

## CHAPTER 373

### COUNTIES; POWERS, DUTIES, PRIVILEGES

373.01 Powers.  
373.27 Great river road, financial assistance.

373.35 Director of bureau.  
373.40 Capital improvement bonds.

#### 373.01 POWERS.

Subdivision 1. Each county is a body politic and corporate and may:

- (1) Sue and be sued.
- (2) Acquire and hold real and personal property for the use of the county, and lands sold for taxes as provided by law.
- (3) Purchase and hold for the benefit of the county real estate sold by virtue of judicial proceedings, to which the county is a party.
- (4) Sell, lease, and convey real or personal estate owned by the county, and give contracts or options to sell, lease, or convey it, and make orders respecting it as deemed conducive to the interests of the county's inhabitants.

No sale, lease, or conveyance of real estate owned by the county, except the lease of a residence acquired for the furtherance of an approved capital improvement project, nor any contract or option for it, shall be valid, without first advertising for bids or proposals in the official newspaper of the county for three consecutive weeks and once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the property is located. The notice shall state the time and place of considering the proposals, contain a legal description of any real estate, and a brief description of any personal property. Leases that do not exceed \$15,000 for any one year may be negotiated and are not subject to the competitive bid procedures of this section. All proposals estimated to exceed \$15,000 in any one year shall be considered at the time set for the bid opening, and the one most favorable to the county accepted, but the county board may, in the interest of the county, reject any or all proposals. Sales of personal property the value of which is estimated to be \$15,000 or more shall be made only after advertising for bids or proposals as provided for real estate. Sales of personal property the value of which is estimated to be less than \$15,000 may be made either on competitive bids or in the open market, in the discretion of the county board. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the county may, when acquiring real property for county highway right-of-way, exchange parcels of real property of substantially similar or equal value without advertising for bids. The estimated values for these parcels shall be determined by the county assessor.

If real estate or personal property remains unsold after advertising for and consideration of bids or proposals the county may employ a broker to sell the property. The broker may sell the property for not less than 90 percent of its appraised market value as determined by the county. The broker's fee shall be set by agreement with the county but may not exceed ten percent of the sale price and must be paid from the proceeds of the sale.

A county or its agent may rent a county-owned residence acquired for the furtherance of an approved capital improvement project subject to the conditions set by the county board and not subject to the conditions for lease otherwise provided by this clause.

In no case shall lands be disposed of without there being reserved to the county all iron ore and other valuable minerals in and upon the lands, with right to explore for, mine and remove the iron ore and other valuable minerals, nor shall the minerals and mineral rights be disposed of, either before or after disposition of the surface rights, otherwise than by mining lease, in similar general form to that provided by section 93.20 for mining leases affecting state lands. The lease shall be for a term not exceeding 50 years, and be issued on a royalty basis, the royalty to be not less than 25 cents per

ton of 2,240 pounds, and fix a minimum amount of royalty payable during each year, whether mineral is removed or not. Prospecting options for mining leases may be granted for periods not exceeding one year. The options shall require, among other things, periodical showings to the county board of the results of exploration work done.

(5) Make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and concerns of the county necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers.

*[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 26 s 1; 1989 c 176 s 2

### **373.27 GREAT RIVER ROAD, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1988]*

Subd. 3. All money grants under subdivision 1 shall be deposited in the special revenue fund in the state treasury and is appropriated to the commission or commissioner for the purposes specified in the grant. The money shall not cancel but shall remain available until expended for the purpose or purposes for which it was granted. If no specific purpose is named in the grant, the money shall be available to the commission or commissioner for any of the purposes set forth in subdivision 1.

**History:** 1989 c 335 art 4 s 83

### **373.35 DIRECTOR OF BUREAU.**

Subdivision 1. The county auditor shall serve as the director of the county license bureau or, if the auditor chooses not to serve, the county board shall appoint any other county officer or employee, or any other person, to serve as the director upon the terms and conditions the county board deems advisable. The county board shall set the compensation of the director and may provide for the expenses of the office including the premium of any bond required to be furnished by the director. The director shall have the powers and duties imposed on the county officer who previously had the authority to issue or process the application for any license referred to in section 373.32.

Notwithstanding section 168.33, subdivision 2, the commissioner of public safety may appoint, and for cause discontinue, the director as the deputy registrar of motor vehicles in the county. If appointed a deputy registrar the director shall have the same authority as a county auditor to appoint one or more deputy registrars as provided in section 168.33, subdivision 2. If the director is a deputy registrar, all provisions of section 168.33 and Minnesota Rules, chapter 7406, apply to a county license bureau.

*[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 269 s 46

### **373.40 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(a) "Bonds" means an obligation as defined under section 475.51.

(b) "Capital improvement" means acquisition or betterment of public lands, buildings, or other improvements within the county for the purpose of a county courthouse, administrative building, health or social service facility, correctional facility, jail, law enforcement center, hospital, morgue, library, park, and roads and bridges. An improvement must have an expected useful life of five years or more to qualify. "Capital improvement" does not include light rail transit or any activity related to it.

(c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of trade and economic development.

(d) "Metropolitan county" means a county located in the seven-county metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121 or a county with a population of 90,000 or more.

# MINNESOTA STATUTES 1989 SUPPLEMENT

(e) "Population" means the population established by the most recent of the following (determined as of the date the resolution authorizing the bonds was adopted):

(1) the federal decennial census,

(2) a special census conducted under contract by the United States Bureau of the Census, or

(3) a population estimate made either by the metropolitan council or by the state demographer under section 116K.04, subdivision 4, clause (10).

(f) "Taxable net tax capacity" means total taxable net tax capacity, but does not include captured net tax capacity.

*[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1988]*

**Subd. 4. Limitations on amount.** A county, other than Hennepin or Ramsey, may not issue bonds under this section if the maximum amount of principal and interest to become due in any year on all the outstanding bonds issued pursuant to this section (including the bonds to be issued) will equal or exceed 0.05367 percent of taxable market value of property in the county. Ramsey county may not issue bonds under this section if the maximum amount of principal and interest to become due in any year on all the outstanding bonds issued pursuant to this section (including the bonds to be issued) will equal or exceed 0.06455 percent of taxable market value of property in the county. Hennepin county may not issue bonds under this section if the maximum amount of principal and interest to become due in any year on all the outstanding bonds issued pursuant to this section together with the bonds proposed to be issued, will equal or exceed 0.02684 percent of taxable market value of the property in the county. Calculation of the limit must be made using the taxable market value for the taxes payable year in which the obligations are issued and sold. This section does not limit the authority to issue bonds under any other special or general law.

*[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1988]*

**Subd. 6. Building fund levy.** (a) If a county other than Hennepin has an approved capital improvement plan, the county board may annually levy 0.05367 percent of taxable market value, less the amount levied to pay principal and interest on bonds issued under this section. If the Hennepin county board has an approved capital improvement plan, the county board may annually levy 0.02684 percent of taxable market value, less the amount levied to pay principal and interest on bonds issued under this section. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited in the county building fund under section 373.25 and may only be expended for capital improvements as provided in the approved capital improvement plan.

(b) The maximum amount of the levy, when added to the unexpended balance in the building fund, must not exceed the projected cost of the remaining improvements in the capital improvement plan. A levy made under this section is not subject to any other levy limitation, nor may the levy be included in the computation of any other levy limitation.

(c) This subdivision and the exercise of levy authority under it does not supersede or preempt the authority to levy under section 373.25 or any other law.

*[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 277 art 4 s 30,31; 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20