

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 27, 2023

Location: Halden Town Hall, Floodwood, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Harala

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

- Minutes of June 13, 2023
- State Contract Purchase of Three Brine Storage and Blending Systems [23-267]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [23-268]
- Renew/Amend Minnesota Workforce Joint Powers Agreement [23-269]
- Citizen Reappointments to the St. Louis County Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment [23-270]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Harp (Homestead) [23-271]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Putkonen (Non-Homestead) [23-272]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board establish a public hearing on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. at the Proctor City Hall, 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor, MN, regarding the application for an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for The Hideaway Bar, Inc. dba The Hideaway Bar (Unorganized Township 61-13). [23-273]. The motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$893,502.29 for project CP 0000-458860, SP 069-070-048, HSIP 6923(255): grading, aggregate base, bituminous surfacing, and signing located on various county and township roads within St. Louis County. [23-274]. Commissioner Musolf noted that the bid was 6.41% under the engineer's estimate. The motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of Property and Related Insurance coverage on major structures and equipment, amended contents, and boiler and machinery from Chubb Group of Insurance Companies through Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC of Duluth, MN, for the period July 24, 2023, to July 24, 2024, at the annual premium of \$494,720; and further, that the Purchasing

Division is authorized to add or delete county properties to the policy or increase the base amount on future determination of valuation of county structures during the policy period. [23-275]. St. Louis County Senior Procurement Specialist Kristi Anton commented that the county's insurance premium increased by 10%; however, coverage increased by 6%. Chris James, Vice President of Risk Services, Marsh & McLennan Agency, provided the Board with a brief overview of the policy and said the insurance market has seen typical increases between 15% and 20%. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$100,000 of American Rescue Act Plan Revenue Loss funds for the remodel of the St. Louis County DMV Service Center; that all construction and renovations shall be in compliance with local zoning regulations, state building code and accomplished using St. Louis County purchasing rules; and further, that the project be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss. [23-276]. St. Louis County Auditor Nancy Nilsen recognized the dedication to providing quality customer service by Service Center Manager Ben Martin and said that approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people use the Service Center on a monthly basis. Auditor Nilsen commented that modifications to the Service Center include HVAC improvements, upgrade to plexiglass that was temporarily installed during COVID, counter modifications to better meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and changes to allow for more social distancing in the lobby. Auditor Nilsen also commented that the goal is to do the upgrades without disrupting business. The motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$144,200 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Parking Lot Improvement project; approves the use of up to \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the Mesabi Fit Coalition/Virginia Community Foundation project; approves the use of up to \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the St. Louis County Agricultural Society 4-H Building project; that the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, Mesabi Fit Coalition/Virginia Community Foundation, and St. Louis County Agricultural Society shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the program; and further, that the appropriate County officials are authorized to enter into an agreement with the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, Mesabi Fit/Virginia Community Foundation, St. Louis County Fair Association and/or related recipients for this project with funds for the above project payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss. [23-277]. Commissioner Grimm asked that the question be divided. The Board divided the question and a separate vote was taken for each item. McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$144,200 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Parking Lot Improvement project. (6-0, Harala absent) McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the Mesabi Fit Coalition/Virginia Community Foundation project. (6-0, Harala absent) McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss funds to assist with the St. Louis County Agricultural Society 4-H Building project. Commissioner Grimm requested additional information regarding construction costs. After further discussion, motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Harala absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved that that the St. Louis County Board approves the amendments to the Standing Rules and Bylaws of the County Board and rescinds Resolution No. 607 of 9/28/87, Resolution No. 777 of

12/14/87, Resolution No. 32 of 1/12/88, Resolution No. 762 of 10/4/88, Resolution No. 1 of 1/8/91, Resolution No. 99 of 1/21/97, Resolution No. 809 of 10/21/97, and Resolution No. 980 of 12/23/97 and any other resolutions previously adopted by the County Board that pertain to the Standing Rules and Bylaws. Per Article I, Section 6 of the Rules and Bylaws, all amendments shall become effective immediately upon approval of the Board. [23-278]. County Attorney Kim Maki commented that other than revisions to comply with open meeting law, the proposed rules are the same version that the Board reviewed at the last County Board workshop. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Harala absent)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the new Emergency Support Services Administrator job class assigned to Pay Grade E30A in the Civil Service Supervisors Unit Pay Plan and further, that the St. Louis County Board approves the reallocation of a vacant 1.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff – Division Commander position (Deputy Sheriff Supervisor Unit, \$7,117/mo. at Grade T31B, Step 1, position code 0852-003) to an Emergency Support Services Administrator position (Civil Service Supervisors Unit, \$6,704/mo. at Grade E30, Step 1) in the Sheriff’s Office. [23-279]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the proposed changes are part of the Sheriff’s strategic plan. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, provided the Board with an overview of the reallocation. Director Gottschald noted that the administrative work was previously performed by Brandon Silgjord, who recently resigned from the county to accept a Chief of Police position in Sartell, Minnesota. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent) Silgjord

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Jugovich/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves and adopts the Northeast Minnesota Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; that any changes recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a result of the required public comment period ending July 21, 2023, be incorporated and made part of the Plan; that the St. Louis County Board agrees to maintain and implement the plan as required by Minnesota Rules 9215.0530; and further, that the St. Louis County Board submits this document to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for final approval pursuant to applicable Minnesota law. [23-280]. St. Louis County Environmental Services Director Dave Fink commented that components of the Regional Plan include characterizing the existing system and programs, evaluating program options, and developing a recommended implementation plan for the designated 10-year planning period. Participants in the Regional Plan collaborate and share resources across the region. Director Fink noted that it is expected that the Superior Landfill reaches capacity at the end of 2026. Commissioner Nelson briefly discussed and provided the Board with a handout summarizing the need for a solid waste management campus in Canyon. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jugovich said that the Annual Report from the Inspector of Mines has been submitted and encouraged Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Musolf commented that there have been several water-related fatalities recently and encouraged everyone to be safe over the holiday weekend.

Commissioner Nelson said he received a report from Commissioner Harala, who sits on the finance committee for the Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC) Board; they expect a 3% increase for next year. In addition, Commissioner Nelson noted that Carlton County is conducting another study on how they are going to handle probation, their jail, and whether they will stay in ARC. If Carlton County leaves ARC, could potentially be a \$3 million hit to the agency.

Commissioner McDonald encouraged everyone to be safe over the Independence Day weekend and noted the next Board meeting will be held in Camp 5 Township for the first time ever.

Commissioner Grimm thanked all of the departments for putting on the electrical vehicle event in Virginia and said she learned a lot about electric vehicles including concerns and pitfalls. Commissioner Grimm said there was an opportunity to ask a lot of questions; staff provided thoughtful responses and discussed what has been done in the private sector and what could be done in the public sector.

Commissioner Nelson said that he disagreed with the use of taxpayer money to drive staff and bring vehicles to the event. Commissioner questioned the feasibility of electrical vehicles given that the electrical grid cannot support them at this time. Commissioner Nelson requested that the St. Louis County Public Health Director provide an update to the Board on what has been learned due to the COVID-19 pandemic and what could impact the county in the future. Commissioner Nelson also said that St. Louis County needs to develop a policy regarding staff signature lines on county email; the signature line should contain contact information and not share political images.

Commissioner Grimm questioned why the electrical vehicle event was being targeted considering it was a modest event that included a handful of staff and was much less extravagant than other events hosted by the county.

Chair Boyle thanked Commissioner Grimm for attending the electrical vehicle event and commented that the county must be prepared to deal with upcoming state and federal mandates. Chair Boyle said he, Commissioner Harala, and Commissioner Jugovich attended last week's celebration for COVID-19 public health volunteers. Chair Boyle noted that 600 lives were lost in St. Louis County because of the pandemic and said that 300 to 400 volunteer hours were donated to administer approximately 60,000 vaccinations in St. Louis County.

At 12:07 p.m., Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner Nelson, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Harala absent)



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board