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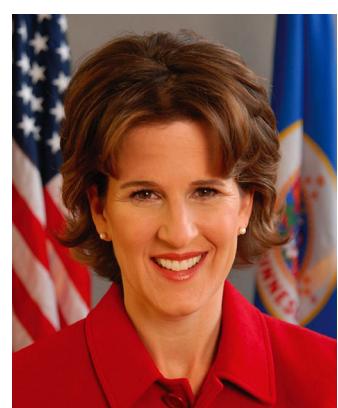
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State Auditor Debate: Dayton/Otto vs. Legislature

Moving past the sound bites of Schultz, Jacobs, and other political know-nothing know-it-alls

Throughout the month of June, every major media outlet has run a story about State Auditor Rebecca Otto's complaint about a bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor which modified who must conduct annual audits for counties. Under the previous law, 59 counties were required to use the Office of the State Auditor. For the remaining 28 counties (some of which are the state's largest), they had the option to hire a private audit firm. Under the new law, all counties will now have the option of hiring a private audit firm.

Counties have spent years lobbying the legislature for this change in law. Throughout that time, various counties have received waivers to the law, which is why by the year 2015 one-third of the counties already had the authority to use private auditors. The reason counties lobbied for this change was because private audit firms apparently conducted audits for a lower price than the state and completed work in a more timely fashion. It is also important to note that 99% of cities and school districts already have the authority to hire private audit firms. While the State Auditor disputes claims made by some counties, the question of who is right or wrong does not change the fact that most local governments have the authority and do hire private auditors.



State Auditor Rebecca Otto

State Auditor Otto has raised two complaints concerning this law change. First, she maintains that her audit work is better, more thorough, and/or more geared towards county government vs. the work of private audit firms. Second, she does not want the size of her office, budget, or staff to be significantly cut. Otto's office bills counties for the work her department completes and most likely these fees constitute a noteworthy portion of her office budget. Billing counties is a more dependable revenue source vs. requesting an additional appropriation from the legislature to fund her office.

There were several reasons which prompted me to write on this issue. First, the ridiculous comments by the same old political know-nothing know-it-alls who regularly make poorly informed comments on every political issue of the day. These political experts are primarily skilled at getting their names in the newspaper more than anything else. Second, it appears that many key people involved in this issue either lack historical perspective or are simply hoping that everyone else is too dumb to research the issue. Third, the mainstream media has utterly failed in their responsibility to go beyond the sound bites and dig into the meat of this issue.

Not surprisingly, two of our most well-known political know-nothing know-it-alls in Minnesota weighed in on this State Auditor debate. In Star Tribune articles, Larry Jacobs of the University of Minnesota claimed that the law change may be related to Otto's mining vote. No proof provided. Any explanation as to how these items are tied together when the county audit issue predicated the mining vote by a decade or more? Sorry, nothing. David Schultz of Hamline University claimed that Dayton may have signed the bill to strengthen his position on the range. Again, no proof provided.

Jacobs also rambles on about how Minnesota has a unique history of clean government. He stated, "One of the reasons is that the state is ringed with independent watchdogs. The state auditor was written into the Constitution."

Schultz then apparently polishes off his crystal ball and predicts a costly lawsuit over the auditor's role. (As a side note, I laughed at his use of the word "costly". Would it be anything but?) Schultz further claimed that "The Legislature probably cannot enact a law that strips away powers from a constitutional office and thereby undermine the core functions of the auditor's office."

Adding to the drama, State Auditor Otto stated in the Star Tribune that, "I'm going to continue to fight this unjust gutting of a constitutional office."

In the Duluth News Tribune, we even had an occupational therapist attempt to provide educated insight into this issue by claiming that county boards will hire "private-auditor buddies". She also implied that there is a relationship between counties (which are subject to the Minnesota Data Practices Act and the Minnesota Open Meeting

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Legacy Sales Taxes disbursement decided by legislature in special session

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

Last Friday, the state legislature returned to work for a one-day special session that ran into the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Among the bills passed was the Legacy omnibus bill, which had previously been approved by the House on a vote of 123-11, but that action was for naught as the Senate did not take its vote on the bill before the regular session was adjourned.

The bill allocates where \$540 million of taxpayer dollars will go over the next two-year cycle: fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The funds are derived from the 3/8's of one percent state sales tax that voters approved by constitutional amendment (the Clean Water and Legacy Amendment) in the 2008 general election. The first disbursements were made in Fiscal Year 2010. The tax is collected on all general sales, on top of the 6.5% state sales tax.

In the last two-year cycle where final figures are available (Fiscal Years 2013 & 2014), a total of \$562 million was collected for this purpose. (The regular state sales tax of 6.5% is now collecting about \$5 billion per year).

The "legacy funds" as they are commonly known, are dumped into four funds: one third of the proceeds goes to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, another third to the Clean Water Fund and the remaining third is divided two ways, between the Parks and Trails Fund (14.25%) and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (19.75%).

During the one-day special session, the Senate passed the omnibus Legacy bill 54-10. Voting against were Senators Michelle Benson, Roger Chamberlain, Mary Kiffmeyer, David Hann, Warren Limmer, Julianne Ortman, Dave Thompson, Branden Petersen, Bruce Anderson and Dan Hall. All are Republicans.

The House then voted on the bill, with a 116-6 outcome. Voting against were Democratic legislators Jim Davnie, Rick Hansen, John Lesch, Paul Thissen, Jean Wagenius and JoAnn Ward.

The bill made the following appropriations:

Outdoor Heritage Fund (total appropriation, two years combined, \$97,805,000)

Prairies (\$40,948,000), Forests (\$12,634,000), Wetlands (\$20,390,000), Habitats (\$22,368,000) and \$1,465,000 for administration.

Clean Water Fund (total appropriation, two years combined, \$228,302,000)

Dept. of Agriculture (\$13,666,000); Public Facilities Authority (\$18,500,000); Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (\$54,698,000), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (\$18,000,000), Board of Water and Soil Resources (\$113,163,000), Department of Health (\$7,825,000), and Metropolitan Council (\$2,450,000; for projects relating to drinking water).

Parks and Trails Fund (total appropriation, two years combined, \$89,350,000)

Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) (\$54,046,000) — over \$17 million of this figure will be committed to trails outside of the metro area, including trails to be constructed near Embarrass, Tower and LaCrescent. Small amounts will be expended for planning and project analyses. Over \$33 million has been earmarked for use by the Metropolitan Council, with about \$3 million of that figure to be used for projects in Anoka County.

Quoting from the bill, the projects are to include: "(1) a trail connection for Bunker Hills Regional Park from Avocet Street; (2) restoration, including erosion repair, along Pleasure Creek and the Mississippi River Regional Trail at the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park; (3) a new playground and surfacing at Lake George Regional Park; (4) land acquisition for the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve; (5) improvements at the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, including maintenance shop rehabilitation, road and parking construction, fencing, beach improvements, and roof repairs; (6) trail reconstruction under East River Road on the Rice Creek

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LEGACY FUNDS DISBURSEMENT *continued from page 1*

West Regional Trail; (7) contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota; (8) a volunteer or resource coordinator position; (9) a landscape designer or architect; (10) design, engineering, and construction of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail; (11) road rehabilitation at Lake George Regional Park; (12) reconstruction of a retaining wall on the Mississippi River Regional Trail; (13) a trail connection on the Mississippi River Regional Trail to connect Mississippi West Regional Park to the city of Ramsey; (14) improvements of the Heritage Laboratory/Day Camp at the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve; and (15) trail reconstruction on the Rice Creek North Regional Trail from Lexington Avenue to Golden Lake Elementary School."

Other planned parks and trail projects are in Saint Paul, Minneapolis, Ramsey, Washington, Hennepin and Scott counties.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (total appropriation, two years combined, \$124,804,000)

46% of this total appropriation will go to the Minnesota State Arts Board, which will allocate the funding to these areas (figures given are rounded): \$8.7 million for arts education, described in the bill as, "high-quality, age-appropriate arts education for Minnesotans of all ages to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts." \$2.9 million will be "for events and activities that represent the diverse cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations...up to 4.5 percent of the funds appropriated... may be used by the board for administering grant programs, delivering technical services, providing fiscal oversight for the statewide system, and ensuring accountability...Any unencumbered balance remaining...in the first year does not cancel, but is available for the second year of the biennium.

The Minnesota Historical Society will receive \$29 million over the biennium, some of which will be granted on a local level to historical societies and cultural organizations. Some of these monies will also be used for historic preservation projects and putting on history programs. \$600,000 will be available for research and survey work that pertains to "historical, archaeological, and cultural significance. Results of the surveys must be published in a searchable form and available to the public on a cost-free basis." \$600,000 will be dedicated to the MHS's digitization project, which is to make electronic files of state documents and newspapers. The level of Legacy sales tax funding for this purpose has been constant for a number of years.

The state's Department of Education administers the Legacy appropriation to libraries. \$4.4 million has been granted for the biennium, a reduction by nearly half of what libraries received when the Legacy funding began. (Libraries received \$8.5 million for fiscal years 2010-2011; then was cut to \$6 million for the next two bienniums. See *Anoka County Record*, April 3, 2015 and May 29, 2015).

The state's Department of Administration will distribute \$21 million, which includes \$3.2 million to Minnesota Public Radio and \$3.2 million to AMPERS, the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations. Fifteen independent non-commercial radio stations are in this group, including KFAI, KMOJ and KBEM FM stations in Minneapolis, KUMD-FM in Duluth, KAXE-FM in Grand Rapids and WTIP-FM in Grand Marais. The funds are to be used for programming of a historical or cultural nature. The PBS television stations in the state will also receive a total of \$7.4 million for programming. Como Zoo in Saint Paul will receive \$2 million and the Science Museum of Minnesota \$1.2 million for educational programs. The aquarium in Duluth will receive \$250,000 and the Duluth Zoo (now called Lake Superior Zoo) \$150,000 to prepare new exhibits. \$3.5 million will go to the Minnesota Zoo and \$20,000 will be granted to the Minnesota State Band.

The Minnesota Humanities Center will distribute \$4.5 million over the biennium, which will include \$50,000 to Saint Paul for cultural gardens in Phalen Park, \$150,000 to Ramsey County "to develop and install activity facilities parks for culturally relevant games that are reflective of the current demographics in Ramsey County." The Minnesota Children's Museum will receive \$1 million, and the children's museums in Duluth and Grand Rapids will receive \$300,000 each over the next two years. \$300,000 is also being earmarked for children's educational programs including Kids Voting and YMCA Youth in Government. \$1.4 million is to go to the Perpich Center for Arts Education. The Indian Affairs Council is to receive \$2.65 million for programs in the Dakota and Ojibwe language.

Legislators from the House and Senate Final comments on the 2015 session

On Friday, June 12, the Legislature met in special session to finish its work on next year's state budget. The special session became necessary when Gov. Dayton vetoed three bipartisan budget bills: Jobs and Economic Development, Agriculture and the Environment, and E-12 education. Unfortunately, the governor's actions subjected Minnesotans to several weeks of uncertainty about a potential government shutdown.

The special session was especially dramatic this year, starting when Governor Dayton threatened political backlash for anyone who attempted to block his agenda. Then, amid internal infighting, Senate Democrats failed to pass the budget agreement they negotiated.

I'm pleased to say Senate Republicans provided the leadership necessary to avert a shutdown and deliver a long-awaited resolution to the budget crisis. With the fragile budget compromise at risk, we stepped in to pass the final bill. Additionally, we were able to secure an agreement from Senate Democrats to pass significant tax cuts in the 2016 session.

Here's a summary of the bills passed in the special session:

Agriculture and the Environment

- Funds the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Department of Agriculture.
- Spends \$26 million to fight the avian flu outbreak and provide disaster relief loans.
- Supports economic growth in the agriculture industry by rescinding a powerful board of environmental activists that has blocked business expansions and driven away new investments in agriculture.
- Allows penalty-free voluntary reporting of minor violations of environmental rules.
- Repeals the onerous Aquatic Invasive Species Decal requirement for boaters.
- Protects waters from pollution by encouraging landowners to develop buffer zones, but does not enforce harsh penalties.

The provisions in this bill will encourage growth in the cornerstone of Minnesota's economy, the agriculture industry. It also funds state parks and provides much-needed disaster relief to help farmers who have lost 9 million turkeys to avian flu. I did support this bill because it had less spending and solid reforms.

Capital Investment

- \$373 million in total borrowing, including \$180 million in general obligation bonds and \$140 million in trunk highway bonds.
- Wasteful spending on an underground parking garage (snuck into the previous version of the bill) was removed.
- Additional projects include: restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol building, avian flu research, flood mitigation, disaster relief, construction of the Lewis and Clark regional water system in Southwest MN, and various developments at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU campuses.

I am always careful when it comes to bonding bills because it is easy to get carried away and spend too much on wasteful, unnecessary projects. This is especially true in years that are not traditional

bonding years, like this year. While this bill includes some worthy projects, it is chock full of unnecessary spending.

E-12 Education

- Spends \$17 billion to educate our children, over \$1 billion more than the last budget.
 - Increases Pre-K in kindergarten scholarships for low income families and funds other early childhood education programs.
 - Provides a 2% funding increase directly to classrooms in each of the next two years.
 - Reforms teacher licensing to make it easier for schools to hire good teachers.
 - Expands the "Q-Comp" merit pay program for teachers, allowing schools to offer hiring bonuses for hard-to-fill positions.

The governor forced us into a special session because he demanded a new universal public Pre-K program; essentially a new grade level for 4-year-olds. Parents, teachers, school districts, and early education experts raised strong objections to his plan, which eventually forced the governor to back off of his proposal. This bill takes a more effective approach to early childhood education by expanding scholarships and allowing parents to choose which program is the best fit for their child.

Schools will receive a 2% increase in funding per pupil, but they will also still be required to adhere to onerous statewide mandates that tie educators' hands and make it harder to teach effectively. I think we should do a better job of providing schools with flexibility to meet the needs of students in every community, and that includes funding with no-strings-attached. I'm also disappointed in the lack of reforms in this bill geared toward improving student performance.

Jobs and Economic Development

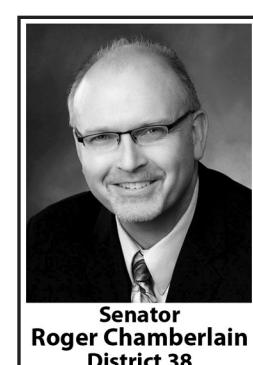
- Spends \$391 million from the general fund.
- Provides funding for broadband expansion, workforce housing grants and job training grants, workforce development programs, and unemployment assistance for farmers impacted by the avian flu crisis.
- Includes a propane pre-purchase program, which would provide relief to Greater Minnesotans who rely on propane for their energy.
- Requires a legislative vote on proposals created to meet the EPA's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions.
- Provides a pathway to cheaper energy for most consumers by requiring everyone who uses the state's electrical grid to contribute to the cost of its maintenance, including those who also use alternative energy sources.

This bill grew by \$18 million since Gov. Dayton's veto, with no notable improvements.

Legacy Funding

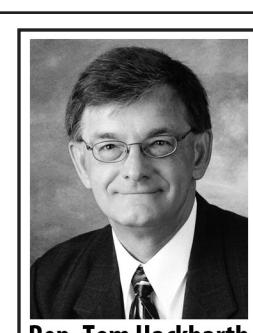
- This bill appropriates money raised by the sales tax increase adopted in 2008.
- Appropriates \$318 million in 2016 and \$219

SEN. CHAMBERLAIN *continued on page 6*



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REP. HACKBARTH *continued on page 5*



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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Quote of the Week: "Dayton, in an effort to avoid the third state government shutdown in a decade, vociferously opposed allowing legislators to amend the pending budget bills. He said he would have 'zero tolerance' for attempts to slow down the special session, and he threatened to campaign against legislators in their districts if they oppose his efforts for a fast-tracked solution."

- Star Tribune 6/11/15

DFL DEBAKKLE

Late last night, pursuant to authority vested in his office by the Minnesota Constitution, Governor Mark Dayton issued a proclamation calling the Legislature into special session at 10AM this morning.

That's where the order and predictability end.

Even though the governor and all four legislative leaders affixed their signatures to an agreement defining the parameters of the special session, there are strong indications that the agreement may not mean much to the rank and file legislators, who will retain and exercise the rights inherent to their office once the special session convenes.

Recall that under the state's constitution, the governor has the authority to call a special session but the legislature retains the sole authority to end it.

In addition, a special session is just like a regular session in that bills are subject to regular debate and amendment.

It will be interesting to say the least to see whether DFL Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk can rally his troops to honor the agreement he signed and end the special session in good order.

The stakes are high. If the special session devolves into chaos because the Senate DFL majority can't honor the agreement, that caucus puts itself as significant political risk as the public has demonstrated little tolerance for legislators who can't finish their job on time.

It's strange in one sense that most citizens can't name one policy initiative in these bills yet they demonstrate little tolerance for things dragging on. Perhaps it's because they can identify with deadlines in their own work lives and the fact that they would suffer some sort of punishment for failing to meet deadlines.

To say the least, the special session period (the timeframe starting when the regular session adjourned) has been an utter and absolute disaster for Governor Dayton and the DFL.

Even if the special session manages to conclude today, lasting damage has been done to the DFL that will carry over into the 2016 election cycle.

In the collective memory of the Watchdog staff, it's hard to recall more DFL dysfunction and backbiting than what we've witnessed over the past three weeks.

How unfortunate.

This observation includes the 2003 legislative session, when Governor Pawlenty and the House GOP majority schooled DFL Senate Majority Leader John Hottinger and rolled him on the budget, leading to Hottinger's ouster as leader.

In other words, no matter how this turns out, Governor Dayton and Senator Bakk will emerge as the biggest losers from this special session.

Throughout, Dayton has looked weak, indecisive, ineffective, petulant and petty.

Dayton's troubles started when he vetoed major spending bills, against the strong advice of his staff, according to our sources near the governor.

In short, Dayton was Planet Dayton.

The governor failed to appreciate that these spending bills had bi-partisan support, negating the often convenient narrative that the GOP majority had overreached and the governor was merely acting as the voice of reason in the process.

It's also apparent that governor lacked a convincing, decisive and well-defined reason for those vetoes, which made it difficult for him to lay out for legislators and the public both a reason for a special session and special session legislative objectives around which he could rally both the DFL base and the public at large.

Instead, Dayton looked petty and weak as he vetoed the bills and then flailed about, changing his objectives for a negotiated budget deal. It was a classic case of moving the goal posts, which sowed nothing but doubt, confusion, and some bewilderment in the legislature, the media, and the public at large.

First, it was all about universal pre-K education. When it failed to get any traction, especially among educators and education experts, Dayton dropped the proposal.

Next, it got really bizarre when he made a small change in the Office of the State Auditor the centerpiece of his special session strategy.

Most Minnesotans can't name the State Auditor, don't know the office exists, and really don't care about it.

Holding up the state budget and threatening a partial government shutdown over obscure language impacting an obscure office will never rally the public or move votes. While Dayton normally leads a parade of one, he led a parade of two on this issue. Himself and the Rebecca Otto, the State Auditor.

It also didn't help that Dayton decided to plant his flag on an issue that he signed into law just days before.

It fed the narrative that the governor is rash, impulsive, and frequently out of touch.

Then he decided to drop the issue, leaving nearly everyone in the state to wonder, "Why the heck did he do this in the first place?"

The other major loser in this drama is Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk.

Like Dayton, Bakk has looked extremely weak and ineffective throughout.

As Senate Majority Leader (and leader of the Senate DFL caucus), Bakk had a simple (not necessarily easy) task during this process. He needed to negotiate a deal he could pass in the Senate and then execute.

That result is very much in doubt at this point.

First, Bakk very publicly disengaged from the negotiating process by publicly stating that the governor and the Speaker should make the deal.

This diminished his stature and sent a message to his caucus that he wasn't interested in protecting and advancing the Senate DFL agenda on these very large budget bills

It exposed a huge rift in his caucus that has led to some very public sniping within his caucus and exposed a schism with DFL activists and opinion leaders. There's even a petition making the rounds in DFL circles calling for Bakk's ouster as Senate leader.

In turn, these events have led to both public sniping and private enmity among DFLers. It's true Democrat-on-Democrat violence.

The governor has threatened to campaign against Democrats who attempt to squash the negotiated agreement.

DFL Senators, in turn, have publicly rebuked the governor, with Senator Barb Goodwin expressing the sentiment of many of her DFL colleagues by remarking that Dayton "isn't going to ram this (the agreement) down our throats."

There has also been no shortage of recrimination and infighting among DFL-aligned special interest groups.

This dynamic is exemplified by the fight between labor unions and environmentalists over the Environment appropriations bill.

Environmental groups have made a concerted effort to undermine the governor by calling on DFL legislators to vote against the negotiated bill.

On the other side, labor unions have publicly called for just the opposite.

The point of contention are various provisions in the bill that offer policy changes designed to benefit the mining industry in northern Minnesota.

Clearly, the biggest winner here is House Speaker Kurt Daudt.

While there will be an ongoing debate within the GOP family regarding the wisdom of various compromises Daudt made, there can be no denying (even though some will) that Daudt has displayed a mastery of the process that is remarkable, especially for a new Speaker who is going up against both a DFL governor and DFL Senate majority.

Daudt has successfully turned the public debate away from the "GOP shutdown" narrative and instead framed the narrative as one that centers on an erratic governor and a DFL family that can't seem to govern effectively.

In short, this special session is all about the DFL.

The message discipline among Republicans has been outstanding, with the Speaker himself demonstrating the poise and leadership that Minnesotans want to see at times like this.

The contrast between Daudt and Dayton couldn't be clearer.

One is calm and collected while the other is so petulant and out of control, it has led the Star Tribune to publish an opinion that questions the governor's rhetoric and choice of words.

While the DFL has been caught up in a public blame game, the Speaker has simply and powerfully stated "We will honor the negotiated agreement and pass it without amendment."

This publication urges the Speaker and his caucus to stick to their guns.

Mr. Speaker, who have an agreement gned by the parties. Please don't reopen any aspect of this agreement if the DFL fails to honor it. If that happens, get on the airplane and leave town.

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ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

continued from page 3

If there is a failure of this process, that's on the DFL, not on you and your caucus.

Pass these bills and adjourn.

The DFL is in a box. If they don't honor the agreement, things will only get worse for them, especially if this drags on and a partial shutdown ensues. The layoffs will happen to a constituency that is overwhelmingly supportive of the DFL anyway.

Finally, we would note the good work of Senate Minority Leader David Hann in this process.

He has played his role well, staying in the background as needed, giving Senator Bakk a spotlight in which to hang himself and the Senate DFL caucus.

When a man is hanging himself, step back and give him some more rope.

Hann has judiciously recognized that a "less is more" strategy is called for at this time.

His moment will come at election time, when the Senate GOP will remind the public of Bakk's antics and inability to govern in an adult manner.

The DFL has already inflicted major damage on their brand. We will see whether they can stop the bleeding or whether they will chamber another round and shoot themselves in the other foot.

Stay tuned.

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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State Auditor Battle *continued from page 1*

Law) and Enron, a corporation that had no obligation to provide much if any documentation to or open their meetings for the general public.

Take note of these comments from Jacobs, Schultz, and Otto. As I shed light on the historical prospective of this issue, it will soon become obvious how ridiculous and counterproductive these comments were to the articles they were quoted in.

Office of the State Auditor created by voters and original job duties set by Legislature and Governor in 1858

In 1858, the voters of the State of Minnesota adopted a constitution and in later years amended it to provide for a four year term for State Auditor. What the voters did not do was prescribe job duties for the office. The Constitution clearly states that the job duties and salary of the Auditor shall be prescribed by law. In 1858, the Legislature and Governor Henry Sibley did just this by passing a law which specified the job duties of this position. The job duties were similar to the duties that existed for auditors that served the Territory of Minnesota from 1849 to 1858.

State Auditor Otto recently stated that Legislature's action to allow counties to hire private auditors is improper, and Schultz claims that the Legislature probably cannot change the powers of the office. The plain language of our Constitution though clearly states that the State Auditor's job duties shall be prescribed by law, which means that changes to her job duties can be made through the typical lawmaking process which involves the Governor, Senate and House of Representatives. That is exactly what has happened on several occasions the past 150+ years.

In 1858, the State Auditor was tasked with several responsibilities. The State Auditor was an integral part of the state executive branch management team headed by the Governor, along with the Attorney General, Secretary of State, and the Treasurer. As part of this team, the State Auditor was in charge of monitoring and approving all state government expenditures in advance. The State Auditor also directed the State Treasury to pay bills and recorded each transaction, including the amount, date of payment, and the person to be paid. The State Auditor then prepared a financial report of state government on an annual basis. The State Auditor was also responsible for furnishing land plats, notifying counties of taxation information, authorizing penalties for non-payment of taxes, and administered oaths to accountants. There were minimal requirements to hold the office. The State Auditor has never been required to be an accountant or have any training or educational background in financial matters.

Office of the Public Examiner, position and job duties set by Legislature and Governor starting in 1878

In 1878, the Legislature and Governor created a position called the Office of the Public Examiner. This position was appointed by the Governor and was required to be an accountant. This position supervised the books and financial accounts of the state's public, educational, charitable, penal, and reformatory institutions. They also enforced a standardized bookkeeping system for state and county treasurers and auditors.

By 1939, the renamed Department of the Public Examiner took on responsibilities of the board of audit. The department was required to inquire into and prescribe accounting systems for local units of government and to audit the accounts of all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions.

In 1972, the elected State Auditor approved all state expenditures in advance, and authorized the treasurer to make payments, and recorded all state financial transactions, and issued a report on state government expenditures to the Legislature on an annual basis. And in 1972, the appointed Public Examiner was an account who had oversight over cities, counties, and school districts, along with state agencies, boards, and commissions.

State Government Reform in 1973

In 1973, the Legislature and Governor passed a law which stripped most of the job duties held by the State Auditor from 1858 to 1973. It created the Commissioner of Finance under the Governor. It eliminated the Department of the Public Examiner. It also created the Office of the Legislative Auditor. The Legislative Auditor's office is a professional, nonpartisan audit and evaluation office which is appointed by the joint House-Senate bi-partisan Legislative Audit Commission.

The State Auditor's job duties of approving state expenditures in advance, issuing bills to the treasurer, and recording state financial transactions were given to the newly created

Commissioner of Finance. This department is now known as the Minnesota Management & Budget Agency.

The Public Examiner's job duties involving state government, departments, agencies, boards, and commissions were transferred to the newly created Office of the Legislative Auditor. Job duties relating to audits of cities, counties, school districts, and other local governments were transferred to the State Auditor. The Public Examiner position was abolished.

As history clearly shows, Jacob's comment about the State Auditor being written into the constitution as a watchdog of local government is false. The State Auditor was created as part of the STATE government management team. The Public Examiner became the watchdog of local government 81 years after the State Auditor's position was created.

Schultz's claim that the Legislature may not have the authority to change the core functions of the office conflicts with the historical record. The fact is that the Legislature and Governor did just this in 1973. The State Auditor's original job duties exist today, in the Office of the Legislative Auditor and Minnesota Management & Budget Agency. The core functions of the State Auditor's office no longer exist in that office and haven't for over 40 years.

State Auditor Today

The job duties held by the State Auditor are purely a creation of the Legislature, primarily dating to 1973. There is no comparison of the job duties from 1858 to 1972 vs. 1973 to today. Originally the State Auditor played a role in STATE government. Today the State Auditor has little role in state government, Instead primarily serving as a very limited LOCAL government auditor. It would be accurate to say that Minnesota has a State Auditor that has little to do with state government activities. The position should be renamed Office of the Local Government Auditor.

While the State Auditor now performs the job duties of what was previously done by the Public Examiner, one key qualification of that former position was never transferred over to the State Auditor. While the Public Examiner was required to be an educated and trained accountant, there is no such requirement for the State Auditor. It would not surprise me to learn that no State Auditor has ever been a Certified Public Accountant.

State Auditor Future

If the State Auditor still held the job duties that existed when Minnesota became a state, it could easily be argued that the position would be a critical state function. After all, the state could not function without someone doing the job duties which are now performed by the Minnesota Management and Budget Agency.

The position of State Auditor today primarily focuses on performing audits or audit oversight of local government. When you take a look at city, school, and county governments, there has been a steady move towards hiring professionals to carry out these types of duties. Elected officials set policy, and elect professionals like auditors, clerks, and treasurers to carry out these policies.

For the first 115 years of Minnesota history, this is exactly what occurred. The Legislature and Governor set policy, and the Public Examiner was hired based upon professional qualifications to carry out that policy. Only in the past 42 years have we had this odd system where we elect a State Auditor to carry out job duties without requiring any professional qualifications. While we do have a history of electing some professional positions like Sheriff, there are requirements in law that they must be a licensed peace officer.

Maybe the answer is to do with the State Auditor what we did as a state with the State Treasurer position. In 2003, the position of State Treasurer was eliminated by a voter amendment passed a few years earlier. The State Treasurer's job duties were transferred to the Commissioner of Finance, a position appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

State Auditor Not Needed to Assure Good Government

To the fear mongers who claim that local government will suffer from rampant corruption with the elimination of an elected state level auditor position, my first word of advice is to calm down.

State Auditor Battle *continued on page 5*



State Auditor Battle *continued from page 4*

We survived the first 115 years of state history, through the corruption of the 1920's, without any elected official with direct audit oversight of local government. The fact is that today the overwhelming majority of audits done by school districts and cities, which number over a thousand per year, have been done for decades by the private sector without issue.

Let's also keep in mind that audits simply determine if funds were legally expended. Audits have nothing to do with stupid spending on the part of local elected officials. If we have a problem here in Minnesota, it is not with illegal expenditure of public funds, it is with the stupid expenditure of public funds. No audit can prevent the latter.

To maintain a checks and balances system of local government auditing, it would not be unreasonable to fold the current job duties of the State Auditor back together with the other half of the Public Examiner's position that went to the Office of the Legislative Auditor. In addition the Legislature could strengthen oversight by passing a law mandating that no audit firm may audit any local

Rep. Hackbart *cont. from page 2*

K/12 EDUCATION

- \$525 million in additional education funding, 2 percent increase in each 2016 and 2017
- Increases biennial per pupil funding for every student in every school district across the state by an average of \$388
- \$95 million to prioritize early learners with funding for pre-k scholarships and school readiness aid
- Fewer mandated tests

AG/ENVIRONMENT

- \$23 million to state agencies in order to combat the avian influenza outbreak that has devastated Minnesota turkey flocks and prevent future outbreaks
- Increasing funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Providing reforms to the Wetland Conservation Act, which were developed over the past year
- Approving an initiative that builds on the successful example of counties and landowners that have used a voluntary and locally based process to install buffers to enhance water and soil protection
- Repealing the current 'Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Trailer Sticker/Decal' law, and replacing it with a requirement that the boat owner sign an affirmation stating they will abide by AIS laws

JOB/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$10.6 million in broadband grants
- \$5 million for propane pre-purchase
- \$4 million for workforce housing in Greater MN
- \$2.12 million for STEM internships
- \$1.8 million for job training grants
- Requires legislative review of President Obama's Clean Power Plan by March 15, 2016
- Cuts ratepayer-funded handouts to special solar power interests (net metering)
- Special unemployment assistance for farm workers impacted by avian flu outbreak and steelworkers impacted by Iron Range layoffs

CAPITAL INVESTMENT (\$180 million total)

- \$27 million for two facilities that will deal with avian flu and other emerging animal diseases
- \$33 million for State Capitol renovations
- \$19 million for the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project that will help deliver clean water to residents in the southwest corner of the state
- \$10 million for wastewater infrastructure
- \$32 million for transportation needs
- \$23 million for flood prevention and disaster relief

LEGACY (\$540 million total)

- Clean Water Fund - \$228.3 million
- Outdoor Heritage Fund - \$97.8 million
- Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund - \$124.8 million
- Parks and Trails Fund - \$89.4 million

It disappoints me tax cuts the House proposed were blocked by the Senate and Dayton, especially one that would have helped seniors by stopping the state's practice of taxing Social Security income. That could be a top priority in 2016, along with the House's long-term transportation plan to put \$7 billion over 10 years toward roads and bridges without raising taxes. The Democrats were so stuck on their unpopular gas-tax increase that they refused to accept the House's plan.

government entity for more than three consecutive years. At the conclusion of three years of service, the auditor would be required to sit out three additional years before becoming eligible to do another audit in that particular local government again. Cycling private auditors in and out of local governments will prevent them from becoming permanent fixtures. Every three years, fresh eyes will be examining the books.

Report Due January 2016

I look forward to the professional analysis that will be done on the current functions of the Office of the State Auditor. This report will be due in January 2016 and is being conducted by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. The Legislature should seriously entertain all options including asking voters to eliminate the office as they did the State Treasurer a decade ago. The one thing I know for sure is that no matter what the report says, Jacobs and Schultz, our state's best known political know-nothing know-it-alls, will have plenty to say about it.

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ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 5 — 157xx Sycamore St NW; damage to a mailbox

June 7 — 25xx 138 Ave NW — vandalism to a pool; shot at causing a leak

June 9 — 151xx Bluebird St NW — broken vehicle window; purse

June 10 — 16xx 146 Ave NW; unsecure vehicle; tools

June 10 — 29xx 141 Ln NW; unsecure vehicle; pills, electronics

Arrests

May 29 — Andover Blvd NW/Butternut St NW — 4th Degree DWI; deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct and speeding. The male appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.206)

May 29 — 29xx 181 Ave NW — Theft; deputies responded to a report of 7 husky dogs stolen from her backyard. The deputies located a female and the dogs. The female was arrested.

Burglaries

June 8 — 144xx Prairie Rd NW; unsecure garage; tools

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 5 — 146xx West Freeway Dr NE; vandalism to a vehicle; keyed

June 9 — 83xx 177 Ln NE; vandalism to a vehicle; keyed

June 11 — 85xx 178 Ln NE; unsecure home; credit card

Arrests

June 5 — Williamette Ct NE/Camp 3 Rd NE — DAR, No Insurance; a deputy stopped a vehicle for having expired registration. The driver did not have a valid driver's license and didn't have insurance. The male was arrested.

June 7 — 83xx 177 Ln NE — Violation of an OFP; deputies responded to a report of a violation of an order for protection. It was determined that the order was violated. A male was arrested.

June 11 — 1xx 212 Ln NW; snow blower stolen from the property

June 11 — Viking Blvd NW/Cedar Dr NW; copper cable stolen from the property

Arrests

June 5 — 161xx 196 Ln NW; 2nd Degree Burglary; deputies responded to a burglary in progress. The deputies located the suspect vehicle and stopped it. ACSO Criminal Investigation Division was contacted and took over the investigation. ACSO Crime Scene Unit responded to process the scene. The male and female were arrested.

June 11 — Viking Blvd NW/Cedar Dr NW; 3rd Degree DWI, Drive around a Barricade, Expired Plates; a deputy stopped a driver for driving around a barricade in a "road closed" area. The driver did not have proof of insurance, current registration and appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were

conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.11)

conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.153)

HAM LAKE

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 5 — 20xx 176 Ave NE; damage to a mailbox

June 8 — 38xx 149 Ave NE; unsecure tools stolen from the property

LINWOOD

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 10 — 219xx Typo Creek Dr NE; vandalism to a building; spray painted

June 10 — 234xx Fontana St NE; female reporting a tax return was fraudulently filed using her SS#

June 11 — 242xx Zumbro St NE; unsecure vehicle; tools

June 11 — 242xx Depaul St NE; unsecure vehicle; cash

Arrests

June 9 — Viking Blvd NW/Pluto St NE; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct, no working license plate and a crack windshield. The female passenger was arrested.

NOWTHEN

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 6 — 76xx Old Viking Blvd NW; lawn mower stolen from the property

June 8 — 80xx Viking Blvd NW; trailer lock cut off; generator

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

June 10 — 208xx Butternut St NW; license plates stolen off a vehicle

June 11 — 1xx 212 Ln NW; snow blower stolen from the property

June 11 — Viking Blvd NW/Cedar Dr NW; copper cable stolen from the property

Arrests

June 5 — 161xx 196 Ln NW; 2nd Degree Burglary; deputies responded to a burglary in progress. The deputies located the suspect vehicle and stopped it. ACSO Criminal Investigation Division was contacted and took over the investigation. ACSO Crime Scene Unit responded to process the scene. The male and female were arrested.

June 11 — Viking Blvd NW/Cedar Dr NW; 3rd Degree DWI, Drive around a Barricade, Expired Plates; a deputy stopped a driver for driving around a barricade in a "road closed" area. The driver did not have proof of insurance, current registration and appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were

conducted and failed. The male was arrested. (.11)

EAST BETHEL

Arrests

June 6 — 181xx Hwy 65 NE — 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a girlfriend/boyfriend domestic. The male was arrested.

June 7 — Sims Rd NE/University Ave NE; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver for having a cracked windshield. The deputy then learned that the male had an active warrant. During the search of the vehicle narcotics were located. The male was arrested.

June 12 — 221 Ave NE/University Ave NE; 4th Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
CHARTER
COMMISSION
MEETING**

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015

1.0 CALL TO ORDER
- 6:00 p.m. – Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 25, 2015

4.0 APPEARANCES – None

5.0 COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.1 Approval of a Resolution amending the City Charter, Section 5, requiring a referendum to be held only on a General Election year

6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Published June 19, 2015
Anoka County Record) #182**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 29th day of June, 2015 at or around 7 o'clock p.m. to consider the public improvement to 189th Lane NW all in Riverwood Reserve and 800 feet of Blackfoot Street north of 189th Lane NW by installing bituminous pavement as authorized by Minnesota Statute, Chapter 429. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is the property abutting said listed streets and accessing said street. The estimated cost of this proposed improvement is \$58,400. 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 June 12, 19, 2015
Anoka County Record) #133**CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 15-18**

An Ordinance adding Public Utilities as an allowed use in CD-1 (Commercial Development Tier 1), CD-2 (Commercial Development Tier 2) and I-P (Industrial Park).

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

The following is hereby added to the beginning of Article 9-220.2(a)(i) of the Ham Lake City Code the following phrase: "Except for structures housing public utility feature"

Add: "Public Utilities (metal or pole type construction allowed)" as a permitted use to the following:

CD-1 (Commercial Development Tier 1)

Zoning 9-220.2 (b)

CD-2 (Commercial Development Tier 2)

Zoning 9-220.3 (b)

I-P (Industrial Park)

Zoning 9-220.6 (c)

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on June 1, 2015 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 15th day of June, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk,
Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published June 19, 2015
Anoka County Record) #**CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 15-19**

An Ordinance relating to Chicken Coop Size, amending Article 9-380 (g).

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

Article 9-380 (g) of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby repealed.

The first sentence of Article 9-380, section (h) of the Ham Lake City Code is hereby repealed, to be replaced by the following sentence: "So long as the structure comprising the coop is less than 150 square feet or less at the foundation level, no building permit shall be required, and the structure shall not be considered an "accessory building".

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on June 1, 2015 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 15th day of June, 2015.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk,
Mayor

/s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk

(Published June 19, 2015
Anoka County Record) #**ANOKA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE
STORM WATER
POLLUTION
PREVENTION PLAN**

Notice Is Hereby Given, a public informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. at the Anoka County Highway Department, 1440 Bunker Lake Boulevard, Andover, MN 55304. The purpose of this meeting will be to review and accept comments on the Anoka County Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is a document required by the State and Federal government that outlines how the county will work towards reducing pollution in storm water runoff. This Plan will be presented and public feedback will be received during the meeting.

A copy of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is available for public inspection at the Anoka County Highway Department Offices, 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd., Andover, MN 55304. Written comments on the proposed Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan may be directed to the "Anoka County Highway Engineer" at the Anoka County Highway Department Offices. For more information, please feel free to call Meghan Litsey (WSB & Associates, Inc.), 763-287-7155 or Nick Dobda (Anoka County Highway Department), at 763-862-4261.

(Published June 12, 19, 2015
Anoka County Record) #238**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:

Verite Video and Film

2. Principal Place of Business:

**3951 87th Lane NE
Circle Pines, MN 55014**

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:

**Matthew Edward
Bonnema****3951 87th Lane NE
Circle Pines, MN 55014**

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: June 10, 2015,

#829458800029,

/s/ Matthew Bonnema

(Published June 19, 26, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #238**ANOKA COUNTY
SUMMARY OF BIDS**

Bid #2015-22

Description of Bid/RFP:
Advertisement for Bids for Wargo Pedestrian Entrance Project

Bid Opening: July 27, 2015

Bid #2015-24

Description of Bid/RFP:
Advertisement for Bids for the New Construction of a Single Family Home at 208 Clay Street, Anoka, Minnesota 55303

Bid Opening: July 23, 2015

Bid #2015-25

Description of Bid/RFP:
Bids Invited for Anoka County Project, Minnesota Project No. HSIP 0215 (090) State Project No.

002-030-006 CSAH 22 (Viking Blvd NW) Nowthen & CSAH 18 (Crossstown Blvd NW/NE)

Andover and Ham Lake, State Project No. 002-

030-008 CSAH 22 (Viking Blvd NE) East Bethel and Linwood Township Minnesota, Anoka County

Bid Opening: July 23, 2015

Bid #2015-26

Description of Bid/RFP:
Advertisement for Bids for Coon Rapids Dam Restroom Remodel

Bid Opening: July 24, 2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published June 19, June 26,

July 3, 2015 Anoka County Record) #238

**ANOKA COUNTY
SUMMARY OF BIDS**

Bid #2015-19

Description of Bid/RFP:
Advertisement for Bids for Coon Rapids Dam Restroom Remodel

Bid Opening: July 24,

2015.

For more information regarding the above published bids/RFPs, please visit the Anoka County Web Site at: www.

AnokaCounty.us/bids.

(Published June 12, 19, 26, 2015
Anoka County Record) #236**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:

**Restored Property
Solutions**

2. Principal Place of Business:

**1424 138th Avenue
Northwest
Andover, MN 55304**

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:

**Mattie Edward
Bonnema****1424 138th Avenue NW
Andover, MN 55304**

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: June 10, 2015,

#828509800032,

/s/ David Moon, CEO

(Published June 12, 2015 &

June 19, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #233**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:

Merrill PC Services

2. Principal Place of Business:

**6723 Partridge Place
Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

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:

Craig Merrill**6723 Partridge Place
Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

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: June 10, 2015,

#829091300027,

/s/ Craig A. Merrill

(Published June 12, 19, 2015,
Anoka County Record) #237**Sen. Chamberlain** cont. from page 2

million in 2017.

Spending by fund:

- Clean Water Fund: \$228 million for 2016-2017.
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: \$97 million for 2016 (appropriated every year).
- Parks and Trails Fund: \$89 million for 2016-2017.
- Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund: \$124 million in 2016-2017.

In 2008, Minnesotans voted to adopt a new three-eighths of one percent sales tax increase to protect the wildlife and the outdoors, to preserve our cultural heritage, and to support parks and trails. I share the concerns of Minnesota voters – we are blessed that our state has vibrant forests, prairies, wildlife, and waterways. The money collected from this amendment serves an important purpose; every year, we receive funding requests from a number of worthy projects. It is our responsibility to make sure this money is being spent effectively. There are a number of projects funded in the bill, but one important provision would prevent a group from receiving legacy funding if the legislative auditor finds that group used their funding inappropriately. It is an important change that will protect taxpayers, eliminate wasteful spending, and ensure government operates as effectively as possible.

As I have stated throughout the regular session, I am very uncomfortable with the drastic budget increases we have experienced over the last several sessions. The budget increased \$4.4 billion from FY12-13 to FY14-15 and will increase an additional \$2 billion between FY14-15 to FY16-17 for a total of \$41.8 billion. This increased rate of spending is unsustainable and detrimental to Minnesota and its economy.

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