

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 6, 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 9:58 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Musolf/Grimm moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #6, Emergency Purchase of Chiller Equipment [23-233], was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of May 23, 2023
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way – Complete Reconstruction on CSAH 25 (Vermilion Drive) in the City of Cook, County Project 0025-509653 [23-228]
- Cooperative Agreement with Crane Lake Township to Receive and Administer Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Park Road Account Funding for Bayside Drive [23-229]
- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Duluth to Provide Reimbursement for Professional Services to Support a Planning and Preliminary Engineering Process for MSAS 110 (40th Avenue West) [23-230]
- Professional Services Agreement with Alliant Engineering, Inc. to Complete Intersection Control Evaluation and New Corridor Layout Development for CSAH 91/MSAS 110 (40th Avenue West) and CSAH 54 (Piedmont Avenue) [23-231]
- Professional Services Agreement Amendment with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for Continued Planning and Preliminary Engineering Services and to Prepare a RAISE Grant Application for the Rice Lake Road (CSAH 4) Corridor Project Located in the Cities of Rice Lake and Duluth [23-232]
- Authorization to Apply and Accept 2022 Emergency Management Performance American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funding [23-234]
- Renew Joint Powers Agreement with the United States Department of Justice Marshals Service [23-235]
- Authorization to Accept Title III Funds for Firewise Community Activities [23-236]
- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) Subaward to Stratis Health [23-237]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Holappa (Homestead) [23-238]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Jensen/Wagner (Non-homestead) [23-239]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Philippi (Homestead) [23-240]
- Award of Bid: 2023 Mechanical Site Scarification by Disc Trench [23-241]
- Temporary Workspace and Road Access Agreements on State Tax Forfeited Land and County Fee Land to Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership [23-242]
- Minnesota State Auditor’s 2023 Performance measurement Program Report [23-243]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board will convene a public hearing for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 9:35 a.m., Halden Town Hall, Floodwood, MN, for the purpose of obtaining public comment to further amend the 2023 Fee Schedule. [23-244]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the 2023 first quarter budget changes. [23-245]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes Property Management and the St. Louis County Purchasing Division to procure the chiller equipment on an emergency basis for the St. Louis County Courthouse and Government Service Center in Duluth, MN, from SVL in the amount of \$248,645 with funding payable from Fund 400, Agencies 400004 & 400006, Object 663100. [23-233]. County Administrator Kevin Gray said that there has been maintenance and reliability issues with the current chiller and the lead time for new equipment is approximately 6 to 9 months. Property Management Director Jerry Hall commented that the entire project cost will be approximately \$900,000 including equipment and installation. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Susan Schumacher to the Arrowhead Library System Board of Directors for a term expiring December 31, 2023. [23-246]. Commissioner Grimm gave the Board a brief overview of Ms. Schumacher's qualifications. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board ratifies the 2023-2025 Civil Service Supervisory unit collective bargaining agreement and authorize county officials to execute a written agreement consistent with negotiations. [23-247]. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, noted that the unit includes 125 individuals and provided the Board with an overview of the agreement. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board ratifies the 2023-2025 Deputy Sheriff Supervisory unit collective bargaining agreement and authorize county officials to execute a written agreement consistent with negotiations. [23-248]. Director Gottschald said that recently it has been difficult to recruit candidates for law enforcement positions and noted that the agreement includes a salary range adjustment for three job classes. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute Memorandums of Understanding with exclusive representatives of necessary collective bargaining units to ensure that eligible county employees receive holiday pay for the Juneteenth holiday and are compensated appropriately if they are required to work on the Juneteenth holiday, and further approves the Juneteenth holiday to be added to the list of holidays observed in the Unrepresented Employees and Management Compensation Plans beginning June 19, 2023. [23-249]. Administrator Gray said that the resolution will allow administration and human resources to work with bargaining units to address the new enactment date in 2023. Director Gottschald commented that the legislation mandated that no public business can be conducted on the holiday; however, it does not mandate holiday

pay. Commissioner Nelson said he agrees with the action and commented that this will cost the county approximately \$500,000. Chair Boyle commented that Juneteenth should have been recognized years ago. Commissioner Grimm said it is important for Commissioners to show support and be present in the community on Juneteenth and noted that the Duluth NAACP will be hosting a Juneteenth event at the Harrison Community Center on June 18, 2023. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board designates the priorities for its 2024 Capital Appropriations request as follows: 1) St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center Asset Renovation; 2) Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus – Phase II; 3) Tax-Forfeited Structure Rehab Project; 4) Voyageur National Park Clean Water - Ash River; and further, directs the appropriate County staff to submit these priorities to the State of Minnesota as part of the application process. [23-250]. Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci provided the Board with an overview of the Tax-Forfeited Structure Rehab Project and commented that vision of the project is to look at structures as community assets and find ways for communities to retain the assets and preserve local tax bases. Commissioner Nelson commented on the importance of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus – Phase II and noted that Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) is pumping approximately 36,000 gallons of leachate into Lake Superior on a daily basis. Nelson/McDonald moved to amend the priorities order for the 2024 Capital Appropriations request as follows: 1) Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus – Phase II; 2) St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center Asset Renovation; 4) Voyageur National Park Clean Water - Ash River; 4) Tax-Forfeited Structure Rehab Project. Chair Boyle said that the top two priorities are most important for St. Louis County and stressed the importance of completing renovation work at the Depot before Northern Lights Express (NLX) is operational. Commissioner McDonald said the Ash River project will cost approximately \$25 million. Commissioner Grimm said she was supportive of moving the Ash River project to priority 3 and commented that there was not enough outreach for the Depot during the last session. After further discussion, the amendment passed. (7-0). The motion as amended passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Harala provided the Board with a copy of a letter that was sent to the St. Louis County Historical Society by St. Louis County. Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding various expectations relating to operation of the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Commissioner McDonald commented that he attended the dedication of Veterans Park in Cook last Sunday and noted the county was able to help fund the park through the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Commissioner McDonald noted that Cook Timber Days will be held on June 9, 2023, through June 11, 2023.

Commissioner Nelson encouraged people to read an article by Dave Anderson regarding Bobby Aro and noted that the St. Louis County Board renamed County Highway 7 to Bobby Aro Memorial Highway approximately 18 years ago. Commissioner Nelson commended Commissioners McDonald and Jugovich for their efforts to help develop ATV trails.

Commissioner Jugovich commented that ATV trail development has been a lot of work and there has been great support from the legislature; the goal is to get people outside to enjoy nature.

Commissioner McDonald noted that the Board will be able to see a couple of new ATV projects in July when they hold their Board meeting in Camp 5 Township.

Chair Boyle said that he, Commissioner Grimm, Commissioner Jugovich, Administrator Gray, and Deputy Administrator Fritsinger had a positive meeting with Fond du Lac tribal leaders recently.

Commissioner Harala said that additional money has been given statewide for community corrections support and noted that St. Louis County is getting approximately the same dollar amount as Itasca and Koochiching Counties. Commissioner Harala said it appears that the state did not recognize the amount of community support that St. Louis County provides to people on probation and that she is looking forward to advocating at the state next year to ensure the county is getting proper funding.

Administrator Gray encouraged Board members to review the Minnesota State Auditor's 2023 Performance Measurement Program report and acknowledged the work of BreAnn Graber, St. Louis County Budget and Business Improvement Manager, in compiling the report.

At 11:31 a.m., Commissioner Jugovich, supported by Commissioner Musolf, 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