

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 10, 2023

Location: Morse Town Hall, Ely, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Nelson

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Musolf/Jugovich moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

- Minutes of January 3, 2023
- Abatement List for Board Approval *[23-33]*
- Advertisement to Fill Vacancies on Cooperative Extension Committee *[23-34]*
- Easement for Right-of-Way Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to the Allen R. and Elisabeth J. Cantrell Trust (Morse Twp, 63-13) *[23-35]*
- Authorization to Accept Funds for Tree Replacement from Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership *[23-36]*
- Special Sale to Thomas M. Conaway (Parcel ID No. 465-0020-01965) *[23-37]*

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an amendment to the professional services contract with McGough Construction of Duluth, MN, and approves any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, for the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) services, with a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Public Works County Wide Improvements construction project in an amount not to exceed \$23,610,123.68 payable from Fund 450, Agencies 450002 (Culver), 450003 (Kugler) and 450004 (Whiteface), Object 660266 with costs split between these three agencies. The additional cost of \$180,000 to construct a brine building in Ely shall be payable from Fund 405, Agency 405182, Object 660266 and shall not utilize bond funds. *[23-38]*. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said the county was approached by MnDOT to supply brine out of the Ely campus; the amendment will allow the design for brine production at the Ely campus. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes a contract with Pictometry International Corporation, Rochester, NY, for 2023 oblique and orthogonal aerial photography and related technologies in an amount not to exceed \$540,000. Funds will be payable from Fund 100, Agency 109003, Object 629900, with funds transferred from each of the following departments: Sheriff/911 Communications; Public Works; Land and Minerals; Public Records and Property

Valuation; Environmental Services; and Planning and Community Development. [23-39R]. St Louis County Planning Manager Dave Yapel said the information will allow staff to better visualize what is on the ground. The imagery is a layer in the County Land Explorer that is used by staff and the public on a regular basis. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board directs County Administration to fund the 2023-2024 scholarship program through the use of mineral royalties in the amount of \$150,000; approves the disbursement of scholarship funds for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: Minnesota North College Mesabi Range Foundation, \$37,500; Minnesota North College Hibbing Foundation, \$37,500; Minnesota North College Vermilion Foundation, \$37,500; Lake Superior College Foundation, \$37,500; and further, approves the annual allocation of remaining mineral royalties funds which have not been previously committed, for growing a fund for a future corpus. [23-40]. Commissioner Musolf commented that statute does not allow the scholarship funds to be disbursed to state accredited trade schools. He is looking for support from the county to change legislation to allow disbursement to state accredited trade schools. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Harala/Boyle moved that after the review of the Project Eligibility form, application and other submitted materials, the Skyridge Flats senior housing project proposed by the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is eligible under US Treasury Final Rule guidance; approves the use of \$150,000 of American Rescue Act Plan funding to the Duluth HRA for the construction of 70-units of low-income senior housing units; that all construction and renovations shall be in compliance with local zoning regulations and state building code; and further, that the Duluth HRA shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act or the County. The project will be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act. [23-41]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the Duluth HRA is also seeking an investment from the City of Duluth; the matching dollars from the city and county will help strengthen their effort for state funding. Commissioner Musolf asked if the project followed City of Duluth project labor agreements; Administrator Gray responded “yes”. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an increase to the per diem rate for the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment members from \$100 to \$150 for each meeting attended and reimbursement for roundtrip mileage at the applicable rate authorized by the County Board. [23-42]. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the 2023 St. Louis County Pay Equity Implementation Report and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the report to be submitted to the State of Minnesota by the January 31, 2023 deadline. [23-43]. Human Resources Director Jim Gottschald said the county must achieve a minimum of 80% to comply with the Act. Director Gottschald said the county is in compliance with the Pay Equity Act by passing the Statistical Analysis Test, the Salary Range Test, and the Exceptional Service Pay Test. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Boyle noted that a County Board Workshop will be held next week. Topics to be discussed include the County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the Clarity project, and opioid settlement.

At 11:23 a.m., Commissioner Jugovich, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board