

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 24, 2023

Location: Canosia Town Hall, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of January 10, 2023
- Abatement List for Board Approval [23-45]
- Acceptance of Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Grant – Crane Lake Township Contamination Clean Up [23-46]
- Permission to Enter into Lease Agreements for Wells Fargo Storage Space [23-47R]
- Valuation Reduction for Homestead Damaged by Mold – Keller [23-48]
- Application and Acceptance of Amended 2023 Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant [23-49]
- Authorization to Apply to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant [23-50]
- Classification of December 7, 2022 Forfeitures (Conservation) [23-51]
- Classification of December 7, 2022 Forfeitures (Non-conservation) [23-52]

Finance & Budget Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves \$20,000 to support the Duluth Honor Guard for its Rice Lake Memorial Park project in Rice Lake, MN; and further, that funding from Fund 100, Agency 104001, Object 629900 could serve as a grant match requirement for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds grant or be a supplement to funding the Duluth Honor Guard has already received (should the grant not be awarded) for the Rice Lake Memorial Park Project. [23-58]. John Marshall, Captain of the Duluth Honor Guard, provided the Board with handouts detailing the project. Captain Marshall commented that the Rice Lake Memorial Park is the vision of Rice Lake Mayor John Werner. The proposed memorial would be built on the corner of Rice Lake and Martin Roads. Bob Quade, Rice Lake City Councilor, commented that on a daily basis approximately 20,000 vehicles pass through the intersection. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

A short break was taken at 10:48 a.m. At 10:50 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

Boyle/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the increase of a 1.0 FTE Special Investigator position within the County Attorney’s Office in the amount of \$74,624 (Unclassified Attorney Investigators Grade QAT, Step 1), payable from Fund 100, Agency 113001, with funds being transferred from Fund 100, Agency 104006, Object 619900 for the 2023 fiscal year. [23-59]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the change will allow for stronger and more consistent responses to data practice requests. The motion passed. (7-0)

Health & Human Services Committee

McDonald/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints members to the North Local Mental Health Advisory Council (LAC) and to the South LAC as follows: 2023 Local Mental Health Advisory Council Members: North LAC Members: Heather Kainz; Katy Lofquist; Michelle Long; Ann Marie Lubovich; Linda O’Neil Deremee; Lacy Podlogar; Jennifer Rich; Brenda Shafer-Pellinen; Tod Swenson; and Macy Viita. South LAC Members: Alexandra Gronholz; Alison Shulstad; Carly Hiti; Ina Newton; Jacquelyn Hanson-Hietala; Justin England-Sullivan; Kathy Wilson; Liz Strohmayer; MaKenzie Johnson; Mickelos Vue; Moira Villiard; Rochelle Koehne; Roger Raymond, Jr.; Shannon Jorgenson; Sonja Wildwood; Taylor Soghigian; and Traci Laughlin. The terms and term scheduling (staggering) will be decided by the LAC and County staff to ensure continuity of service. [23-53]. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE Social Worker position (Position code 0011-132, Merit System Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade MAE) to a 1.0 FTE Public Health Program Coordinator position (Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B25) in the Public Health and Human Services Department, resulting in an increase of \$7,898, to be accounted for in Fund 230, Agency 232014, Object 610100. [23-54]. St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch provided a handout to the Board and said that there is money in the budget for the reallocation due to the reduction in managed care plans. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into community contracts for up to \$1,210,823.24 of the initial opioid allocation litigation proceeds according to eligible uses as specified in Appendix A of the Minnesota Memorandum of Agreement by category referenced below:

Proposals Recommended to Fund – First Round		Priority Categories	Target Communities	MOA Category
Rural Aids Action Network	\$144,468.24	Harm Reduction	North; some countywide	H.1, H.3 H.9, H.10
Recovery Alliance Duluth	\$283,248	Harm Reduction	North; some countywide	B.2-3, B.6, C.10
Housing for Inmates	\$300,000	Harm Reduction	Based South; available to residents countywide	B.1-3
CHUM	\$94,150	Harm Reduction	South	B.2, B.10
United Way	\$34,000	Enriched Broad Prevention – Youth Focused	North	G.8-9, G.11
Total Amount – First Round	\$855,866.24			

Proposals Recommended to Fund – Second Round				
Media/Outreach (through multiple channels)	\$120,000	Prevention/Community Stigma	Countywide	G.1-3, G.9
Wellbeing Development	\$134,957	Prevention/Community Stigma; Harm Reduction	North	J.5
YWCA Duluth	\$100,000	Harm Reduction	South	B.2, E.6, E.8
Total Amount – Second Round	\$354,957			
Total	\$1,210,823.24			

These contracts will be consistent with the State-Local Subdivision Agreement, eligibility rules and reporting requirement. [23-55]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of ten (10) 2024 Mack Granite tandem trucks from Twin Cities Mack and Volvo Trucks of Roseville, MN, for a total cost of \$1,519,178, payable from Fund 407, Agency 407001, Object 666300. [23-56]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to Century Fence Company, Pewaukee, MN, in the amount of \$561,929.90 for project CP 0000-458863, SP 069-070-051, SP 118-070-004, HSIP 6923(155), 6" Wet Reflective Edgeline, located on various county highways within St. Louis County and various city streets within the City of Duluth. [23-57]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Marjorie McPeak to the Arrowhead Library System Board of Directors for a three (3) year term expiring on December 31, 2025. [23-60]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby accepts the report and recommendations developed by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Leadership group and the Center for Economic Inclusion; and further, that Administration is directed to prioritize and act on those recommendations and bring forward recommendations for future consideration and implementation. [23-61]. St. Louis County Human Resources and Administration Director Jim Gottschald said there were 23 proposed recommendations, and the steering committee is eager to get started with implementation of the recommendations. The motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Musolf thanked Commissioners for their support for the Rice Lake Memorial Park Project.

Commissioner McDonald reminded Commissioners that new photos will be taken at the February 7, 2023 Board meeting. Commissioner McDonald commented that the Laskiainen Finnish Sliding Festival will taking place on February 4th and 5th at the Loon Lake Community Center in Palo.

Commissioner Harala noted that Lake County Commissioner Pete Walsh recently passed away and asked what the Board protocol is for recognizing passing of fellow county commissioners. County Administrator Gray replied that Administration will take action to acknowledge the passing of Pete Walsh on behalf of the County Board. Commissioner Harala said she attended Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations and commented about the potential of using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in under-served communities.

Commissioner Nelson noted that there has already been a tremendous amount of work by lobbyists and County Commissioners this legislative session. Commissioner Nelson commented on the success of a recent meeting between Northern School Districts, Commissioners, and Public Health and Human Services.

Chair Boyle congratulated Commissioner Harala on her recent adoption of a son and encouraged Commissioners to testify if needed at the legislature.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Musolf, supported by Commissioner Nelson, 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