

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

June 22, 2021

Location: Toivola Town Hall, Meadowlands, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioners Grimm and Nelson

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Musolf/McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

- Minutes of June 8, 2021
- Host County Contract with Lutheran Social Services for Emergency Shelter Services [21-268]
- Acquisition of Right of Way for County Project CP 0009-382898 by Eminent Domain Proceedings [21-269]
- Agreement with the City of Duluth for Construction on Boundary Avenue and Park Place [21-270]
- Reallocation of One Information Specialist II Position to Information Specialist III [21-271]
- Amend the Agreement for Food Services with Upper Lakes Food for the St. Louis County Jail [21-272]
- Application and Acceptance of the 2021 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) Grant [21-273]
- Request to Apply for Renewal of the Crime Victims Services Grant [21-274]
- Application and Acceptance of IRRR Commercial Redevelopment Grant [21-275]
- Rescind County Board Resolution No. 19-744 and Authorize State Tax Forfeited Lease – Hibbing Taconite Company [21-276]
- State Tax Forfeited Lease – Hibbing Taconite Company [21-277]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Gustafson Bros Co (Non-Homestead) [21-278]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Gustafson (Non-Homestead) [21-279]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Lochner (Homestead) [21-280]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Nelson-Gustafson (Non-Homestead) [21-281]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board establish a public hearing at 9:35 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, in the Duluth Government Services Center, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of obtaining input from the general public on an amendment to the 2021–2025 Capital Improvement Plan and intent to issue up to \$26,000,000 in Capital Improvement Bonds. [21-282]. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

Jewell/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby schedules a public hearing to consider the revocation of a portion of the Savanna Road on August 2, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Halden Town Hall, 5523 South Savanna Road, Floodwood, Minnesota, 55736, and directs the Public Works Department to represent the County at said hearing and report back to the County Board of Commissioners on August 3, 2021, at the regularly scheduled County Board meeting; and further, that the County Board hereby waives Standing Rules Article III, Sections 4.01-4.03 (Conduct of Hearing; General, Quorum Needed, Order of Hearing), 4.05 (Examination of Witnesses) and 5.04 (Voting) for purposes of the August 2, 2021 hearing in Halden Township. [21-283]. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

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### **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

McDonald/Boyle moved that that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Director to approve and oversee the removal of an existing controlled entrance and the relocation of the entrance on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4. Mr. Hennessey must apply for an entrance permit prior to any commencement of work. [21-284]. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase order for the installation of modified snow gear to go with the ten Dump Bodies with Hydraulic Systems and Snow Removal equipment purchased separately, from Towmaster, Inc., of Litchfield, MN, for \$274,450.00. [21-285]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the equipment will improve efficiency and help reduce carbon footprint because operators will be able to stay on the road longer, with less trips to refill. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

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### **Finance & Budget Committee**

Boyle/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board request a State financial solution to all years of the final Enbridge Energy, L.P. apportionable market values as ordered by the Minnesota Tax Court, beginning in the 2012 assessment year, from the State Department of Revenue. [21-286]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the valuation of the property resides with the State and not the county; however, counties, cities, towns, and school districts are now responsible for reimbursement of the overpaid property taxes and related interest. The refunds directly attributed to St. Louis County are approximately \$1.5 million. After further discussion, the motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

Musolf/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the establishment of the Border-to-Border Broadband grant program; approves initial funding of up to \$250,000 in funds for the program; and further, authorizes appropriate county officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents as necessary to administer the program and fund projects, payable from Fund 178, Object 311008 or its designated fund. Upon issuance of final guidance by the U.S. Treasury, it is determined that this program is eligible for the use of America Rescue Plan funds to be used in place of Fund 178 or its designated fund. [21-287]. St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director Matt Johnson said that the funding is meant to assist communities with project development and not infrastructure. In addition, the funds may be eligible for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. After further discussion, the motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

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**Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Boyle/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints the following County Board members to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Group for a term expiring December 31, 2022: District 1 Commissioner Frank Jewell and District 3 Commissioner Ashley Grimm; and further, that updates shall be provided as appropriate to the Board consistent with past practices and the Standing Rules and Bylaws of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners. [21-288]. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

Jewell/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints the following County Board members to the Northeast Regional ATV Trail Board for a term expiring with their current terms as elected officials: District 4 Commissioner Paul McDonald, District 7 Commissioner Mike Jugovich, and District 6 Commissioner Keith Nelson (alternate). [21-289]. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

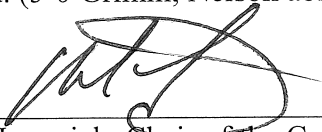
Jewell/ Boyle moved that the Committee of the Whole will convene a closed session on June 22, 2021, for the purpose of discussing the proposed settlement and litigation strategy relating to *Bruckelmeyer v. St. Louis County*, Case No. 69DU-CV-21-256, in accord with Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b). No other pending public business will be discussed at this closed session. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)

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**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

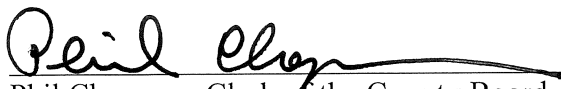
None

At 10:45 a.m., Musolf/McDonald moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0 Grimm, Nelson absent)



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Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board