

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 1, 2021

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of May 25, 2021
- Agreement with the Wisconsin Central, Ltd. to Renew the Crossing Surface at Railroad Crossing DOT 252015K on CSAH 137 (Clinton and Cherry Townships) [21-248]
- Amendments to the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center Tenant Lease Agreements [21-249]
- Apply and Acceptance of the 2021 State Boat and Water Safety Grant [21-250]
- Reallocation of Four Information Specialist II Positions to Information Specialist III [21-251]
- Planning Services for Design of an Integrated Solid Waste Management System [21-252]

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved that pursuant to the requirements and procedures of Minn. Stat. § 373.01, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a purchase agreement and quit claim deed for the sale of the Linden Grove Public Works facility to Darrel Kaml for the amount of \$297,000 contingent upon the buyer obtaining the proposed conditional use permit, payable to Fund 405, Agency 405001, Object 583202, and additional revenue budgeted for expense in Fund 405, Agency 405001, Object 663100. The buyer is also responsible for payment of deed tax and recording fees. [21-253]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board declares its support and authorizes submittal of a 2022 Capital Appropriation request of \$3.825 million to the State of Minnesota for the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (the Depot). The County would finance up to 50% of the remaining project cost, with the County committing funds to match the remaining share of this request; and further, the St. Louis County Board designates this as its first priority bonding project for the 2022 Legislative Session. [21-254]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray indicated that the next two resolutions deal with bonding requests for the 2022 legislative session. Commissioner Nelson requested that the county not prioritize the requests and allow the state officials to sort out funding priorities. Administrator Gray responded that the state system requires the county to prioritize the requests in the queue and the submission date is June 15, 2021. Commissioner Grimm commented that it may be helpful to hold a Board Workshop to discuss the bonding priorities and inquired if there were other funding opportunities

for the leachate project. Commissioner Jewell recommended that the Depot project remain at the top of the list because of the previous commitment by the Board to complete the project. Commissioner Boyle said that he was fine with the priorities as listed and mentioned that there are multiple building issues at the Depot that need to be addressed, including flooding issues last winter. Commissioner Nelson said that the Regional Landfill Leachate Treatment System Replacement addresses a public safety issue. After further discussion, Nelson/Jugovich moved to amend the resolution to require that a separate vote be taken on the prioritization of the three bonding requests. After further discussion, Commissioner Nelson withdrew the amendment. Jewell/Boyle amended the original motion to remove the "Resolved Further" language designating this as the St. Louis County Board's first priority bonding project for the 2022 Legislative Session. St. Louis County Intergovernmental Relations Director John Ongaro commented that the bonding committees use the list of projects to decide what projects they will visit during their fall site visits. In addition, the bonding committees will review lower priority projects. St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center Director Mary Tennis commented that the bonding request will take care of practical needs and help the Heritage and Arts Center become self-sufficient. St. Louis County Property Management Director Jerry Hall said that CR-BPS, Inc., performed a facility Condition Assessment of the Depot and the study detailed necessary improvements to bring the building up to speed with other county owned buildings. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 10:55 a.m. At 11:09 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

McDonald/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board declares its support and authorizes submittal of a 2022 Capital Appropriation request of \$4.5 million to the State of Minnesota for the St. Louis County Regional Landfill Leachate Treatment System Replacement. The County would finance up to 50% of the remaining project cost, with the County committing funds to match the remaining share of this request. [21-255]. St. Louis County Interim Environmental Services Director David Fink discussed the proposed new system to treat Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The system would treat PFAS before grounding it. Interim Director Fink said that County matching funds would be \$4.5 million and estimates that the modification will extend the life of the landfill by 50 years. Mark St. Lawrence said that he was confident that they will be able to duplicate the pilot program; the process would land apply leachate at drinking water standards. After further Commissioner discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that St. Louis County agrees to be the recipient of the bond funds and the fiscal agent for the St. Louis County Fair for the purposes of making a bond application for 2022 Capital Appropriations for the construction of new buildings at the St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Chisholm, MN. The St. Louis County Board declares its support and authorizes submittal of a 2022 Capital Appropriation request of \$575,000 to the State of Minnesota for the St. Louis County Fair. The County would finance up to \$400,000 of the remaining project. The Chairperson of the St. Louis County Board and/or County Auditor are authorized to sign grant applications and any other necessary paperwork in the pursuit of 2022 Capital Appropriations, subject to the approval of the County Attorney. [21-256]. Administrator Gray indicated that the total project finance listed in the resolution was \$975,000; however, the project cost may be closer to \$1,200,000 and recommended that the Board review the finance totals and funding options. Commissioner Nelson made a suggestion to Chair Jugovich that the motion be amended to include a 50% local match and to change the request to \$600,000 due to the increase in building costs, and commit to a \$600,000 local match. Commissioner Jewell commented that this is a major change to the resolution and the Board should vote on the amendment. Attorney Rubin replied that he would recommend that the motion be amended and the Board take a formal vote to the amendment. Jewell/McDonald moved to amend the motion to change the 2022 Capital Appropriation

request from \$575,000 to \$600,000 and to change the County match amount from \$400,000 to \$600,000. The amendment passed. (7-0) After further discussion, the motion as amended passed. (7-0)

Boyle/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes a 1.0 FTE Maintenance Worker/Helper to provide maintenance services for the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (the Depot), payable from Fund 155, Agency 155001; and further, that the Oneida Realty Company of Duluth contract, as it pertains to Resolution No. 19-378, shall be amended to include janitorial and consumable services only. [21-257]. Administrator Gray said that the position would better control building operations and help with future building projects. The change would be cost neutral, as the estimated cost of the Maintenance Worker/Helper position is the same as the cost of Oneida maintenance services. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Administrator Gray requested that Item #1, Appointment of 2021 Special Board of Appeal and Equalization – Replacement Appointment for District #3 [21-258] be removed from the agenda. Administrator Gray commented that County Administration will continue to work to identify an appropriate person to serve as an independent representative on the Board. Commissioner Nelson requested a point of order and asked Attorney Rubin if the Board needs to take formal action to remove the item from the agenda. Attorney Rubin responded that since Administration placed the item on the agenda for Committee review, they have the ability to remove the item from the agenda, unless a Board member objects. There were no objections; the item was removed from the agenda.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Grimm commented regarding an email from a staff member who was concerned about the transition back to work and urged the Board to work with Administration and staff to ensure people have flexibility in their workplace and to review options for staff to work from home.

Commissioner McDonald said that he attended a Memorial Day service in Ely. Commissioner McDonald noted that approximately 250-300 people attended the service and over the last year 36 veterans from Ely passed away. Commissioner McDonald also thanked everyone throughout St. Louis County who volunteered time for Memorial Day services.

Commissioner Jewell said he visited the Hermosa cemetery over the weekend and noted that 50% - 60% of the graves had flags next to them; a number were World War II veterans.

Attorney Rubin commented on a virtual Memorial Day Ceremony that was held at the Gary-New Duluth Memorial. Attorney Rubin noted that Senator Amy Klobuchar spoke during the ceremony and the ceremony was a nice tribute to those who died on our behalf.

Administrator Gray mentioned that he participated in the Memorial Day - Taps Across America by playing Taps on his trumpet at 3:00 p.m. on the South Shore of Lake Superior.

Commissioner Nelson noted that the St. Louis County Agricultural Society purchased a used set of bleachers for the horse arena and today the Fair Board is putting the bleachers together with the assistance of eight NERCC inmates; this is a good example of restorative justice.

Commissioner McDonald said that NERCC inmates were also involved in the cleanup of McCarthy Beach State Park over the last ten days. The Park Ranger appreciated the assistance, as there were many downed trees near roads that needed to be cleared.

Commissioner Boyle commented that it would be nice for the Board to tour the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. Commissioner Nelson said that credit should be given to former St. Louis County Commissioner Chris Dalberg for bringing the cemetery to the Northland.

Chair Jugovich mentioned that on July 6th, the Board will be returning to the Duluth Courthouse for Board meetings held in Duluth. Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger replied that Administration has previously talked with the Board about possible renovation of the space. Materials were received last Friday from the architect, which may cause Administration to request further delay in returning to the Courthouse for meetings. Commissioner Nelson requested that the Board have an opportunity to review what is being proposed.

At 12:13 p.m., Jewell/McDonald moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board