

LOCALNEWS

Big Falls invites RECAP to site there

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

An invitation to consider property in Big Falls for the site of the proposed Renewable Energy Clean Air Project will be explored by the Koochiching Development Authority Board.

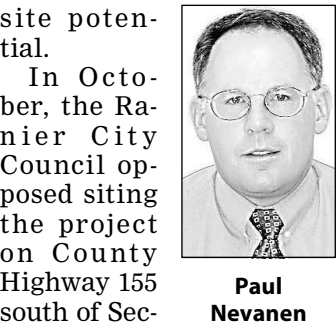
On Tuesday, board member Wayne Skoe reviewed a letter from Big Falls City Clerk Joan Nelson indicating the Big Falls City Council would like city property to be considered as a potential site for the proposed RECAP facility.

The KDA in partnership with developer Coronal LLC has been considering for more than six years the feasibility of RECAP, which would convert garbage via plasma gasification to a usable form of energy like electricity or biofuel.

“The city of Big Falls owns land that would be suitable for such a project,” the Jan. 14 letter states. “The council voted unanimously to send this letter stating their interest in having the gasification facility located in Big Falls on city land, and their willingness to work with the county, engineers and other parties to research the feasibility of such a project at our site.”

The letter asks county officials to let the council know what other action it needs to take to add the Big Falls site as a potential location for the project.

The KDA board agreed to have RECAP representatives meet with the Big Falls City Council to discuss the



Paul Nevanen

site potential.

In October, the Ranier City Council opposed siting the project on County Highway 155 south of Second Creek, one of three potential sites for the project. The other sites are near the county's transfer site on Highway 11-71 and a location on Highway 332.

Koochiching Economic Development Authority Director Paul Nevanen told The Journal the interest expressed by Big Falls city officials wasn't out of the blue. He said city officials approached him following the December presentation by Coronal representatives.

Nevanen said the Big Falls site is not accessible by train, which he said is not necessarily a deal killer. He said he was unaware of what utilities are at the site.

However, he said, in order for the project to be successful economically it needs to sell the syngas or biofuel for electricity. Any site considered must be able to help achieve that.

Each new site considered takes the time of the entire RECAP team, which includes staff from other groups involved.

And, he said, decisions about whether to proceed with the project and if so, where, must be made soon as the permitting process must begin.

“We just need to get going on this,” he said.

In other KDA business, the board supported designation of all of Koochiching County as a foreign trade zone.

The proposal was brought to the board by Nevanen. The support will be included in an application to the Foreign Trade Zones Board.

Nevanen has described the benefits of expanding the borders of the FTZ through an alternative site framework, or ASF, process. He told the KEDA Board earlier the federal FTZ Board has found people were trying to fit businesses to the zone and not the other way around. The FTZ Board came up with the ASF process, which allows for expansion of a FTZ to a larger area, which can help FTZ hosts bring in potential businesses.

KEDA would work with Point Trade Services, a Florida-based company, on the ASF application process. The ASF application process takes six to nine months and involves the U.S. Department of Commerce. Nevanen said Point Trade Services has experience dealing with the federal bureaucracy. Point Trade Services charged Duluth \$15,000 to expand its FTZ, Nevanen has said. The current rate is \$3,500.

The KDA Board elected Wade Pavleck as board chairman and Brian McBride vice chairman. The KDA Board is made up of county commissioners.

The board also approved the 2014 budget of \$324,069.

Board to revisit quarry request

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Koochiching County Board took no action Tuesday on a recommendation to approve a rock quarry operation in the Moonlight Rock area.

The recommendation is expected to be revisited next week after two commissioners and county Engineer Joe Sutherland meet with staff of Packaging Corporation of America, which now owns the Boise paper mill, to discuss allowing the operator to use a company road to access and haul materials from the proposed rock quarry.

The PCA road is being considered because of safety concerns and deterioration of County Road 144, known as the Moonlight Rock Road, should the operation use it to haul material.

The discussion was prompted by the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve Wagner Construction's application for a conditional use permit and rezoning request that

would allow it to establish a rock quarry operation near the end of the County Road 144.

The Planning Commission approved the application with conditions at the Jan. 9 meeting after reviewing information and public comment.

Sutherland told the board he has concerns sections of County Road 144 are insufficient for heavy hauling and it's not practical to upgrade the road to 10 tons. In addition, he said a steep hill with sharp curves causes visibility issues and makes it difficult for big trucks to remain in one lane

Sutherland suggested three alternate routes that could be considered, but Dale Olson, county Environmental Services director, said the timeline on the Wagner application expires Wednesday. A second extension will be requested from Wagner Construction.

Olson told the board opposition to the quarry was expressed by property owners living in the area.

In other county board business, the board met in closed session with county Attorney Jeff Naglosky to review pending litigation against the county by Steve Nelson. Nelson has questioned the rate of pay for court appointed attorneys.

The board also authorized Land Commissioner Dennis Hummitzsch to obtain quotes and execute contracts for a 3-year period for summer maintenance of eight county parks.

In addition, Hummitzsch will obtain quotes and execute contracts for park attendants to provide site management at county-administered river access points for the 2014 Rainy River early fishing season and to request the annual funding contribution from Lake of the Woods County.

The board scheduled a public hearing for 11 a.m. Feb. 11 to take input on a revised solid waste ordinance. The ordinance was originally adopted in 1996 and the revision carries no major changes, according to Olson.

Ranier to appoint new city administrator

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Ranier City Council Tuesday is expected to accept the resignation of its city administrator, and approve the hire of a new city administrator.

The meeting is set to begin 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Ranier Community Building. Kim Nuthak has served as city administrator for 10 ½ years, and is resigning because she accepted the assistant executive director

position at Woodland Apartments, which she began on Jan. 6.

The council is also scheduled to approve the hiring of Sherril Gautreaux as the new city administrator. Gautreaux worked as a corporate attorney in Nashville, she said, and also worked for a corrections corporation that worked with governments on their correctional facilities. This experience has made her “very familiar” with how

governments work and function, she said.

The council will also designate a city attorney, bank depositories, an official newspaper, and an acting mayor. It is also scheduled to approve various committee appointments, including the North Koochiching Sanitary Sewer District, Koochiching Community Development Association, and Destination Voyageurs National Park, among others.

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Independent School District #361

Koochiching County International Falls, MN

Mission Statement: To prepare all learners for a changing world by developing their potential within a climate of mutual respect and trust.

AGENDA	
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
Tuesday, January 21, 2014	
Falls High School Cafeteria	
5:00 p.m.	
PRELIMINARIES:	
1.0	CALL TO ORDER BY SUPERINTENDENT NELSON: 5:00 p.m.
2.0	ROLL CALL
Gordon Dault _____ Darrell Wagner _____	
Michelle Hebner _____ Dena Wenberg _____	
Michael Holden _____ Nordy Nelson _____	
Willi Kostluk _____ Cory Netland _____	
3.0	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4.0	ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
4.1 Chairperson: Call for nominations (3 times)	
Member _____ nominated _____ for the office of Chairperson.	
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ motion carried/failed _____	
Vice-Chairperson: Call for nominations (3 times)	
Member _____ nominated _____ for the office of Vice Chairperson.	
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ motion carried/failed _____	
Clerk: Call for nominations (3 times)	
Member _____ nominated _____ for the office of Clerk.	
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ motion carried/failed _____	
Treasurer: Call for nominations (3 times)	
Member _____ nominated _____ for the office of Treasurer.	
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ motion carried/failed _____	
5.0	PREVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
6.0	OPEN FORUM
6.1 December Student of the Month: Kariann Arnold	
6.2 January Students of the Month: Alexandra Krause and Dustin Helgeson	
6.3 Recognition of Ardel Henrickson	
6.4 Engineering Class report	
6.5 Public Open Forum	
7.0	Approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 16, 2013. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
8.0	Approve the bills due and payable amounting to \$482,483.68. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
OLD BUSINESS:	
9.0	Prom policy: Motion to approve revised prom policy or motion to remain with current policy. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
10.0	Adopt revised Policy 406 Public and Private Personnel Data. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
11.0	Adopt revised Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave Act for. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
12.0	Adopt Policy 613.5 Weighted Grades. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
NEW BUSINESS:	
13.0	MEETING DATES & TIMES
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ to hold the regular school board meetings on the third Monday of each month with meeting to begin at 5:00 p.m. If the meeting coincides with a legal holiday it will be moved to Tuesday. Motion carried/failed by a _____ vote.	
14.0	SET BOARD COMMITTEES OR REPRESENTATIVES
A. Administrative Salary Committee: (3) _____	
B. Local 510 Negotiations Committee: (3) _____	
C. Local 331 Negotiations Committee: (3) _____	
D. Local 4798 Negotiations Committee: (3) _____	
E. Recreation Commission: (2) _____	
F. MSBA Legislative Representative: (1) _____	
G. MSHSL Representative: (1) _____	
H. Continuing Education Committee: (1) _____	
I. Community Education Advisory Board: (2) _____	
J. Interagency Early Intervention Committee: (1) _____	
K. Meet & Confer: Committee as a whole	
L. Grievance Committee: (2) _____	
M. Collaborative Board: (1) _____	
N. Labor Management Committee: (2) _____	
O. Finance Committee: (3) _____	
P. Facility Committee: (3) _____	
Q. Personnel Committee: (3) _____	
15.0	Program Consent: Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
15.1 Accept donations in the amount of \$8,696.04	
12/10/13 Bronco Baseball Boosters; Batting Cage \$511.90	
12/11/13 Parent Involvement Committee; FES for Art Supplies \$396.35	
12/30/13 Schwan's Cares Fundraising; 6th Grade Class Trip \$971.99	
1/7/14 Bronco Basketball Booster; Girls Basketball Practice Jerseys \$125.00	
1/10/14 Northland Foundation; Community Educ. Age to Age Committee \$5000.00	
1/13/14 Box Tops for Education; Falls Elementary School \$1690.80	
TOTAL \$8696.04	
15.2	For the period of January 1, 2014 through January 30, 2015 designate Bremer Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, both of International Falls, the Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund (MSDLAF), and PMA with Associated Bank as official depositories.
15.3	Designate <u>The Journal</u> as the official publication for the school district.
15.4	Designate Ratwik, Rosak & Maloney as the district's legal counsel for the January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.
15.5	Designate the Superintendent, Tina Besch, Michelle Hopkins and Stacy Frederickson with authority for wire transfers for the district's financial operations.
15.6	Approve a fundraiser of pie sales through the Village Inn for the 2014 sixth grade class trip.
16.0	Personnel Consent: Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed
16.1 Recognize Danita Ducharme, David Serrano and Rachel Lucy and Michelle Hebner as van drivers for Boys Swimming.	
16.2 Approve the hire of Shannon Keeney as an Educational Support Professional effective January 2, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 4798.	
16.3 Approve the hire of Paul Hjelle as Head Boys' Track Coach for the 2014 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.	
16.4 Approve the hire of Dan Zika as Assistant Boys' Track coach for the 2014 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.	
16.5 Approve the hire of Sheryl Hendrickson as the Assistant Girls' Track Coach for the 2014 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.	
16.6 Approve the hire of Kevin Gordon as the Head Girls' Softball Coach for the 2014 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.	
16.7 Approve the hire of Katie Hamers as the Assistant Girls' Softball Coach for the 2014 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.	
16.8 Approve the hire of Trevor Estabrooks as a full-time custodian effective January 22, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 510.	
16.9 Approve the hire of Jake Ruelle as a .50 ltr custodian effective January 22, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 510.	
17.0	Policy:
17.1 Receive revised Policy 414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse for adoption in February.	
17.2 Receive revised Policy 610 Field Trips for adoption in February.	
18.0	ADOPT A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR.
Moved by _____ seconded by _____ Roll call vote:	
Aye: _____ Nay: _____	
Motion carried/failed by a _____ vote.	
REPORTS AND INFORMATION:	
19.0	Administrative Reports:
19.1 Melissa Tate, FES/WEE Principal	
19.2 Tim Everson, FHS Principal	
19.2 Nordy Nelson, Superintendent	
19.3.1 School calendar for 2014-15	
19.3.2 Special Board Meeting; Monday, January 27th at 5:00 p.m. at Falls High School Library.	
19.3.3 Facility Committee; January 29, 4:00 p.m.	
19.3.4 EIP (Education Innovative Partner)	
20.0	Committee Reports:
CLOSE THE MEETING:	
21.0 Close the meeting at _____ p.m. to discuss negotiations strategy for negotiations with Local 331. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed	
REOPEN MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT ADJOURNMENT: Reopen and adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m. Moved _____ Second _____ carried/failed	

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