

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

June 13, 2023

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Musolf

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Grimm moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent) Commissioner Nelson noted that the Purchasing Committee is working on updating County Purchasing Rules and Regulations and expects the Committee to bring recommendations to the Board in the next 60 to 90 days.

- Minutes of June 6, 2023
- Authorization to Accept the Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant and to Contract with Northeast Services Cooperative and Essentia Health [23-251]
- Cooperative Agreement with Breitung Township to Receive and Administer Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Park Road Account Funding for Stuntz Bay Access Road [23-252]
- Award of Bids: Traffic Signs Project (CP 0000-458862, SP 069-070-050, HSIP 6923(244)) [23-253]
- Cooperative Agreements with Five (5) ATV Clubs to Receive and Administer Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) FY 2023 Funding to Complete Various ATV Trail System Segments [23-254]
- St. Louis County Purchasing Rules and Regulations Continuation of Revised Limits [23-255]
- Amendment to County Purchasing Rules and Regulations Related to Single Source Purchasing [23-256]
- Item [23-257] Pulled by Department
- Sponsorship of the Quad Cities ATV Trail System [23-258]
- Final Plat Approval of Apple Lake Estates, Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, & 11, Township 52N, Range 15W (Fredenberg) [23-259]
- Final Plat Approval of Carey Cove, Sections 31 & 32, Township 53N, Range 14W (Gnesen) [23-260]
- Gift of Land to St. Louis County (Parcel ID No. 010-3540-00620) [23-261]
- Gift of Land to St. Louis County (Parcel ID No. 317-0010-00501, -00531) [23-262]

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## Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board ratifies the 2023-2025 Confidential Public Employees Association collective bargaining agreement and authorizes county officials to execute a written agreement consistent with negotiations. [23-263]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that this agreement is consistent with previous agreements: a three-year agreement with salary ranges increases of 3.00% in 2023, 2024, 2025, and a onetime cash payment of \$400. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the Unrepresented Employees Compensation Plan document update and salary range increases for 2023-2025. [23-264]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Grimm/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the Management Compensation Plan document update, the amended post-retirement health care savings plan policy and salary range increases for 2023-2025. [23-265]. Jim Gotschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, commented that the plan changes are consistent with bargaining unit agreements and noted that the post-retirement health care savings plan policy for appointed department heads and managers covered under the Plan has been amended. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Grimm/Boyle moved that the Committee of the Whole will convene a closed session on June 13, 2023, for the purpose of discussing the *Demars* case, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b). No other pending public business will be discussed at this closed session. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner McDonald provided the Committee with a Camp Esquagama Board report and noted that there have been 456 registrations as of June 7<sup>th</sup> and there are 42 St. Louis County Out-of-Home Placement campers.

Commissioner Nelson commented on the loss of the Huber Engineered Woods project and noted that the area lost out on 150 direct jobs and numerous indirect jobs.

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## Time Specific Presentation

At 10:41 a.m., Matt Massman, Steve Novak, Nancy Silesky, and Carli Stark gave a presentation to the Committee relating to the 2023 Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) Legislative Session priorities. Director Massman said that the 2023 legislative session resulted in \$2 billion in net tax reductions, an increase of \$14 billion in net spending, and approximately \$973 million in property tax relief. Director Massman noted that there was a \$9.3 million annual increase in Payments-in-Lieu-of Tax (PILT) and a \$80 million annual increase in County Program Aid.

At 11:44 a.m., Commissioner Grimm, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

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Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board

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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

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