

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,
HELD ON MARCH 7, 2023**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 7th day of March 2023, at 9:33 a.m., at the St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Annie Harala, Ashley Grimm, Paul McDonald, Keith Musolf, Keith Nelson, Mike Jugovich and Chair Patrick Boyle - 7. Absent: None - 0.

Chair Boyle asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of all victims of violence, foreign and domestic. Chair Boyle acknowledged the recent passing of Barb Russ and Judge Sally Tarnowski. Chair Boyle commented that Ms. Russ served 33 years in the County Attorney's Office and 5 years on the Duluth City Council and Judge Tarnowski served 16 years on the bench and championed specialty courts; followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The St. Louis County Board proclaimed the month of March 2023 in St. Louis County, Minnesota as Procurement Month in recognition of the importance of the contributions made by local, state, and federal procurement professionals. Commissioner Nelson read the proclamation. St. Louis County Purchasing Director Donna Viskoe commented that a small team consisting of herself, Kristi Anton, Veronica Knaffla, Dale Minkinen and Pam Waldriff do an amazing amount of work for the county and all team members (except Dale) have their certifications through the Minnesota National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP). Kristi Anton, Senior Procurement Specialist and current President of the Minnesota Chapter of NIGP, said there are 267 members of the Minnesota NIGP; 67% possess a national membership and 12% possess a professional certification.

Chair Boyle opened the meeting to persons who wish to address the Board concerning issues not on the agenda. Melissa Bell, of Duluth, said the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issued to 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road should be null and void. Ms. Bell commented that citizens were duped by the county and have never been given the truth. Ms. Bell gave the Board a handout regarding Article VIII of St. Louis County Ordinance 62 and said based on the Article, the Planning Director has an obligation to investigate and rescind the CUP. Clayton Cich, of Fredenberg Township, commented that the county has not been transparent; citizens are looking for honest inspections of gravel pits. Bruce Anderson, of Duluth, said citizen concerns regarding gravel pits are not being met and the county is not following Ordinance 62. Mr. Anderson noted that a CUP was voted down in Martin County because a new Commissioner listened to the people.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #6, Merit Basic Unit Agreement: 2023-2025, was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Grimm, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the formalization of county employee resource groups as critical infrastructure for racial disparities, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts; that county employee resource groups will be supported to advance diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in St. Louis County and be a collective voice for underrepresented populations within the county workforce and community; and further, that county employee resource groups will be required to meet certain requirements in order for them to be recognized by the county, including, but not be limited to, commitment to the county's DEI vision, mission, and values, maintaining a minimum level of regular group

participation, and developing a charter for their resource group. Human Resources and Administration Director Jim Gottschald provided the Board with a brief overview of timelines since the county engaged the Center for Economic Inclusion two years ago. A point of personal privilege was taken at 10:04 a.m. At 10:09 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. Tonia Villegas, Chair of the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Leadership Team, provided the Board with a copy of the BIPOC Leadership Team Charter. Ms. Villegas said history is being made in St. Louis County today and introduced artist Kayla Jackson. Ms. Villegas and Ms. Jackson unveiled the BIPOC logo. After further discussion, the motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 23-165.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to ratify the 2023-2025 Civil Service Basic unit contract and authorize the appropriate county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. Commissioner McDonald and Commissioner Jugovich indicated they would be abstaining from the vote because they have relatives in the bargaining unit. After further discussion, the motion passed; five yeas, zero nays, two abstentions (McDonald, Jugovich). Resolution No. 23-166.

Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved to ratify the 2023-2025 Merit Basic unit contract and authorize county officials to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. Commissioner Harala said she requested this item be considered separately from the consent agenda to voice her support for the two largest units in the county. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 23-161.

Chair Boyle recognized the St. Louis County Depot for receiving the 2023 Outstanding Marketing Campaign award. St. Louis County Depot and Extension Services Director Mary Tennis thanked the Board for their support.

The following Board files were created from documents received by this Board:

Joseph Vaida and Sharon F. Chopp Vaida, McKinely, MN, regarding purchase of tax forfeited property, parcel code 260-0013-00692.—61914

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and James Gottschald, Human Resources and Administration Director, submitting Board Letter No. 23-105, Merit Basic Unit Agreement: 2023-2025.—61915

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and James Gottschald, Human Resources and Administration Director, submitting Board Letter No. 23-103, Establishment of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Resource Groups.—61916

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and James Gottschald, Human Resources and Administration Director, submitting Board Letter No. 23-104, Civil Service Basic Unit Agreement: 2023-2025.—61917

Proclamation: Procurement Month – March 2023.—61918

Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, resolutions numbered 23-155 through 23-160 and 23-162 through 23-164, as submitted on the consent agenda, were unanimously adopted as follows:

BY COMMISSIONER NELSON:

RESOLVED, That the official proceedings of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners for the meeting of February 28, 2023, are hereby approved.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-155

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency awards grant funds to counties to fund services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County has applied for and received funding from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) since the 1995-1997 biennium to fund services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to submit a grant application in an amount up to \$4,000,000 for the FHPAP for the time period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners authorizes Public Health and Human Services to apply for FHPAP grant funds for the 2023-2025 biennium.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-156

RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes an agreement, and any amendments approved by the County Attorney, with the City of Proctor for the reconstruction of the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 11 (2nd Street/5th Avenue) (CP 0000-617698) whereby St. Louis County will pay a lump sum of \$35,000 for survey, design, permitting, and construction of the intersection. The funds paid to the City of Proctor will be payable from Fund 220, Agency 220643, Object 551502.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-157

WHEREAS, Bids have been received electronically by the St. Louis County Public Works Department for the following combined project:

CP 0010-659052, SAP 069-610-012 (Low Prime); CP 0012-643749, SAP 069-612-017;

CP 0241-659053; CP 0246-649052; CP 0252-659055; and

WHEREAS, Bids were opened in the Richard H. Hansen Transportation & Public Works Complex, Duluth, MN, on February 23, 2023, and the low responsible bid determined.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the award on the above project to the low bidder:

LOW BIDDER: KGM Contractors, Inc.

ADDRESS: 9211 Hwy. 53, Angora, MN 55703

AMOUNT: \$1,337,408.60

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the appropriate county officials are authorized to approve the Contractor's Performance Bonds and to execute the bonds and contract for the above listed project payable from:

CP 0010-659052, SAP 069-610-012 (Low Prime):

Fund 220, Agency 220722, Object 652700 – State Aid Funds - \$371,383.00

CP 0012-643749, SAP 069-612-017:

Fund 220, Agency 220722, Object 652700 – State Aid Funds - \$246,657.40

CP 0241-659053:

Fund 200, Agency 203656, Object 652800 – Local Funds - \$133,090.15

CP 0246-649052:

Fund 200, Agency 203656, Object 652800 – Local Funds - \$386,966.30

CP 0252-659055:

Fund 200, Agency 203656, Object 652800 – Local Funds - \$199,311.75

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-158

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the Finance Committee for payment of claims and bills against the County of St. Louis, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61858, are hereby approved and the County Auditor shall issue checks in the following amounts:

January 2023

100	General Fund	8,294,692.43
148	Volunteer Fire Departments	327,513.84
149	Personal Service Fund	330.00
155	Depot	88,497.76
160	MN Trail Assistance	58,242.43
167	Attorney's Forfeitures	19,200.00
169	Attorney Trust Accounts – VW	1,606.90
173	Emergency Shelter Grant	155,510.73
176	Revolving Loan Fund	65.97
178	Economic Development – Tax Forfeit	243,553.71
179	Enhanced 9-1-1	41,836.39
180	Law Library	20,629.82
183	City/County Communications	466.86
184	Extension Service	143,920.20
190	Sheriff Explorers	150.00
192	Permit to Carry	17,199.13
200	Public Works	3,428,511.16
204	Local Option Transit Sales Tax	554,875.34
215	Ditching	8,725.00
220	State/Federal Road Aid	1,037,981.03
228	2022 Flooding Event	10,747.96
230	Public Health & Human Services	7,937,448.47
238	HHS Conference	26,295.00
239	Pandemic Response Fund	1,242,054.40
240	Forfeited Tax	469,520.81
260	CDBG Grant	372,209.00
261	CDBG Program Income	6,391.16
270	HOME Grant	23,126.17
285	Septic Loans – MPCA	6,748.00
286	Septic Loans – SSTS/BWSR	5,450.00
288	Septic Loans – Env Trust Fund	48,379.00
289	On-Site Wastewater	145,594.77
290	Forest Resources	39,405.94
400	County Facilities	319,431.56
402	Depreciation Reserve Fund	8,512.50
403	Emergency Repairs	240.00
405	Public Works Building Construction	196,046.87
407	Public Works – Equipment	528,518.00
450	2021A – Capital Improvement	2,632,168.77

600	Environmental Services	559,100.25
640	Plat Books	22.76
715	County Garage	44,563.38
720	Property Casualty Liability	8,659.47
730	Workers Compensation	500,424.83
740	Medical Dental Insurance	2,950,947.39
770	Retired Employees Health Ins.	540.48
		<u>\$32,526,055.64</u>

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-159

RESOLVED, That pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 340A, as amended, and Rules and Regulations adopted by this Board under St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, dated May 22, 1978, as amended, the following application for permit authorizing the consumption and display of intoxicating liquor is hereby approved, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61856.

Hugo’s, Inc. dba Hugo’s, Ault Township, renewal.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-160

WHEREAS, St. Louis County has the opportunity to apply for funding of up to \$750,000 through the 2023 Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, The Reentry Grant is designed to coordinate and provide comprehensive treatment, recovery, and other supportive reentry services to people experiencing mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders who are currently involved in the criminal justice system or were formerly involved;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the application to the 2023 Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program Grant up to \$750,000 over a three-year grant period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026, to support the funding of a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Information Specialist III (or similar position), and Community Coordinator to be accounted for in Fund 100, Agency 137999, Grant 13705, Year 2023.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the County Board authorizes the positions to be eliminated upon completion of the three-year term of the Reentry Grant if no other funding source is identified.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-162

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) notified the Planning and Community Development Department that grant funding is available to assist low-income households with the abatement and upgrade of Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) identified as Imminent Threats to Public Health or Non-Compliant SSTS failing to protect groundwater; and

WHEREAS, This new grant opportunity is unique from the current Clean Water Fund low-income fix up grants the County applies for and receives each year and would allow for increased capacity of our current SSTS abatement program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Planning and Community Development Department to apply for and accept up to \$200,000 in grant funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) money through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to assist low-income households within St. Louis County through the abatement and upgrade of subsurface

sewage treatment systems identified as Imminent Threats to Public Health. Funds will be deposited into Fund 289, Agency 289999, Revenue 532507, Grant 28904, Year 2023, or its designated fund.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Planning and Community Development Director and a representative of the County Attorney to execute any related grant and agency agreements where necessary.

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-163

WHEREAS, St. Louis County requires the services of a competent vendor to provide tire management and recycling services to Environmental Services Department facilities; and

WHEREAS, Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Department now needs to find a different vendor to recycle used tires; and

WHEREAS, In February 2023, the Department received a quote, using special Environmental Services rules pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 383C.807 and § 400.04, from Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC to manage tire recycling from its five transfer stations and the Virginia Regional Landfill.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Environmental Services Department to enter into a ten (10) month long contract with two (2) optional one (1) year extensions, with Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC for the haulage and proper disposal of used tires for \$313.86 per ton, with a \$25.00 per load environmental fee, for an estimated cost of \$189,566.00 per year, payable from Fund 600, Agency 601004 (Recycling).

Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-164

BY COMMISSIONER GRIMM:

WHEREAS, County Administration established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Leadership Group in recognition that diversity, equity and inclusion are vital to achieving the mission of St. Louis County - to promote health and safety, ensure sound infrastructure, embrace our natural resources, and support an environment where communities prosper; and

WHEREAS, On July 27, 2021, the County Board adopted Resolution No. 21-419, to enter into an agreement with the Center for Economic Inclusion to assist the county's DEI Leadership Group in studying and evaluating county diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic needs; and

WHEREAS, On February 7, 2023, the St. Louis County Board adopted Resolution No. 23-114 accepting the report and recommendations developed by the Center for Economic Inclusion and directed County Administration and the DEI Leadership Group to prioritize and act on those recommendations and bring forward recommendations for future consideration and implementation; and

WHEREAS, The DEI Leadership group has commenced this review and has consensus support to request the formalization and necessary support of county employee resource groups.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the formalization of county employee resource groups as critical infrastructure for racial disparities, equity, and inclusion efforts.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That county employee resource groups will be supported to advance diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in St. Louis County and be a collective voice for underrepresented populations within the county workforce and community.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That county employee resource groups will be required to meet certain requirements in order for them to be recognized by the county, including, but not be limited to, commitment to the county's DEI vision, mission, and values, maintaining a minimum level of regular group participation, and developing a charter for their resource group.

Unanimously adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-165

BY COMMISSIONER NELSON:

RESOLVED, That the 2023-2025 Civil Service Basic unit contract is ratified and the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement, a copy of which is on file in County Board File No. 61917.

Yeas – Commissioners Harala, Grimm, Musolf, Nelson and Chair Boyle – 5

Nays – None

Abstain – Commissioners McDonald and Jugovich – 2

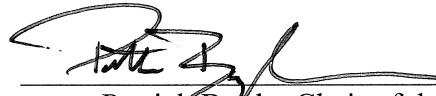
Adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-166

BY COMMISSIONER HARALA:

RESOLVED, That the 2023-2025 Merit Basic unit contract is ratified and county officials are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement, a copy of which is on file in County Board File No. 61915.

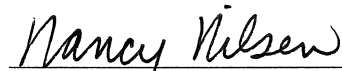
Unanimously adopted March 7, 2023. No. 23-161

At 10:56 a.m., March 7, 2023, Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the Board
of County Commissioners

Attest:



Nancy Nilson, County Auditor
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board
of County Commissioners

(Seal of the County Auditor)