

May 28, 2015

Director Paul Kess introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

HWY 53 RELOCATION FUNDING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A FUNDING PLAN THROUGH SPECIAL LEGISLATION DURING THE 2015 SPECIAL SESSION TO FUND THE RELOCATION PROJECT FOR HWY 53

WHEREAS, since 2010, the MN Department of Transportation has been working on the Highway 53 relocation, developing alternatives for an Environmental Impact Statement for reconstruction of State Trunk Highway 53; and

WHEREAS, a major realignment of Highway 53 is to allow for expansion of the United Taconite mine in the Eveleth, Midway and Virginia areas; and

WHEREAS, the recent Minnesota Legislative oversight in not passing a transportation bill in the 2015 Legislative Session could create delays that would not only jeopardize the 2017 deadline for completion of this project but could also increase the project's costs; and

WHEREAS, the RAMS Board of Directors believes any delay in the HWY 53 relocation project would compromise the safety of the students attending the school districts and would have a negative financial impact on the businesses and school districts, along with public health and safety;

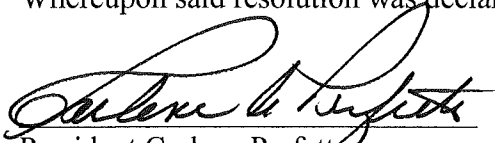
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RAMS Board of Directors and the Membership of Range Municipalities and Schools hereby urge the Legislature of the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to adopt a plan to fund appropriations for the HWY 53 relocation project through special legislation or during the upcoming special session.

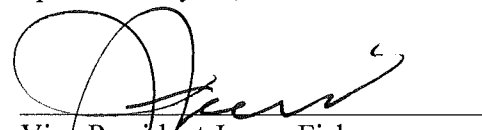
The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Director Patrick Garrity and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Directors: Dave Worshek- City of Auroa, Pat Garrity - City of Hibbing, Ray Marsnik – Ely Schools, Jeff Polcher – Hibbing Schools, Ed Zabinski – City Grand Rapids, Warren Stolp – Nashwauk Township, Ben DeNucci – Mayor City of Nashwauk, Stuart Lehmann – City of Buhl, Pat Medure – Grand Rapids Schools, Mark Skelton – Mayor City of Hoyt Lakes, Kim Stokes – Virginia Schools, Bob Berrini – Town of Morse, Walt Hautala – Mesabi East Schools, Paul Kess – City of Ely, John Tuorila – City of Calumet, Deron Stender Superintendent Virginia Schools, Mark Adams – Superintendent Greenway Schools.

and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted on May 28, 2015.


President Carlene Perfetto
City of Silver Bay


Vice President James Fisher
Town of McDavitt