

COUNTY

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included a report by John Bennett, Extension educator with the University of Minnesota's Center for Community Vitality, that showed that 265 paper mill employees produce an estimated \$207 million of annual economic activity in Koochiching County.

The report says that the loss of the 265 jobs will have significant impacts on Koochiching County, including that 555 jobs in the county in total will be

affected by the action. The plant itself will contribute to a total loss of \$248 million in sales in the county; labor income will drop by \$26.7 million and the lost spending of the wages and other purchases by the plant will decrease total income in the county by an additional \$11.5 million, thus the total loss of labor income will be \$38.2 million.

In other county board business this week, the board agreed to send a letter to federal lawmakers representing Borderland supporting a change in

law that would allow for private-public partnerships in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land ports of entry along the U.S. border.

The action was taken following a request by the International Falls City Council, which took similar action recently. City officials have said that while federal funding for construction of a new land port of entry in International Falls is not likely in the near future, a change in the law to allow for public-private partnerships would help to move

forward construction of the proposed new facility, for which plans have already been developed, more quickly.

The board also approved hiring an additional eligibility worker, to be funded by state Medical Assistance funding, due to the extra workload on county staff forced by expansion of MA eligibility and the state's health insurance exchange.

Terry Murray, Community Services director, told the board that the two new programs have been added to the agency's workload as

a result of the Federal Affordable Health Care Act.

Murray said the expansion of MA eligibility adds an estimated 288 cases to the caseload, which now stands at 200 cases per worker.

The insurance exchange, an online marketplace for individuals and small businesses, starts in 2014 with an application process to begin this fall. Murray said the state has informed him that the expansion of MA will take 119 people off MinnesotaCare, which is administered by the state, and place them into the county-administered MA,

for a total of 407 new cases for the county to handle.

Commissioners said the workload must be periodically reviewed to determine long-term staff needs after the programs and caseloads are implemented and stabilized.

The board authorized county Engineer Joe Sutherland to execute a school trust easement to allow for realignment of County Road 137 and the Ravenwood Plat Road to increase safety and to pay the easement purchase price of \$2,932 from the Highway Department budget.

SECURITY

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those options could be explored in the future.

"The high school's entrance needs to be done first before remodeling of the office wing is done," he said, adding that changes to the layout of the school's offices are expected to be considered next summer "depending on how the (new) access works," he said.

"We need to get the first steps started and take more time for long-term planning," he explained. "We need a lot of input and a lot of discussion."

For now, an electronically-controlled door access to the main office will be installed in the vestibule at Falls High School, along with electronically-controlled access on the six doors inside the lobby.

At Falls Elementary School, the vestibule will be controlled with a security camera and doorbell.

Insulated safety glass will be installed at the south entrance of West End Elementary. The north entrance, Nelson said, will be locked. Each school will also have panic devices in place.

"These changes will require some adjustment from the public," Nelson said. "We want them to be as user friendly as possible."

Nelson said that restricted access will only take effect while school is in session. Entrances will not be locked before school, after school or during extra curricular activities.

The district will pay for the project from its capital expenditure fund and cash flow it with the general fund balance dollars, Nelson said.

"(The project) was not part of the original budget," he said. "We will use the general fund balance dollars to get this taken care of. Eventually, those dollars will be replaced by

capital expenditures."

Also Thursday, the board placed Tom Vollom, FHS Ojibwe and language teacher on unrequested leave.

The board proposed the leave during a special session June 11 after the district failed to received a grant that pays for costs associated with the Ojibwe program. Nelson said Vollom had 14 days to request a hearing, "which he did not," so the board was required to take the official action Thursday.

However, during the board's regular meeting June 18, members of the public expressed their desire to keep the program available to students.

Three members of the board formed a committee to meet with community members in an effort to seek alternative ways to fund Vollom's program.

Also Thursday, the board agreed to hire Brittany Bolstad as a full-time elementary teacher.

KEDA

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conomic Development staff visited the most recently constructed cold box this week.

"The cold box continues to be a strong investment," he said. More information on the economic impact of the cold-weather testing season and cold box facilities is expected to be released soon, he said.

Nevanen also reported on a consultants forum he attended earlier in the month in Minneapolis where nine site-selection consultants from around the nation offered advice. He said the nine panelists work with businesses looking to expand or create new locations for various parts of their businesses.

While the focus was on manufacturing sites, he said part of the presentation discussed trends, including that manufacturing is coming back to the United States from overseas sites, which he said is referred to as reshoring.

The return of manufacturing to the U.S., he said, is based on the increasing

costs of overseas labor and ocean-going transportation.

The forum discussed what a community or region must do to attract manufacturing business, but also business in general. He said the forum helped to answer what a company is looking for in a site.

Nevanen said he brought information back from the forum to discuss with the KEDA Board as it relates to local activities. He said making sites ready for development is key; offering a quality workforce is important, as is having a favorable tax environment compared to nearby states; and transportation and utility availability and cost play an important role in site selection.

"It was a good conversation," he said. "A lot is what we already knew, but it validates what we are doing and thinking. Some of these things we can control, but some — our geography and tax environment — we can't."

But, said Nevanen, Borderland has a good transportation system with main highways and rail, a good workforce, and relatively low land and utility costs. "Those we need to play up,"

he said."

He said it's important to make International Falls' multimodal district and the foreign trade zone as ready for development as possible, "which is a balancing act — if we don't have someone in hand (to use the sites) how can we justify the costs. We will continue to explore that."

Another topic at the forum included the growing role of governors, many of whom are traveling to other states and nations, recruiting business on behalf of the state they represent. Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, he said is scheduled to attend an energy conference soon and he hopes that the RECAP project can dovetail on the effort, said Nevanen.

More the 100 people from across the country, with representation from every state, attended the forum, proving how competitive site selection is among businesses, said Nevanen.

Meanwhile, Nevanen said a biomass working group was scheduled to meet Thursday with a potential developer about opportunities for such projects in the county.

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7TH ANNUAL

International Falls

BASS CHAMPIONSHIP

Come for the Fishing...Stay for the Fun!

IFBC BASS DASH 5K Run/Walk

Sat., Aug. 24, 2013

Smokey Bear Park • 9:00AM

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AGENDA

City Council
Monday, July 1, 2013
4:30 P.M.
Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

- Approve minutes of the June 17, 2013 regular City Council meeting
- Approve minutes of the June 24, 2013 special City Council meeting

SPECIAL ACTION CLAIMS

TRANSFERS

To: City of Intl Falls- Fund #101	From: City of Intl Falls - Fund #812 \$198.96 Lodging tax
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REGULAR CLAIMS

- Regular Claims

AUDIENCE

BIDS AND/OR QUOTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Accept the contribution from Intl Falls Moose Lodge #1259 in the amount of \$100 Expend \$100 in support of the July 4th Celebration

NEW BUSINESS

1. Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities update – Bradley Peterson
2. Enter into agreement with Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Koochiching County to conduct inspections needed for rental units in International Falls
3. Review and consider development agreement with Menards Inc.
4. Review of city council meeting dates and times
5. Human Resources committee:
 - a.) recommend internal posting of the vacant meter reader position
 - b.) recommend internal posting of head mechanic position, due to retirement
 - c.) recommend approval of "Code of Ethics for City Council"
6. Any other business

PUBLIC HEARING

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATOR, ATTORNEY, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

REPORTS OF MAYOR, COUNCIL COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

AUDIENCE – 2nd CALL

CORRESPONDENCE

- May 15, 2013 - Convention & Visitors' Bureau meeting minutes
- May 20, 2013 – Airport Commission meeting minutes
- October 2013 Reno Charter information

REMINDERS

- Next regular Council meeting is Monday, July 8, 2013 at 4:30 PM

The City of International Falls complies with the ADA. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

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