

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2023

Location: Fayal Town Hall, Eveleth, Minnesota  
Present: Commissioners Harala, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair Boyle  
Absent: None  
Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of February 21, 2023
- Request to Apply for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program Grant Application [23-97]
- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Proctor for Construction on CSAH 11 (2nd Street/5th Avenue Intersection) (CP0000-617698) [23-98]
- Authorization to Apply for the 2023 Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program Grant [23-99]
- Authorization to Apply for, Accept and Execute Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Replacing Failing Septic System to Protect Groundwater Grant [23-100]
- Contract for the Management and Recycling of Waste Tires with Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC [23-101]

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Harala moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$1,337,408.60 for project CP 0010-659052, SAP 069-610-012 (Low Prime); CP 0012-643749, SAP 069-612-017; CP 0241-659053; CP 0246-649052; CP 0252-659055, Pipe Culverts and Bituminous Surfacing Patches, various locations in southern St. Louis County. [23-102]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that best pricing has been raised and noted that he and Director Foldesi will be attending Transportation Days at the Capital. Commissioner Musolf said Director Foldesi is exploring new revenue streams that previously were not available. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the formalization of county employee resource groups as critical infrastructure for racial disparities, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts; that County employee resource groups will be supported to advance diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in St. Louis County and be a collective voice for underrepresented populations within the county workforce and community; and further, that County employee resource groups will be required to meet certain requirements in order for them to be recognized by the county, including, but not be limited to,

commitment to the county's DEI vision, mission, and values, maintaining a minimum level of regular group participation, and developing a charter for their resource group. [23-103]. St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald commented that the groups will create great opportunities for employees and will be an asset to the county. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation (7-0)

Grimm/McDonald moved to ratify the 2023-2025 Civil Service Basic unit contract and authorize the appropriate county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. [23-104]. A point of personal privilege was taken at 10:26 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. Commissioner McDonald withdrew support of the resolution; Commissioner Nelson supported the resolution. Director Gottschald provided the Board an overview of the agreement. Director Gottschald said the agreement includes approximately 800 employees. After further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, and the motion passed. (5-0, McDonald, Jugovich abstention)

Grimm/Harala moved to ratify the 2023-2025 Merit Basic unit contract and authorize the appropriate county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. [23-105]. Director Gottschald provided the Board an overview of the agreement and noted that the agreement includes 312 employees. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Nelson commented that he and Commissioner McDonald attended yesterday's Youth In Action conference and noted the increased participation by organizations including U.S. Steel, Habitat for Humanity, and Moorhead College.

Commissioner Grimm said she received a phone call from a veteran and will be writing a letter of support for veterans and widows of veterans who do not qualify for the property valuation exclusion.

Commissioner Nelson thanked County Administration, Environmental Services Director David Fink, and Mark St. Lawrence for their work regarding the Canyon and Virginia landfills. Commissioner Nelson said the goal of the project is to build a system to manage leachate and to move all unlined dumps in St. Louis County to one lined facility.

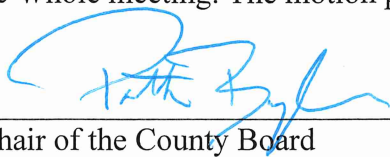
Commissioner Musolf noted Rock Ridge and Hermantown will play tomorrow in the high school boys hockey playoffs.

Commissioner Nelson provided the Board with a handout regarding the Huber Engineered Woods project and thanked St. Louis County Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci and St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director Matthew Johnson for getting the information together in a short timeframe. Chair Boyle noted that there was not much the county could do to save the project and encouraged the county to engage in talks with the tribes early in the process.

Commissioner Nelson said there is a need for the county to create an advisory committee for economic development.

Commissioner Harala thanked St. Louis County First Responders, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Duluth Police Department; last week there was a plane crash and a shooting.

At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Grimm, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board