

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

February 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 10:53 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Harala/McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #6, Advertisement to Fill Vacancies on the St. Louis County Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment [23-67] and Item #12, Sale and Disposal of Abandoned Personal Property [23-73] were removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of January 24, 2023
- Minnesota Corridors of Commerce Program Grant Application for the Rock Ridge School District Transportation Improvements (CP 0142-592214) [23-62]
- RAISE Grant Application for the Rock Ridge School District Transportation Improvements (CP 0142-592214) [23-63]
- Premise Permit Application for Lawful Gambling (Greenwood Township) [23-64]
- Amend 2023 Official Newspaper and Publication and Rescind Board Resolution No. 23-45 [23-65]
- Engineering Services – Chiller Installations, Duluth Courthouse and Government Services Center [23-66]
- Resolution of State Farm’s Subrogation Claim [23-68]
- Final Plat Approval of Bear Island Point, Sections 2 & 3, Township 52N, Range 15W (Fredenberg) [23-69]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Lake Country Power (Wuori Twp 59-17) [23-70]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Lake Country Power (Linden Grove 62-20) [23-71]
- State Tax-Forfeited Land Use Lease - Friends of Sax-Zim Bog (Toivola Twp 54-19) [23-72]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 9:35 A.M., at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the HOME American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation plan that will be included in the amendment to the 2021 Action Plan. [23-74]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Jugovich/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid and authorize the appropriate County officials to execute contracts negotiated by the Planning and Community Development Director and a representative of the County Attorney in order to implement the aid program, payable from Fund 100, Agency 109999, Grant 10910, Year 2023. [23-79]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that over the life of the program, St. Louis County has received approximately \$5 million in state aid. Nancy Watkins, of the Vermilion Lake Association, said the Lake Association is targeting six spots in an effort to increase the ability of people to do their own boat checks. Jon Utecht, of North Soil and Water Conservation District, commented that there has been 25,000 watercraft inspections and they are utilizing resort owners to conduct inspections. Dan Huinker, of Wildlife Forever, commented that program funding has slowed the spread of AIS by approximately fifty percent. Hans Olson, of the Burntside Lake Association, commented that the program has helped to slow the spread of AIS, but has not stopped the spread. Mr. Olson said they are putting emphasis on communicating with boaters on how not to spread AIS and may pursue legislation in the future to ban live bait in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the state tax-forfeited properties after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants. [23-73]. Commissioner Nelson asked Administration to review the process to determine if a Board action is needed for future disposal of abandoned personal property and what can be done to expedite the clean-up process for these properties. The motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications to fill one vacant position on both the St. Louis County Planning Commission and the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment for terms ending December 31, 2025. [23-67]. Commissioner McDonald commented that Dan Manick was previously appointed as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment Committee; he could be appointed to fill the vacant spot and the Board could authorize advertisement to fill the alternate position. McDonald/Nelson amended their motion to authorize the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications to fill one vacant position on the St. Louis County Planning Commission; and further, that the St. Louis County Board approves the appointment of Dan Manick to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment for a term ending December 31, 2025, and authorizes the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications to fill the resulting vacant alternate position on this Board. The motion as amended passed. (7-0)

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### **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Musolf/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of Base One material from Team Lab Chemical Corporation of Detroit Lakes, MN, in the amount of \$262,086, payable from Fund 200, Agency 203001, Object 652805 – Local Funds. [23-75]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Harala moved to award a bid to Traffic Marking Service, Inc., Maple Lake, MN, in the amount of \$589,929.80 for project CP 0000-397386, Maintenance Striping located on various county highways within St. Louis & Lake counties, and various city streets and township roads within the City of Babbitt, City of Chisholm, City of Duluth, City of Proctor, City of Virginia, Midway Township & White Township. [23-76]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc., Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$856,300.00 for project CP 0098-599317, SAP 069-698-016, SP 6932-17, Grading, Bituminous Surfacing, & Lighting located on Trunk Highway 194 at County State Aid Highway 98 (Canosia Road) in Solway Township. [23-77]. Commissioner Musolf commented that Director Foldesi said this intersection was flagged by Public Works due to the high number of traffic incidents. The motion passed. (7-0)

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**Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Information Technology department (IT) to purchase Cisco UCS hardware devices including software, professional services, and maintenance from Insight Public Sector, an authorized reseller of EC America, Inc., sourced with use of State of Minnesota Contract #147097, for a 5-year term and in an amount not to exceed \$564,246.19 from Fund 100, Agency 117051, Object 634802, with funds transferred from the Information Technology assigned fund balance, Fund 100, Object 311139. [23-78]. St. Louis County Information Technology Director Jeremy Craker said IT infrastructure investment is necessary every five to six years. The current equipment has reached the end of life and support of the existing equipment will be over at year-end. Director Craker said equipment orders are approximately eight months out. The motion passed. (7-0)

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**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Musolf extended his thoughts and prayers to the family of Earl Elde who recently passed away. Mr. Elde was a long time Midway Township Supervisor.

Commissioner Nelson commented on the success of the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority in telling its story and would like St. Louis County to engage in the same process to tell the county's story.

Commissioner McDonald noted February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> is Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capital and encouraged Commissioners to make connections and to have a solid presence at the Capital.

Commissioner Harala discussed the need for foster care in St. Louis County and noted that on one day St. Louis County had to find fifteen foster care homes for children.

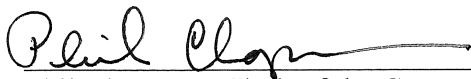
Commissioner Boyle noted that the Drainage Authority would be meeting today at 1:00 p.m. and holding a public hearing for the Redetermination of Benefits and Damages for County Ditch #4.

At 11:49 a.m., Commissioner Jugovich, 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