

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 23, 2021

Location: St. Louis County Public Works Facility, Virginia, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Commissioners Frank Jewell and Ashley Grimm participated by WebEx.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #7, Conveyance of Depleted Fee Owned Gravel Pit to the Adjoining Owner (Section 33, T64N, R20W Leiding Township) [21-123] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of March 9, 2021
- MN DHS Housing and Support and Services Grant to Develop Community Living Infrastructure [21-117]
- Authorization to Continue Collaboration with the Mental Health Specialty Court in Hibbing and Authorize Acceptance of Funds for Ongoing Support of 1.0 FTE Social Worker [21-118]
- Execute a Grant with the State of Minnesota and Cooperative Agreement with Voyageur Country ATV Club for Phase I Trail Connections (Orr, Ash River, Kabetogama Township, and International Falls) [21-119]
- State Contract Purchase of GPS Units and Related Equipment [21-120]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridges 843 and 844 (Hoyt Lakes) [21-121]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Culvert Replacement of CR 666 (Hoyt Lakes) [21-122]
- Conveyance of Depleted Fee Owned Gravel Pit to the Adjoining Owner (Section 36, T61N, R20W Sturgeon Township) [21-124]
- Conveyance of Depleted Fee Owned Gravel Pit to the Adjoining Owner (Section 18, T56N, R18W McDavitt Township) [21-125]
- 2020-21 Children in Need of Protective Service and Termination of Parental Rights Proposals and Contract with Matthew Miller – 2nd Amendment [21-126]
- Authorization to Submit Proposal to the LCCMR for FY22 Minnesota Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the Regional Landfill Leachate PFAS Reduction Pilot Project [21-127]
- Right of Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Brian. L Blom (New Independence Twp 52-17) [21-128]
- Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation [21-129]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Beede (Non-Homestead) [21-130]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Daley (Non-Homestead) [21-131]

- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Woodall (Non-Homestead) [21-132]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Garman (Homestead) [21-133]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Langenbrunner (Homestead) [21-134]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Strongitharm (Homestead) [21-135]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Jugovich/Musolf moved to establish a public hearing at 9:35 a.m., on, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in the Duluth Government Services Center, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of considering the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Minno-ette Inc. dba Minno-ette Inc., Fedenberg Township. [21-136]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 9:35 A.M., at the Town of Morse in Ely, MN, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the established priorities and funding recommendations included in the 2021 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. [21-137]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved that pursuant to the requirements and procedures of Minn. Stat. § 373.01, the Chair of the County Board and the County Auditor are authorized to execute and deliver a quit claim deed conveying the property described as part of Section 33, Township 64 North, Range 20 West, Leiding Township, to Katherine Kebbekus. [21-123]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray noted that this property was one of three remaining properties that had a unique reversion clause that directs property back to the owners or their heirs and assigns once use as a gravel pit has ceased. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an increase of 3.0 FTE social work positions for the Transition Assertive Community Treatment program in the Public Health and Human Services Department. Further, that the County Board authorizes a decrease to the contract with Human Development Center by a pro-rated share of the remainder of the contract period to fully fund these positions as St. Louis County employees, to be accounted for in Fund 230, Agency 232003, Object 610100; and Fund 230, Agency 232003, Object 609600. Going forward, the costs submitted to the State will include the case management positions as St. Louis County employees. [21-138]. Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch commented that the employees will be fully funded; the annual adjustment will be \$264,555 and will cover the average St. Louis County fully-burdened costs. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$1,367,766.24 for project CP 0116-299084, SP 069-716-012, Bituminous Reclamation, County State

Aid Highway 116 between County State Aid Highway 88 and 0.5 Miles North of County Road 803. [21-139]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/McDonald moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$819,069.55 for project CP 0025-367949/SAP 069-625-015 (Low); CP 0082-539535/SAP 069-682-004 (Tied); CP 0958-559601 (Tied), Culvert Replacement, County State Aid Highway 25 between 0.3 miles south of County State Aid Highway 65 and County State Aid Highway 22; County State Aid Highway 82 between Trunk Highway 73 and County State Aid Highway 25; County Road 958 between County Road 481 and County Road 915. [21-140]. Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the department follows best practices when replacing culverts in order to protect the environment and streams. Director Foldesi noted that there is an extensive permitting process and the department works closely with the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Boyle moved to award a bid to AAA Striping Service, St. Michael, MN, in the amount of \$966,485.60 for project CP 0000-347713/SP 088-070-067/SP 069-070-041 (St. Louis County)/SP 009-070-008 (Carlton County)/SP 031-070-008 (Itasca County, 6" Wet Reflective Edgeline on various County Highways in Carlton County, Itasca County and St. Louis County. [21-141]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to Redstone Construction, LLC, Mora, MN, in the amount of \$1,261,004.75 for project CP 0061-465211/SAP 069-661-021, Concrete Retaining Wall, Bituminous Parking, Bituminous Paving and Storm Sewer, County State Aid Highway 61 between County State Aid Highway 33 (McQuade Road) and Greenwood Road. [21-142]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Jewell moved to award a bid to Allied Blacktop Company, Maple Grove, MN, in the amount of \$1,150,233.96 for project CP 0000-541653/SAP 069-030-053 (Low Prime), Scrub Seal, Various County State Aid Highways and County Roads in St. Louis County. [21-143]. Commissioner McDonald commented that the bid was 29% less than the engineer's estimate. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$4,319,999.00 for project CP 0031-370139/SAP 069-631-010 (LOW PRIME); CP 0008-370138/SAP 069-608-006; CP 0031-401110/SAP 069-631-011; CP 0046-326598/SAP 069-646-001; CP 0080-401141/SAP 069-680-001; CP 0570-570699, Bituminous Reclamation and Culvert Replacement, located on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 31 from CSAH 19 to CSAH 8; CSAH 8 from CSAH 31 to CSAH 7; CSAH 31 from Carlton County Line to CSAH 80; CSAH 46 from Trunk Highway (TH) 33 to TH 2; CSAH 80 from Carlton County Line to Township Road 5705; County Road (CR) 570 1 mile south of CSAH 47. [21-144]. Director Foldesi said that the ability to bundle projects not only helps to reduce project costs, this project was 18% less than the engineer's estimate, it also creates staff and testing efficiencies. Director Foldesi commented that the bids awarded today amount to \$25.5 million out of the \$25.8 million Transportation Sales Tax bonding proceeds. Commissioner Jewell noted that implementing the transportation sales and use tax has been a benefit for rural St. Louis County; even though a great deal of the tax is collected in the City of Duluth, the city receives a much smaller portion of the benefit compared to rural St. Louis County. A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 11:26 a.m. At 11:35 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. Commissioner Nelson commented that approximately one third of the tax is collected from visitors to St. Louis County. In addition, the retail areas in Duluth and Hermantown benefit financially from residents from all Commissioner

Districts who visit the retail area; the money is not coming only from Duluth residents. Commissioner Nelson noted that \$10 million of taconite tax has been paid annually to the County for over one hundred years. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Musolf moved that the Union Business Reimbursement Agreement between the St. Louis County and the Merit System Basic Unit is approved; that the amendment to the Union Business Agreement between the County and the Civil Service Basic Unit is approved; and further, that the appropriate County officials are authorized to execute the Union Business Reimbursement Agreement with Merit System Basic Unit and amendment to the Union Business Agreement with Civil Service Basic Unit. [21-145]. Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald said that the agreement provides reasonable time off for Union bargaining units. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the 2020-2022 Merit System Supervisory Collective Bargaining Agreement, Flexible Work Schedule Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement for Public Health Quarantine and Isolation are ratified and county officials are authorized to execute the agreements consistent with negotiations. [21-146]. Director Gottschald provided a brief overview of the agreement and noted that the Deputy Sheriff's bargaining unit is the only remaining unit that has not reached an agreement. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners hereby declares a State of Local Emergency exists and will continue until such time that the Board determines that an emergency no longer exists; that the County Administrator or his designee(s) are directed to request and coordinate all necessary aid from local, state and federal government; that after April 15, 2021, the delegating of the Board's Authority to the County Administrator, the Deputy County Administrator and/or Director of Human Resources and Administration to exercise the emergency powers outlined in Minn. Stat. § 12.37 shall cease. All earlier resolutions relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to the extent they are contrary to the terms of this resolution, are hereby rescinded. [21-147]. County Administrator Kevin Gray said that the resolution preserves critical funding sources and program opportunities; however, with the delegation changes, there may be time sensitive items that may require the Board to suspend the rules to consider. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed without recommendation to the April 6, 2021 County Board meeting. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jewell clarified that he supported the transportation sales and use tax at the Committee of the Whole meeting and during the Board meeting prior to leaving that meeting. He missed the vote because he had to catch a flight to Washington, D.C. for official county business. Commissioners discussed the possibility of bringing forth a resolution reaffirming the Board's commitment for the transportation sales and use tax.


Commissioner Nelson commented on the potential health risks to the residents of St. Louis County from closed landfills. Commissioner Nelson referred to the Gilbert landfill as an example: the landfill has millions of dollars of ore under it; however, there is no place to put materials. A build-out of a regional landfill in the Canyon area would help with the storage of unlined landfill materials and the treatment of

leachate. Commissioner Nelson mentioned that the Septic and Solid Waste Committee is working on future recommendations for Board consideration; however, the project would require a partnership between St. Louis County and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

Commissioner Grimm said that she was interested in Commissioner Nelson's discussion regarding landfill issues and requested that a Board workshop be devoted to the topic. Commissioner Grimm commented that she has been getting feedback from owners of duplexes and property who are having a hard time paying their property taxes and mortgages because renters are struggling to pay their rent due to the pandemic.

Commissioner Jugovich encouraged residents to be patient with maintenance of dirt roads; road maintenance will begin as weather conditions allow.

At 12:18 p.m., Musolf/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)


Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board


Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board