; windows smashed
01.20 16xx 138 Ave NE – construction site; generator stolen
01.22 175xx Isanti St NE – vandalism to a vehicle; spray painted

Arrests

01.17 169xx Chisholm St NE – 1st Degree DWI, DAC-IPS; deputies responded to a male passed out in a vehicle at the location. Upon contact with the male he was extremely intoxicated and unable to perform any field sobriety tests or provide a PBT sample. The male was transferred and admitted to Mercy Hospital due to a high ethyl alcohol concentration. ACSO to be advised when the male is to be discharged.

LINWOOD

Arrests

01.22 Viking Blvd NE/Baylor St NE – 3rd Degree DWI, DAS; deputies assisted in locating a male involved in a domestic assault with his father. The male was located after being involved in a hit and run car crash. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested.

NOWTHEN

Arrests

01.16 Viking Blvd NW/Nowthen Blvd NW; 1st Degree Burglary, 3rd Degree Burglary. Four Counts of Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and Two Counts of Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle; deputies responded to a pursuit that started in Elk River. The male stole four vehicles in an attempt to flee, the pursuit continued until the male crashed and was taken into custody. The male was arrested.

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.17 203xx Lake George Blvd NW – damage to a back door; lock and frame broken
01.19 32xx 191 Ln NW – vandalism to a vehicle; tires slashed

Arrests

01.21 192xx Orchid St NW – 2nd Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. The female was arrested.

Letter to the Editor

Former Nowthen city councilor says City's Code of Conduct was violated

Editor,

The reason I writing this, is because the reason for the gathering is because many of our citizens are well aware of the different laws, regulations, fees, and code of conduct that has been passed since 2008. We are not a bunch of red neck ignorant country folk. Nowthen actually has many triple digit salary families that commute to the cities. So do your homework before you slander us.

The two meetings held on Dec. 19 & 29, and also the January 13 meeting, many City of Nowthen code of conduct rules were broken.

Agenda preparation, Staff direction, Improper influence, Positive work environment, Sharing of information, Request for information, Coordination with city staff, Notice of attendance.

So Mr Bryan Olson should do his research before slandering 4400 very smart people.

P.S. Official notes or a recording were not taken at the Dec. 29 meeting. And according to regulations the only time the city can take official notes is at a closed door meeting. Otherwise it is our city clerk or the recommended seconded which has been a city office personnel.

Again, do your research before you call us a bunch of pitch fork wielding residents.

(2nd) P.S. Sorry forgot "city attorney" can only take notes at closed meetings...

Laurie Olmon

Editor's note: Minnesota law states that a city council shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. As such, the application or interpretation of any "code of conduct" rule rests solely with a majority of the council. See Minnesota Statutes Chapter 412.191.

Minnesota law leaves the tape-recording of almost all meetings to the discretion of the council. Only limited information such as motions, votes, ordinances, and resolutions are required to be noted in meeting minutes. Additional information is at the discretion of the council. In many cities, the council hires someone other than the clerk to take meeting minutes. In the clerk's absence, the council has the authority to assign the clerk's council meeting duties to someone else. See Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D & 412.

Letter to the Editor

Stark differences in reporting noted between Record and competitor

There's such a stark difference between your reporting and the sanitized version in the Focus. In the 12/18/14 edition you wrote about Resilient Communities. The article states that the decision was made in the pre-meeting. Our Charter says that the Council will take no action on issues in the pre-meeting or conference sessions. Is this a violation of Open Meeting Laws? I spoke to the Mayor and told him I read it in the ACR. I then looked and it is not in the minutes of the 12/8 meeting. He asked why I was reading the ACR and I said it's a better paper and I don't get the Focus.

Pam Reynolds
Fridley

Senator Barbara Goodwin		
Bill Number	Chief Author	Short Description
SF0104	Goodwin	Housing warranties breaches prevailing vendee or owner attorney fees recovery
SF0128	Goodwin	Civil commitment hearings interactive video conference use
SF0135	Latz	Motor vehicle insurer conduct in collision cases regulation
SF0141	Goodwin	Comprehensive mental health programs grants authorization and diversion program for persons with mental illness or co-occurring disorders
SF0142	Goodwin	Beltrami county comprehensive mental health services grant appropriation
SF0210	Goodwin	Crime and suicide victims family support grants
SF0239	Eaton	Crime of financial exploitation of vulnerable adult addition to definition of designated offense in forfeiture laws
SF0276	Scalze	Mounds View U.S. highway #10 and I-35W noise barrier requirement
SF0282	Hawj	Housing opportunities made equitable (HOME) pilot project appropriation
SF0317	Dibble	Correction or Clarification of Defamation Act
SF0336	Pappas	State employees assaulted by inmates and patients health insurance coverage continuation
Senator John Hoffman		
Bill Number	Chief Author	Short Description
SF0004	Sheran	Child maltreatment reports screening modifications
SF0006	Hoffman	Universal all-day preschool for four-year-old students funding
SR0014	Hoffman	A Senate resolution recognizing Mast Cell Disease Awareness Day in Minnesota
SF0036	Hoffman	Advocating Change Together appropriation
SF0039	Hoffman	Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act
SF0044	Hoffman	Coon Rapids U.S. highway #10 third lane addition bond issue and appropriation

To be continued in our next edition, Feb. 6

TRAVEL JUNKETS TAKEN BY LEGISLATORS

cont. from page 1

trips to destinations like Berlin, Taipei and Tel Aviv abroad, or Atlanta, Miami and Santa Barbara, closer to home.

“From swimming/floating in the Dead Sea to body surfing in the Mediterranean Sea,” posted Sen. Dan Hall, R-Burnsville, on Facebook during an August 2014 trip to Israel sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation.

Photos of a Sea of Galilee dinner table prompted “What a feast!” and “Take me next time!” comments on Hall’s Facebook page. A lobbyist for Lockridge Grindal Nauen on the trip also posted on Facebook.

“This trip had legislators, pastors, and political advisors amongst us,” Hall said in an e-mail.

Frequent flyer shell game

Lobbyists cannot directly sponsor lawmakers’ travel. Yet a Watchdog Minnesota Bureau review shows both Democratic and Republican state legislators rack up thousands of frequent flyer miles on trips paid for by a mixture of interest groups, nonprofits, taxpayers and personal campaign funds.

“If the association or organization paying for the travel is not a principal (lobbyist), then not only is the gift not prohibited, but as you’ve indicated, it’s not reported anywhere. So, it is a problem [for people who think better disclosure of these trips is important],” said Gary Goldsmith, executive director of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Legislators insist attending policy conferences equips them to better serve constituents. So why not publicly disclose the sponsor, agenda and costs for legislative out-of-state travel?

“I’m inclined to say “yes.” There should be public disclosure of sponsored trips,” Hall said upon his return from Israel. “We already have a very strong gift ban in place, which I support. Disclosing who is paying for travel makes sense. The public is smart enough to decide whether the travel is in the best interest of the district or not.”

For now, however, the extent of elected officials’ out-of-state travel remains unknown.

“There’s no state law or requirement to report or post trips related to their legislative duties. They are not usually reportable, so the public knows little about them. In short, they are a mess full of conflicts of interest and special interest access,” said David Schultz, a Hamline University political science professor and past president of Common Cause Minnesota.

Much legislative travel involves policy seminars hosted by national associations with names like the Council of State Governments, quasi-governmental groups that often depend on corporate and foundation sponsorship.

“We rely on companies and associations to help put on the quality programming for which the MLC (Midwest Legislative Conference) is known,” wrote Rep. Alice Hausman, DFL-St. Paul, in a 2012 letter on official House stationery seeking lobbyists’ assistance for a Twin Cities conference. MLC corporate contributors included AT&T, BP America, Johnson & Johnson, Abbott Laboratories, Archer Daniels Midland, 3M, Anheuser-Busch and dozens more.

A look at the costs

State Senate records obtained by Watchdog Minnesota Bureau show taxpayers spent \$12,179 on travel in 2013 by 12 state senators — all Democrats — largely to legislative seminars in Memphis, Seattle, Tucson and elsewhere. Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, took four trips, the most, at a cost to taxpayers of \$1,959.

“I seldom come back from any conference that I don’t have an idea for a piece of legislation,” said Rest, who took three taxpayer-funded out-of-state trips in 2013 at a cost of \$1,288.

State House of Representatives records show \$19,050 in taxpayer funds spent on “other travel” in 2013, but do not specify the amount spent on out-of-state travel or other details. However, the top House spender for “other travel” expenses, Rep. Paul Torkelson, R-Hanska, confirmed the \$1,761 listed paid for a National Conference of State Legislatures conference in Washington, D.C.

In addition, legislators can fund job-related conferences out of campaign coffers.

“My campaign is paying for all of this,” Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington, said on the phone from an August 2014 Council of State Government conference in Anchorage. “I did not apply for, nor get a scholarship to attend this one. You pay your registration fee and that includes meals, but then for your hotel lodging and

your airfare, you have to pay for that on your own.”

Last year, Garofalo also traveled with other state legislators and officials to a Berlin renewable energy conference sponsored by the German government and University of Minnesota, a climate conference in Las Vegas and a seminar in Kansas City held by the American Legislative Exchange Council.

“They can’t just pay for you to go on a vacation. There has to be an educational component to it and documented. In terms of disclosure, I haven’t seen a problem, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t happening,” said Garofalo.

Rep. Joe Atkins, DFL-Inver Grove Heights, spent \$5,378 of campaign funds for airfare, lodging, car rental and conference fees listed as “expenses of serving in public office” for six legislative trips in 2012. His airfare to the Berlin energy conference alone cost \$1,642, campaign records show.

“Conference costs can be a mix of the sources you cited, and sometimes personal funds,” said Atkins in an email to Watchdog Minnesota Bureau last fall. “I would be fine with disclosure, and, in thinking about it a bit, would suggest thought be given to disclosure of the agenda and classes/courses attended at the conference.”

Ten Minnesota legislators — eight Democrats and two Republicans — attended a July 2014 Quebec City conference on the Great Lakes. Up to six legislators per state or province were eligible for \$600 “scholarships” for airfare and lodging, besides waiving registration fees.

“Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Quebec City—Sen. Senjem and Ruud working hard!” says a tweet that included a photo of Ruud and Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, with Perrier bottles on a conference room table.

The event kicked off with a 90-minute cruise on the St. Lawrence River aboard the Louis Jolliet. Participants were invited to “enjoy a luminous pavilion located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, with stunning views of the river, Orleans Island, and Laurentian Mountains.”

“You can be cynical about it and say, ‘Oh, well it’s just a junket.’ But I think my constituents should want me to be interested in knowing what’s going on in other states or in interest groups that affect our state and certainly, the health of Lake Superior,” said Rest, who chaired the GLCC for four years.

Legislative clawbacks have failed

An attempt in the 2013 legislative session by Rep. Tim O’Driscoll, R-Sartell, to allow only one trip outside the United States a year was scuttled in conference committee. Another amendment limiting legislators to an allowance of \$2,000 and four domestic policy trips a year failed on a voice vote.

“What a cesspool these trips are! In some cases they allow for legislators to get around the gift ban law and take trips ostensibly reimbursing them for expenses associated with speaking engagements or other services,” said Schultz. “In many cases, these trips allow for lobbyists to exert adverse influence on legislators by giving them special access to them.”

Legislators contacted about their travel for this story generally supported increased transparency and reporting for policy-related trips.

“We’ve moved from paper to electronic filing of our campaign finance reports. There’s no reason why there couldn’t be a similar kind of online searchable (system),” said Rest, who also spent nearly \$2,700 in campaign funds for policy related conferences on Mackinac Island and Denver in 2013. “...It’s not just here’s \$2,500, go to Taiwan, or here’s \$500 go to Quebec and you’re not held accountable for it. That doesn’t happen.”

Yet Garofalo, state chair for policy group ALEC, a favorite target of Democrats, expressed concerns.

“There are some excellent educational programs that help legislators get access to more information beyond the defenders of the status quo,” said Garofalo. “Even though there are both conservative and progressive groups providing these services, it is primarily conservative groups that are attacked in the media. The unintended consequence of this would be the suppression of conservative organizations outreach.”



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAM LAKE COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE, for the purpose of considering the application of Doug Osborne to rezone certain parcels of land (17100 Highway 65 NE) from R-M (Residential - Manufactured Mobile Home) to CD-1 (Commercial Development Tier 1), such land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

Parcel A: The Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 32, Range 23, Anoka, County, Minnesota, described as follows.

Beginning at a point on the east line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 8 distant 592.94 feet Southerly of the Northeast corner thereof; thence South 0 degrees 18 minutes 25 seconds East, assumed bearing, along said East line a distance of 301.30 feet; thence North 72 degrees 16 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 924.12 feet, to a point hereinafter referred to as "Point A"; thence continuing North 72 degrees 16 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 475 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter; thence North along the West line of said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter a distance of 350 feet, more or less, to the centerline of County Ditch No. 58; thence Southeasterly along the centerline of County Ditch No. 58 a distance of 590 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 17 degrees 54 minutes 18 seconds East a distance of 358.92 feet from Point A; thence South 77 degrees 44 minutes 09 seconds East a distance of 165.53 feet, thence South 63 degrees 55 minutes 37 seconds East a distance of 430.87 feet; thence South 66 degrees 10 minutes 13 seconds East a distance of 240.00 feet to the point of beginning.

AND EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the right-of-way of State Trunk Highway Number 65 per Minnesota Department of Transportation Monumentation Plat No. 02-M24.

And Parcel B: All that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 32, Range 23, Anoka County, Minnesota, lying Southerly of Parcel A described above.

EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the plat of Osborne Terrace, according to the recorded plat thereof.

AND EXCEPT the South 33.00 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter.

At such hearing both written and oral comments will be heard.

DATED: January 30, 2015 Dawnette M. Shimek Zoning Official/Building Clerk City of Ham Lake (Published Jan. 30, 2015 Anoka County Record)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF HAM LAKE COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Law, a public hearing shall be held before the Ham Lake Planning Commission on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:01 p.m. at the City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE, for the purpose of considering the application of Doug Osborne to for a Conditional Use Permit to operate Storage World at 17100 Highway 65 NE, such land situated in the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota and which is described as follows to wit:

Parcel A: The Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 32, Range 23, Anoka, County, Minnesota, described as follows.

Beginning at a point on the east line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 8 distant 592.94 feet Southerly of the Northeast corner thereof; thence South 0 degrees 18 minutes 25 seconds East, assumed bearing, along said East line a distance of 301.30 feet; thence North 72 degrees 16 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 924.12 feet, to a point hereinafter referred to as "Point A"; thence continuing North 72 degrees 16 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 475 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter; thence North along the West line of said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter a distance of 350 feet, more or less, to the centerline of County Ditch No. 58; thence Southeasterly along the centerline of County Ditch No. 58 a distance of 590 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 17 degrees 54 minutes 18 seconds East a distance of 358.92 feet from Point A; thence South 77 degrees 44 minutes 09 seconds East a distance of 165.53 feet, thence South 63 degrees 55 minutes 37 seconds East a distance of 430.87 feet; thence South 66 degrees 10 minutes 13 seconds East a distance of 240.00 feet to the point of beginning.

AND EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the right-of-way of State Trunk Highway Number 65 per Minnesota Department of Transportation Monumentation Plat No. 02-M24.

And Parcel B: All that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 32, Range 23, Anoka County, Minnesota, lying Southerly of Parcel A described above.

EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the plat of Osborne Terrace, according to the recorded plat thereof.

AND EXCEPT the South 33.00 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter.

At such hearing both written and oral comments will be heard.

DATED: January 30, 2015 Dawnette M. Shimek Zoning Official/Building Clerk City of Ham Lake (Published Jan. 30, 2015 Anoka County Record)

PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING COMCAST'S PROPOSED BASIC SERVICE, EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION RATES AND THE NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S ADOPTION OF RATE ORDERS

The North Metro Telecommunications Commission (the "Commission"), on behalf of its member cities of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Ham Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes and Spring Lake Park, Minnesota, is currently conducting a proceeding on the rate forms Comcast filed on or about March 1, 2014. In these forms, Comcast is proposing maximum rates and charges for basic service programming, and associated equipment and installation. Basic service consists of over-the-air broadcast stations, public, educational and government access channels, and any other programming Comcast chooses to add to its basic tier of service. The Commission does not regulate the rates for any programming not carried on the basic service tier, including (but not limited to) programming offered on a pay-per-channel or pay-per-program basis. Under federal law, the rates for all programming not included in the basic service tier are unregulated.

As part of its ongoing rate proceeding, the Commission will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as individuals may be heard, at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, which is located at 1301 81st Avenue, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. Copies of the Commission's proposed rate orders will be available for review by interested parties at the Commission office as of February 1, 2015. For further directions to this location or any questions regarding the public hearing, the public may call Heidi Arnson, the Commission's Executive Director, at 763-231-2801.

The purpose of the Commission's public hearing is to permit interested persons to express their views on the basic service rate and equipment rates and installation charges Comcast calculated in its March 2014 rate filing. Any comments furnished at the hearing will become part of the record in the Commission's proceeding, and may be considered by the Commission.

(Published Jan. 30, 2015 Anoka County Record)

9th Annual Ham Lake Snowbowl Saturday, February 7 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Includes activities like Snow Sculpture Contest, Ice Fishing Contest, and Sculpture Break Through Contest. Sponsorship or questions contact wendy@hamlakecc.org

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

CITY OF HAM LAKE, Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake MN 55304 (763) 434-9555 (www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us) Hours Mon-Thurs 7 am-4:30 pm; Fri. 7 am-Noon) Mon. Feb. 2 - City Council, 6 pm Mon. Feb. 9 - Planning Comm., 6 pm Mon. Feb. 16 - City Hall offices closed

CITY OF OAK GROVE, Oak Grove City Hall, 19900 Nightingale St. NW, Oak Grove, MN 55011 (763) 404-7000 (www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us) Mon. Feb. 9 - City Council, 7 pm Mon. Feb. 16 - City Hall offices closed Wed. Feb. 18 - Parks Comm., 6:30 pm Thurs. Feb. 19 - Planning Comm., 7 pm

QCTV CABLE COMMISSION (Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka) (763) 434-2030 Thurs. Feb. 19 - Cable Comm. mtg. at Anoka City Hall, 11 am

NORTH METRO CABLE COMMISSION (Ham Lake, Blaine, Lexington, Circle Pines, Centerville, Lino Lakes, Spring Lake Park) (763) 780-8241 Thurs. Feb. 5 - Executive Cmte., 6 pm, 12520 Polk St., Blaine, NMTV Studios Thurs. Feb. 19 - Cable Comm., 6 pm, Spring Lake Park City Hall

CITY OF RAMSEY, 7550 Sunwood Dr NW (763) 427-1410 Mon. Feb. 2 - Environmental Policy Board, 6:30 pm Thurs. Feb. 5 - Planning Comm., 7 pm Tues. Feb. 10 - City Council "worksession" 5:30 pm, Reg Mtg 7 pm

NOTICE OF IMPROVEMENT HEARING

CITY OF OAK GROVE COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the OAK GROVE CITY COUNCIL will meet in the Council Chambers, 19900 Nightingale St NW, in the City of Oak Grove on the 9th day of February, 2015 at or around 7 o'clock p.m. to consider the making of the public improvement to be located on 189th Lane NW between Blackfoot Street NW and the Rum River by installing bituminous pavement as authorized by Minnesota Statute, Chapter 429. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is the property abutting 189th Lane NW or take legal access off of this road. The estimated cost of this proposed improvement is \$35,000. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. All persons as desired to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement may be heard at this hearing.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold City Clerk (Published Jan. 30 & Feb. 6, 2015 Anoka County Record)

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

- 1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Bowl-Bound Sports 2. Principal Place of Business: 1686 Cloud Drive NE, Blaine MN 55449

- 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: Sean P. Gothier, 1686 Cloud Drive NE, Blaine MN 55449

4. This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number #495642900020, originally filed on June 29, 2012.

5. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: Jan. 7, 2015, #800755100037, /s/ Sean P. Gothier, Owner (Published Jan. 23 & 30, 2015 Anoka County Record)

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

- 1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Kutty Waters Insurance 2. Principal Place of Business: 602 84th Ln NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433

- 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: Kutty Waters LLC, 602 84th Ln NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433

Gavin Olson, 602 84th Ln NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: Dec. 9, 2014, # 798501800029, /s/ Gavin Olson (Published Jan. 23 & 30, 2015 Anoka County Record)



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