

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 28, 2023

Location: Lavell Town Hall, Hibbing, Minnesota

Present: Commissioners Harala, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair Boyle

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of March 14, 2023
- Bois Forte – New Moon Project Continuum of Care Grant 2022 Acceptance Application and Transfer [23-130]
- St. Louis County Purchasing Rules and Regulations Continuation of Revised Limits [23-131]
- Civil Service Rule 4.3 Amendment [23-132]
- New Apprentice Job Class [23-133]
- Acceptance of the 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant [23-134]
- Authorization to apply for the 2023 Cross Boundary Fuels Mitigation Grant [23-135]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Jeremy and Anna Anderson (Unorganized Twp, 64-17) [23-136]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Lake Country Power (Kelsey Township 54-18) [23-137]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Powers Homestead [23-138]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – McFarland Homestead [23-139]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Saarikoski Non-Homestead [23-140]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Baasi Homestead [23-141]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. in the Normanna Town Hall, 6472 French River Road, Duluth, MN, regarding the application for an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Grand View Restaurant LLC dba Grand View Grill and Bar. [23-142]. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 9:40 a.m., at the Normanna Town Hall, 6472 French River Rd, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the established priorities and funding recommendations included in the 2023 Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs, and Amendment to the 2020 Action Plan. [23-143]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc., Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$3,694,800.00 for project CP 0091-401108, SP 069-691-033 (Low); CP 0054-401138, SP 069-654-006 (Tied), Mill & Overlay, ADA Pedestrian Improvements, Storm Sewer Repair located on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 91 (Haines Road) between CSAH 56 (Morris Thomas Road) and Airport Road; and on CSAH 54 (Piedmont Ave.) between a point approx. 130' SE of CSAH 91 (Haines Road) and a point approx. 85' NW of MSAS 208 (Chambersburg Ave.). [23-144]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Harala moved to award a bid to Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation (aka ASTECH Corp), St. Cloud, MN, in the amount of \$1,565,639.00 for project CP 0000-401121; CP 0000-762168, SAP 131-030-002 (2023 Crack Sealing), Crack Sealing and Crack Repair Special located on various County State Aid Highways and Local Roads within St. Louis County. [23-145]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$296,042.55 for project CP 0000-745846, SAP 069-030-065 (Prime), Profile Correction, Plant Mixed Bituminous Patches various locations in northern St. Louis County. [23-146]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$5,357,772.09 for project CP 0000-655516, SAP 069-030-059 (2023 Chip Seal) (Low) (Prime); CP 0000-731734 (Tied); CP 0000-731743 (Tied), Bituminous Seal Coat, Fog Seal, and Pavement Markings on various County State Aid Highways, County Roads, Unorganized Township Roads, and City Streets within St. Louis County, Lake County, City of Duluth, and City of Hermantown. [23-147]. Commissioner Musolf commented that Public Works Director Jim Foldesi is looking into why the county only received one bid for the project. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of two (2) John Deere agricultural tractors from Minnesota Equipment, Inc., of Rogers, MN, at the Sourcewell Contract #110719-JDC price of \$577,367. [23-148]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved the resolution to appoint a representative to the St. Louis County Historical Society Board of Directors for a term expiring December 31, 2023. [23-149]. Commissioners held a discussion regarding who should be appointed as representative to the Historical Society Board of Directors. Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby appoints Commissioner Harala as representative and Commissioner McDonald as alternate to the St. Louis County Historical Society for a term expiring December 31, 2023. Commissioner Grimm said she was going to vote against the amendment because she feels that the Iron Range should be represented on the Historical Society Board of Directors After further discussion, the amendment passed. (6-1, Harala). The motion as amended passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Harala moved that the County Board will convene a closed session on March 28, 2023, for the purpose of discussing the proposed settlements, the related agreement, and litigation strategy, in accord

with Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b). No other pending public business will be discussed at this closed session. The motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner McDonald noted that property valuation notices are being mailed to citizens and discussed a scenario in which an 81-year-old who lives in French Township had their valuation doubled in the last three years. Commissioner Nelson commented that the Minnesota State Department of Finance has implemented mandatory increases on non-homestead lake property over the past few years and that has driven values up; the state retains 40% of all property taxes collected on non-homestead lake properties. Administrator Gray urged residents to reach out to their local Assessors if they have questions regarding property valuations and noted directions on how to appeal to the local Board of Appeals are on the back of the valuation notice.

Commissioner Nelson discussed concerns regarding the public comment period during Board meetings and said the Board established rules to ensure for a timely meeting.

Chair Boyle said 1st Amendment rights are becoming more of an issue. He will be leaning on County Attorney Kim Maki and county staff for guidance; it's imperative that we allow citizens to speak as long as they do so in a respectful manner.

Commissioner Musolf commented on the passing of Rice Lake Mayor John Werner and said he will do what he can to help make the Rice Lake Memorial Park for Veterans become a reality in Rice Lake.


Commissioner Grimm said the Disabled Veterans of Minnesota will hold their event on March 30th and thanked the Board for amending their legislative priorities to support efforts associated with changes to M.S. 273.13 related to the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation 2-year rule.

Attorney Maki stated that the purpose of the closed session is to discuss litigation strategy relating National Prescription Opiate Litigation, Case No. 1:17-MD-2804.

At 11:48 a.m., Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board