

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

March 7, 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 11:09 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of February 28, 2023
- Authorization to Submit a Proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for Public Land Survey System Restoration T58R13 [23-106]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement of County Bridge #103 over the Talmadge River (Lakewood Township) (CP 0012-730398) [23-107]
- Amend 2023 Official Newspaper and Publication and Rescind Board Resolutions No. 23-45 and No. 23-22 [23-108]
- St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (The Depot) MN DEED Grant Application [23-109]
- Special Sale to Partners of the Cloquet Valley Forest, LLP (Parcel ID No. 620-0010-03180) [23-110]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

Jugovich/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on March 28, 2023, at 9:35 a.m., at the Lavell Town Hall, 2189 Hwy. 5, Hibbing, MN, to consider the adoption of the proposed Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Ordinance 61 amendments. [23-111]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an amendment to the professional services contract with McGough Construction of Duluth, MN, and approves any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, for the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) services, with a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Public Works County Wide Improvements Construction project in an amount not to exceed \$35,550,115, with approximately \$26,670,300 payable from Bond Proceeds from Fund 450, Agencies 450002 (Culver), 450003 (Kugler) and 450004 (Whiteface), Object 660266. The remaining funds required to pay for the McGough GMP in the amount of \$8,879,815 and the \$2,139,309 in project development costs outside of the McGough contract to construct the Culver, Kugler, Whiteface campuses shall be payable from Fund 405, Agencies 405191 (Culver), 405192 (Kugler),

405193 (Whiteface), Object 660266. [23-112]. Commissioner Musolf commented that the Public Works Department has had several meetings and worked very hard to find additional funding for the project. County Administrator Kevin Gray said legislation is not clear as to whether the county can use transportation and sales tax funding for buildings that help support roads and bridges. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase order for the installation of ten (10) dump bodies with hydraulic systems and snow removal equipment from Towmaster, LLC of Litchfield, MN, payable from Fund 407, Agency 407001, Object 666300. [23-113]. Brian Boder, St. Louis County Deputy Public Works Director, said the cost per truck is approximately \$200,000 and the equipment will allow for more efficient application of salt and sand to roads. Commissioner Nelson commented on the passing of Rudy Zlatoni and discussed the impact Mr. Zlatoni had on determining the amount of road material that needs to be applied to roads. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Harala moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$2,126,700.00 for project CP 0004-401087, SAP 069-604-085 (Br 6), Mill & Overlay, ADA Pedestrian Improvements, and Bridge No. 69L09 (County Bridge 6) located on County State Aid Highway 4 (Rice Lake Road) from a point approx. 429' North of Trunk Highway 194 (Central Entrance) to a point approx. 107' South of Municipal State Aid Street 160 (Arrowhead Road). [23-114]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc., Ely, MN, in the amount of \$281,160.00 for project CP 0000-737954 (2023 South Crushing) located in various gravel pits in southern St. Louis County. [23-115]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Information Technology Department in coordination with Environmental Services to purchase fiber-based network services from Northeast Services Cooperative at three Environmental Services transfer stations to include both onetime fiber build out costs in the amount of \$530,000 paid from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funds, and monthly recurring costs totaling \$1,200 for a 5-year term payable via Fund 100, Agency 117001; and further, authorizes the Information Technology Department in coordination with Environmental Services and Public Works to purchase fiber-based network services from Mediacom at one Environmental Services transfer station, one Public Works facility, and the St. Louis County interconnect facility to include both one-time fiber build out costs in the amount of \$75,000 paid from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funds, and monthly recurring costs totaling \$1,500 for a 5-year term payable via Fund 100, Agency 117001. Northeast Services Cooperative shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act. Mediacom shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act. [23-116]. Administrator Gray commented that the connectivity will allow for credit card processing at the sites. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the amendment of its “2023 St. Louis County Legislative Priorities” as found in County Board File No. 61852 to include support efforts associated with changes to M.S. 273.13 related to the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation 2-year rule; and further, that the County’s Veteran’s Service Officer is directed to send a letter of support on behalf of the County Board for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota and the Minnesota Commander’s Task Force’s work on this issue to the St. Louis County legislative delegation and Governor’s Office. [23-117]. Ted Ells, St. Louis County Veterans Service Officer, commented that spouses of veterans are denied benefits if they apply more than two years after the veteran’s death; in comparison, spouses are eligible for federal benefits if they apply within fifteen years. Glen Jackson, of St. Louis County, commented that there are approximately 17,000 to 18,000 veterans residing in St. Louis County and asked for Board support because he will be lobbying for the change at the legislative level. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner McDonald noted that the county is looking for citizens to serve on the local Mental Health Advisory Council and encouraged people to apply if they are interested. Commissioner McDonald commented on various upcoming high school sports tournaments and congratulated the Iron Mosquitoes for advancing to the national robotics tournament.

Commissioner Jugovich commended St. Louis County Environmental Services Director for a presentation he gave during a meeting at Great Scott Township regarding cannister sites.

Commissioner Grimm commented on the recent passing of Barb Russ and Judge Sally Tarnowski, and noted that Judge Tarnowski was inspiring and was a huge advocate of specialty courts.

Commissioner Nelson said that the County Board has been a long-time supporter of specialty courts and noted the dedication and time commitment of judges who administer specialty courts. Commissioner Nelson commented that the Garden Extravaganza will be hosted by Bob Olen in Mt. Iron at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. Commissioner Nelson noted that Rudy Zattoni and Joe Begich fought side-by-side in the Korean war, and commented that veterans who served in those conflicts were more than special.

Commissioner Harala commented that in honor of Barb Russ and Judge Sally Tarnowski we should be in the spirit of treating people as people. Commissioner Harala thanked Attorney Maki’s Office for their continued work and wished the legal community grace and peace during this time of sadness.

Commissioner Musolf commented on a lunch he had with Lou Nanne and wished the Hermantown Hawks luck in the Class A High School Boys Hockey tournament.

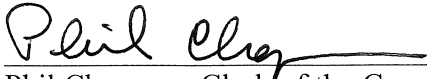
Commissioner Nelson said high school programming provides a rich experience for our communities.

At 12:19 p.m., Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Grimm, 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