

It was moved by Jerry Nelson, seconded by Dennis McNally, and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Resolution 75 – 01/03/06

WHEREAS Minnesota Statute §6.79 allows local governments to submit to the State Auditor proposed changes to state mandates, and

WHEREAS the State Auditor has encouraged local units governments to take this opportunity to suggest improvements, and

WHEREAS the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners supports actions which could lower costs and improve services to the public;

WHEREAS Minnesota Statute 13D.03, Subdivision 1 & 2 read as follows:

13D.03 Closed meetings for labor negotiations strategy.

Subdivision 1. **Procedure.**

- (a) Section [13D.01](#), subdivisions 1, 2, 4, 5, and section [13D.02](#) do not apply to a meeting held pursuant to the procedure in this section.
- (b) The governing body of a public employer may by a majority vote in a public meeting decide to hold a closed meeting to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies or developments or discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals, conducted pursuant to sections [179A.01](#) to [179A.25](#).
- (c) The time of commencement and place of the closed meeting shall be announced at the public meeting.
- (d) A written roll of members and all other persons present at the closed meeting shall be made available to the public after the closed meeting.

Subdivision. 2. **Meeting must be recorded.**

- (a) The proceedings of a closed meeting to discuss negotiation strategies shall be tape-recorded at the expense of the governing body.
- (b) The recording shall be preserved for two years after the contract is signed and shall be made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the governing body for the current budget period.

and,

WHEREAS Subdivision 2, recording of meetings, creates an imbalance in the negotiating process as all the employer's negotiation strategy must ultimately be revealed to the union while the union's strategy is not similarly revealed leaving the employer--and taxpayers--at a strategic disadvantage, and

WHEREAS certain negotiating strategies are multi-year and multi-contract in nature, but making recordings of such discussions defeats such long-term strategies to the disadvantage of the employer and taxpayers, and

WHEREAS the revelation that all members of an employer negotiating team might not have supported a successful contract proposal could negatively influence future contract negotiation and create disharmony within the workplace;

BE IT RESOLVED that, in support of an equitable employment relationship and workplace harmony, the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners recommends that Subdivision 2, Minnesota Statutes §13D.03 be revoked.