

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 1, 2023

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 11:53 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of July 25, 2023
- Request to Accept DHS Housing Support and Services Grant Community Living Infrastructure Additional Funding and Enter into Contracts with Community-Based Providers [23-315]
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for Trunk Highway 37 at County State Aid Highway 5 (East and West) Turn Lane Project - CP 0005-533030, SP 069-070-058 [23-316]
- Cooperative Agreement with MnDOT for Trunk Highway 169 Resurfacing Project – CP 0000-747491, SP 069-596-017 [23-317]
- Chisholm Kiwanis Club Splash Pad Sunshade Fixture Project, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [23-318]
- Environmental Services Brookston Transfer Station Fiber Connectivity Project, American Rescue Plan Act, Revenue Loss Funds [23-319]
- Award of Bids: Purchase of SHERP All-Terrain Vehicles [23-320]
- Utility Easements Across Tax Forfeit Lands to Lake Country Power (Beatty Twp, 63-18 and Unorganized Twp 63-17) [23-321]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. at the Duluth Courthouse, County Board Room, 100 N. 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN, regarding the application for an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Sean N Marv, LLC dba Viking Bar. [23-322]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jugovich moved that St. Louis County Board hereby awards the continued group health plan administrative services contract to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota; that the per contract per month administrative fee of \$45.27 is approved for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024; that the per contract per month stop-loss premium of \$17.47 is approved for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024; and further, authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute agreements for administrative services of the health plan for the time period covering January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2028. [23-323]. St. Louis

County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald commented that three carriers submitted proposals. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota proposal offered the best overall value and received consensus support from all members of the health insurance committee. Director Gottschald noted that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota proposed to increase the Employer share of pharmaceutical manufacturer savings from 92% of total rebates to 95% and the wellness grant was increased to \$400,000. The motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jugovich said the St. Louis County Fair – “The Five Best Days of Summer” starts tomorrow.

Commissioner Grimm said she, Commissioner McDonald, Administrator Gray, and PHHS Director Mirsch attended the National County Association conference in Texas last week; the conference provided an opportunity to learn about innovative programs from across the country.

Commissioner Nelson commented on a plan to place a 10-mile buffer around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and asked that County Administration work with the Land and Minerals Department to determine how many acres of land would be affected by the proposed buffer. Commissioner Nelson said that he intends to bring a resolution opposing the buffer for Board consideration in September.

Commissioner Nelson said during the public comment portion at last week’s Board meeting it was implied that that he was doing something wrong with his Individual Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (ISTS). Commissioner Nelson noted that over the past four years he has had two ISTS systems installed; one at his mother-in-law’s house due to a sale and one at his mother’s house at her request. Commissioner Nelson said that he gets his home system inspected every couple of years and the system is compliant and said he follows the ordinance to the letter. Commissioner Nelson commented that he has applications and compliance certificates if anyone would like to review them. Commissioner Nelson noted that there will be a recess during next week’s Board meeting so that the Board can attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Range Transitional Housing project.

Chair Boyle said the Board will hold a meeting on September 5th or September 9th to discuss American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

At 12:13 p.m., Commissioner Harala, 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