

KDA

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LLC has approached the Big Falls site leads him to believe they don't want to site there.

"In my own mind, it just seems to me that Coronal's not interested in going to Big Falls," McBride said. "And it's our project, and we need to look at Big Falls a little stronger."

Throughout conference calls with Coronal LLC and Koochiching Economic Development Authority Director Paul Nevanen, Ecklund said he's made it clear that Big Falls wants to site the RECAP project there.

"You've got a community that wants this thing, you're going to need to do everything you can to see that it can be sited at Big Falls," Ecklund said.

Ecklund said the board might need to call Coronal LLC to meet locally, as the county will need to make a decision on moving forward with the project soon.

"I believe we've made the call, we've told them where we think the best site should be," Ecklund said. "And it seems they're

avoiding it for whatever reason."

Considering other sites the county isn't interested in is costing money, which doesn't make sense, Pavleck said.

"I just think we're wasting time and resources," Pavleck said. "We've invested a lot of funds here, and certainly provided them with a lot of opportunities."

Calls to Coronal LLC representatives were not returned in time for this publication.

Koochiching County Board

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday got more information on the 2015 Toward Zero Deaths Enforcement grant, which it had approved participation in at the Oct. 7 meeting.

The grant focuses on greater enforcement of speed limits and seatbelt laws by providing funding for more shifts focusing on those issues.

Undersheriff Jon Froemke said the enforcement doesn't focus on giving out tickets, but rather educating people on the laws, which can be done with warnings and reminders.

The October emphasis

is on seatbelt use, which Froemke said he sees as a habit people need to get into. Seatbelt use is an issue locally, he said, as statewide seatbelt use is at 94 percent. Locally, seatbelt use is at about 83 percent.

"Half of the motorists killed in Minnesota each year are unbelted," Froemke said. "So you take that into consideration, that is a huge issue."

Speed limits are also seen as minor infractions, Froemke said, but like seatbelts, play a big factor in accidents.

"Speed is the single leading factor in fatality crashes in Minnesota," Froemke said. "It basically accounts for 130 deaths in Minnesota each year."

Driving while intoxicated is also enforced through the grant, and 30,000 Minnesotans are arrested annually for DWI, Froemke said.

"One in seven Minnesotans has a DWI record," Froemke said.

County Commissioner Brian McBride said the board wanted clarification on the grant, and wanted to know how deputies would be enforcing the different emphases.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Work on the interior of the International Falls animal holding facility continues this week. The building is expected to be completed this month.

ANIMAL

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BHS \$2,250 per month to operate the shelter, instead of making it a part of the Falls Police Department functions.

City Public Works Director Gary Skallman said this week the interior walls are being painted and FRP board, a washable, stain-resistant board is being applied halfway up the walls of the cat and dog areas.

An epoxy paint will be added to the floors of the dog

and cat areas to allow for easy cleaning, he said.

BHS is purchasing kennels and other interior furniture which will soon be placed inside the building, he said.

City officials had planned to be further ahead in the project at this time, but this spring's wet weather, which caused flooding issues in the community, delayed work. He said landscaping will continue into the fall after the building is completed.

"It would have been nice if the weather would have cooperated this spring," Skallman said. "We couldn't get

into the site to get started and the site work was delayed because of the miserable spring. It was one of those springs that caused problems for just about everybody everywhere."

The facility has been constructed to last 40 to 50 years into the future.

Specifications for the building were donated by Lucachick Architecture Inc., with other design work donated by Martin Mechanical Design Inc., Fargo, N.D., Jones A.E., Clearbrook, and J.B. Electrical Design, Coon Rapids.

FOREIGN

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According to the federal FTZ board website, a business in an FTZ benefits in multiple ways. These benefits include duty exemption and deferral, inverted tariffs, logistical benefits and state and local benefits.

Nevanen said the duty benefits helps a company by providing better control of their supply chain and inventory management. Instead of paying a duty ev-

ery time an item comes in, a company pays its duties once a week, which saves time and money.

"If you're doing a lot of importing, you're saving a lot of money," Nevanen said.

The public also benefits from having an FTZ, according to the federal FTZ board website. An FTZ helps facilitate and expedite international trade, encourages and facilitates exports, helps create employment opportunities and assists in state and local economic development efforts.

"We could find someone that's using the CN rail, that, as long as the train's stopped here, could offload their parts and reassemble them here. We have to find somebody that would see our location as strategic."

Paul Nevanen
KEDA Director

The FTZ program was set up to provide benefits for manufacturers, Nevanen said, but locally, it is viewed

as a jobs program.

"The program's there so a company can locate and take advantage of it," Nevanen

said. "We have to market it to take advantage of it, and make companies understand the benefits of it."

Merchandise in an FTZ can be assembled, exhibited, cleaned, manipulated, manufactured, mixed, processed, relabeled, repackaged, repaired, salvaged, sampled, stored, tested, displayed and destroyed, according to the federal FTZ board website. Production activity must be authorized by the board, and retail trade is not allowed in FTZs.

Nevanen said no busi-

nesses in the county are now able to take advantage of FTZ status. Instead, he said, the KEDA is considering finding a business using the Canadian National Railway tracks running through the county, to see if it would want to locate in the area.

"We could find someone that's using the CN rail, that, as long as the train's stopped here, could offload their parts and reassemble them here," Nevanen said. "We have to find somebody that would see our location as strategic."

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