Herbicide applications begin in Littlefork area

DNR STAFF REPORT

Herbicide applications will begin in the Littlefork area according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

This is being done as one of several reforestation operations conducted by the DNR's Division of Forestry to control vegetation on newly established forests.

Aerial herbicide application on 31 acres, and ground application on another 6 acres of state land in the Littlefork area is expected to begin this week and will continue through around Sept. 12. Signs will be posted on all herbicide treatment sites.

"Herbicides are applied to state land to help establish new forests," explained Angela Yuska area program forester. "Herbicides help minimize competition between existing vegetation and newly planted trees."

The DNR plants trees on state lands to reforest harvested areas, provide wildlife habitat, protect watershed values and maintain the quality of state forests. Part of the reforestation process involves applying herbicides to the harvested areas prior to, or following, tree planting. Once a planting site has been prepared, professional foresters determine the tree species appropriate for the site and private contractors hired by the DNR do the actual planting.

More than 4,000 acres of state forest lands are planted and seeded each year. This is equivalent to over 3,000 football fields. This year, in the Littlefork area alone, DNR foresters have seeded about 2180 acres and planted over 65 acres during May. Over 36,000 trees, predominantly pines and spruces have been planted on sites prepared during the past year.

Over the last 10 years, the DNR has planted or seeded close to 100,000 acres. Pines are the major species planted. During that 10 years period, the DNR has planted over 5 million white pine on state lands to restore this valuable tree in Minnesota's forested landscape. Many other native tree species are also planted. Oak and other native hardwoods are widely planted in the state forests of southeastern Minnesota.

More information about the DNR's forestry division can be found on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry.

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Official says gasoline market is 'sensitive to Egypt situation'

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have risen 14.2 cents in the past week, averaging $3.56 per gallon Thursday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has increased 11.7 cents per gallon in the last week to $3.62 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Prices in International Falls Sunday ranged from $3.57 to $3.74 per gallon, according to the website.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 6.8 cents per gallon higher compared to the same day one year ago and are 5.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has increased 0.4 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 19.5 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

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Public Notices

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck, Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
COUNTY STAFF ATTENDING: County Assessor Peterson, Administration Director Jaksa
OTHERS ATTENDING: None

Oaths of Office were conducted for members of the County Board of Equalization. The County Board of Appeal and Equalization Certification Form was completed with two of the Board members having training certification. The Chairman opened the Board of Equalization (BOE) session to review 2013 property valuation and classification for taxes payable in 2014. The Auditor-Treasurer stated that there were no appointments scheduled for today's session but that there was one written appeal received.

The County Assessor opened with a report on the Department's work plan and what was done for the 2013 assessment year. The Assessor viewed a map of the Assessing Zones for the County and where work was done for value equalization. The work plan also included assessment of commercial rental properties. The Assessor stated that the State has informed the County that there is no state increases mandated this year which means the Department is doing their job.

1. Letter received from Robert and Faye Thomson, Parcel # 15-066-02030 (Lot with garage in the Plat of Glenhaven). The property owner is contesting the 2013 assessment of this property on the basis that it does not reflect the current actual market value. The letter stated that they put the property on the market in the past at a sale price of $25,000 and it didn't sell. The valuation of the property increased from $20,800 to $30,500. The letter further provided their description of the land and building condition and stated that they did review their concerns with the Assessor and were provided a response by the Assessor as to how the assessment was arrived at. The Assessor viewed a map to show the location of the property, showed pictures of the property and a schedule showing the various land values of all the lots in the Glenhaven Plat. He further reviewed his adjustment of the Plat land value for the 2013 assessment where he averaged all the lots land value and came up with 62 cents per square foot. The Assessor stated that in viewing all the lots in the Plat, they were identical so it did not make sense that some lots were valued lower or higher than others and therefore equalized the land value for all the lots. This particular lot is the biggest of them all at 37,500 square feet giving a land value of $23,250. In response to the Board's inquiry the Assessor stated that he did not receive any other inquires from the property owners with the reassessment of the Plat of Glenhaven. In viewing the 2013 assessment for this particular property, the building is in at $7,185 and the land at $23,250 for a total value of $30,435. In response to the Board inquiry, the Assessor stated that there were no sales in that area to compare to and again, the reassessment was done to equalize the value of similar land in the Plat as there was no justification to have the different land values. Further, equalization of values is part of the assessing process. If information provides the value is too high or low, the adjustment can be done through mass appraisal and that they would certainly look at this area if information shows the assessment needs adjustment. In further review, the Assessor stated that the property has sewer but no water and the taxes paid on the property for 2013 were $170. A Board member felt strong that if there is no sale data and the property owner tried to sell the property at $25,000 and could not, there is no justified for the value increase. The Assessor's justification was the Plat lots are similar and therefore should have the same land value and needed to be equalized. The formula to do so without any sales data to rely on was to average the current land value of the lots and come up with an equal rate per square foot. If the Board feels an adjustment is needed, it should apply to the whole plat for equalization. He did not feel the average rate was high after doing the calculation and would recommend no change in the value for this property. The Board member stated his position that he felt uncomfortable with the adjustment without some supporting sale or area data to justify the value adjustment.

With no other business, the Board Chair recessed the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and will reconvene on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
Reconvened Session 2013 Tuesday, June 25, 2013; 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck

MEMBERS ABSENT: Auditor-Treasurer Peterson

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDING: County Assessor Peterson, Administration Director Jaksa

OTHERS ATTENDING: None

000 The Board Chair reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Board was informed that there were no scheduled appointments or written appeals received. The Board stayed in session for walk in appointments until 7:00 p.m.

With no appointments, walk ins or written appeals, the County Board of Equalization concluded business.

BOE2013/01 Motion by McBride, seconded Ecklund that in reviewing the appeals presented to the 2013 County Board of Equalization being one written appeal from Robert and Faye Thomson reviewed at the June 18th meeting, the County Board of Equalization unanimously supported the County Assessor's recommendation for no adjustment in the valuation and approved the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Record for 2013 as submitted by the County Assessor with one appeal and no adjustment of valuation (Thompson). Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

BOE/2013-02 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to adjourn the 2013 County Board of Equalization at 7:05 p.m. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

Kevin Adee, Board Chair Teresa Jaksa, Administration Director

The Journal
July 17th, 2013

Public Notice

MINUTE SUMMARY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
KOOCHICHING COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday
June 25, 2013; 3:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The County Board approved the June 25th meeting agenda; approved the minutes from the June 18, 2013 regular meeting; approved payment of the Courthouse claims in the amount of $66,306.91, Public Health claims in the amount of $9,821.30, Community Service Department and Program claims, and Burial Case claims in the amount of $580.35 and $800.

2013/06-39 Motion by McBride, seconded by Pavleck to adopt a resolution authorizing participation in the planning process and execution of the sub-grant agreement for updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Pavleck; absent for vote: Ecklund. Motion carried.

2013/06-40 Motion by McBride, seconded by Pavleck that at the request of the City of International Falls, to submit Koochiching County's support of federal law change to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry to support a new customs and immigration facility in International Falls on Alternative #10 site as determined by the GSA. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Pavleck; absent for vote: Ecklund. Motion carried.

000 The Community Services Director reviewed the two new programs that will be added to the Agency's workload as a result of the Federal Affordable Health Care Act. The first is the expansion of Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility. The second program is MNSure which is the State's Health Insurance Exchange which is an on-line marketplace for individuals and small employers at this time to shop for affordable health care starting in 2014 with the application process to begin in the fall of 2013. The State is providing funding to the Human Services Departments to assist the public with the navigation of the MNSure System. Within a short period of time, the caseload work will begin and the Director stated that this is all on top of the Agency converting over to the electronic case management system.

2013/06-41 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride authorizing the Community Services Director to hire an additional Eligibility Worker to be funded by State MA Assistance Funding due to the extra workload with the MA eligibility expansion and MNSure Health Insurance Exchange resulting from the Federal Affordable Health Care Act. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Pavleck; absent for vote: Ecklund. Motion carried.

2013/06-42 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to adopt a resolution supporting First Plan and Medica as the managed care organizations providing managed health care services in Koochiching County. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Pavleck; absent for vote: Ecklund. Motion carried.

000 The County Engineer reviewed information on the request by the property owners in the Plat of Ravenwood for the County's assistance in obtaining an easement on School Trust Land so they can reconstruct the Plat's private access road to make it safer. The Engineer provided maps showing the current configuration of the Plat road connecting to County Road 137 which provides an unsafe connection to the public road and the new configuration of the Plat access road to County Road 137 which provides a safer connection with the public road.

2013/06-43 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride authorizing the County Engineer to execute the School Trust Land Easement #133-023-0899 for realignment of County Road 137 and Ravenwood Plat Road for public safety and to pay the purchase price of $2,931.51 from the Highway Budget. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

000 The County Engineer reviewed the revised 2013-2015 County Road Construction Plan based on the status of the projects at this time.

2013/06-44 Motion by Ecklund, seconded by Pavleck to support the revision of the 2013-2014 County Road Construction Plan based on the status of the projects at this time as presented and recommended by the County Engineer. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2013/06-45 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to set a special meeting of the County Board on Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. to host a meeting with U.S. Senator Franken to discuss the economic impact/recovery with the Mill job loss with local officials. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2013/06-46 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride authorizing the purchase of a replacement TV for the County's INTV System at a cost of up to $1,300. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Pavleck. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. A full copy of the minutes is available on the County website at www.co.koochiching.mn.us and for public inspection at the County Administration Office during regular business hours.

The Journal
July 17th, 2013

Public Notice

Public Notice of Auction

The West End Mini Storage Facility is announcing the Auction of the contents of the following units: **4, 19, 30, 54, 85, and 104**. The contents of these units are being auctioned to defray past due bills incurred on these units. These default proceedings shall be governed by the "Minnesota Leins in Personal Property in Self Storage Act" codified in Minnesota Statutes Section 514.970 et. seq. And amendments, or at the sale election of Owner by Unlawful Detainer action pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 566.01 and amendments. The auction will be held at 1:00 pm. Sunday July 21st, 2013 at The West End Mini Storage Facility located on County Road 106 South of Menard's.

COMPLETE UNITS TO BE SOLD LIKE STORAGE WARS

The Journal
July 17th & July 20th, 2013

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS hereby given that default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage dated December 5, 1994 given to secure an original principal amount of $79,990.00 executed by Jeri M. Shevich, a single person, as mortgagor (s), to the United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Mortgagee, and duly recorded with the Office of the County Recorder of KOOCHICHING County, Minnesota on December 5, 1994, as Document Number 209136.

No action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof: all pre-foreclosure notice requirements have been complied with.

There is due and claimed to be due on the mortgage and the note secured thereby, including interest, taxes, and fees to the date of this notice, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven and 50/100,($100,957.50). Pursuant to the power of sale therein contained, said mortgage will be foreclosed and the tract of land lying and being located in the County of KOOCHICHING, Minnesota, described as follows:

Legal: Lot Fifteen (15) , less the North One Hundred Feet (n 100') and less the South One Hundred Feet (S 100') , Auditor's Plat Twenty-two (22)

Property address: 1607 9th Avenue E, International Falls, MN 56649

Parcel ID: 9200300152

will be sold by the Sheriff of KOOCHICHING County at public auction on the 15th day of August, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. o'clock in the County Sheriff's Office in International Falls, MN, to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage, taxes, if any on said premises, and the costs and disbursements allowed by law, subject to redemption within Six (6) months from said date of sale.

At the time of the commencement of said mortgage foreclosure proceedings said lands were not agricultural lands as defined by the Minnesota Omnibus Farm Act, Laws of 1986, Chapter 398.

The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated or the property redeemed, the time is 11:59 p.m. on (February 15, 2014).

Dated: June 6th, 2013
United States of America

By:
Richard Cohen
Acting Director for Bankruptcy/Foreclosure Section, and Direct Loss Mitigation Section,
Default Management Branch,
Acting on behalf of The Rural Housing Service
(Successor in interest to the Farmers Home Administration)
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

The Journal
June 12th, 19th, 26th
July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 2013