

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,  
HELD ON MAY 23, 2023**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2023, at 9:30 a.m., at the Grand Lake Town Hall, Twig, 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; followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Boyle opened the meeting to persons who wish to address the Board concerning issues not on the agenda. Ben DeNucci provided the Board with a handout regarding a resolution adopted by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners in support of distributing mineral leases between both Mesabi Metallics and Hibbing Taconite. Mr. DeNucci commented that it is expected that the Mesabi Metallics project in Itasca County will create approximately 1,000 construction jobs, 350 long-term jobs, and 700 indirect jobs. In addition, the economic benefits of the project over the mine life include revenues of over \$500 million to the school trust land fund, over \$300 million to Itasca County, and over \$100 million to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Amit Swarnkar, Managing Director, Global Projects – Metals and Mining, Essar Capital, provided the Board with an overview of the Mesabi Metallics project. Tom Bakk discussed the history of mineral leases and talked about the importance of producing value added iron pellets that can be fed into electronic arc furnaces. Bryana Salo discussed the interactions her family has had regarding the death of her brother, Ryan Moats. Ms. Salo commented that during a meeting with the County Attorney's Office in November of 2021, their family was told that they could reach out with any questions they may have. However, the family contacted the County Attorney's Office in April of 2022 and did not receive a response. Melissa Bell, of Duluth, requested that she be told who asked Commissioner Nelson to read a letter during the May 2, 2023, Board meeting and asked if Commissioner Nelson can tell her not to email him at his county email address. Ms. Bell said that she would be filing a grievance regarding the outcome of her appeal to the Board of Adjustment regarding the Planning Director's administrative determinations for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) BG-00012 at 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road, Duluth MN, 55803. Oly Olson, of Duluth, commented that it was illegal and unethical that rules were not followed during the approval process of the 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road CUP. Bruce Anderson, of Duluth, commented that a permit for asphalt recycling should not have been issued to Lakehead Trucking, Inc. (LTI) due to the issues at the McKeever gravel pit. Bonnie Anderson, of Duluth, read a quote from Thurgood Marshall.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Musolf, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to consider a resolution to enter into an agreement for Advanced Construction with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for improvements to County State Aid Highway 100 in White Township; the item has not been to committee. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Musolf, moved that pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of St. Louis County to accept as

its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects; and further, that the County Board Chair, County Auditor, Public Works Director and the Assistant County Attorney are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of St. Louis County to execute and enter into an Agreement, and any amendments to the Agreement, with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in MnDOT Contract Number 1052834, a copy of which said Agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference. Funds for CP 0100-398247, SP 069-700-020 will be receipted into Fund 220, Agency 220731, Object 540702. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi commented that the construction project will begin this year and funds will be available in 2025. After further discussion, the motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 23-295.

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

Gordon Ramsay, Sheriff, submitting Board Letter No. 23-210, Authorization to Apply for the 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Grant.—61958

Brian Fritsinger, Deputy Administrator, submitting HRA Board Letter No. 23-02, Appointment of St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Interim Executive Director.—61959

Ben DeNucci submitting Itasca County Board Resolution No. 2023-26 re: State Mineral Leases Proposed Distribution Near Nashwauk, and correspondence from Burl Ives, Chair of the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, to the Executive Council Members re: Itasca County Testimony, Executive Council – May 25, 2023, meeting date: Agenda Item #6 – Request to Approve Issuance of State Taconite Iron Ore Mining Leases in Itasca County to Cleveland-Cliffs Minnesota Land Development LLC.—61960

Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Harala, resolutions numbered 23-286 through 23-294, 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 May 9, 2023, are hereby approved.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-286

WHEREAS, The Legislature and Governor recognized the additional support needed to counties and tribal nations processing Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility through the resumption of renewals; and

WHEREAS, \$36 million was appropriated in law this session, Chapter 22, Section 4, Subd.1(3), where St. Louis County will receive \$1,287,260 for its share of enrollees; and

WHEREAS, These funds can be used for expenses that support MA renewals including implementation of renewal mitigation strategies for expenses prior to July 1, 2023, and with no deadline for expenditure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to accept \$1,287,260 in additional state funding through the Department of Human Services to reimburse eligible MA renewal costs.

BUDGET REFERENCE:

230-231014-530727-999999-999999999-9999

230-231014-629900-99999-999999999-9999  
230-231014-610000-99999-999999999-9999

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-287

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Health has made promising practice grant funds available for targeted home visiting programs; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Public Health worked together with the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board to submit a proposal for Heart-to-Heart, a targeted home visiting pilot program targeting better outcomes for women with hypertension in pregnancy and the postpartum period, together with St. Luke’s Birthing Center; and

WHEREAS, The service provision period covered under this grant is July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, where the funds will offset a portion of existing staff (.5 Public Health Nurse, .4 Public Health Program Coordinator, and .19 Public Health Supervisor).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to apply for and accept up to \$119,994 from the Minnesota Department of Health for the Promising Practices Grant with funding going through the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board.

BUDGET REFERENCE:

230-233999-540294-23385-999999999-2023  
230-233999-629900-23385-999999999-2023  
230-233999-610000-23385-999999999-2023

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-288

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 349.213, Subd. 2, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners approves the following Premise Permit Application, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61874, for the following organization:

Gnesen Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association, Duluth, Minnesota, to operate lawful gambling out of:

Lake Avenue Café – Island Lake, Inc. dba Lake Ave Drive Inn and Lake Effect Restaurant and Bar, Gnesen Township, 7055 Rice Lake Road, Duluth, MN, new.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-289

RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the applications for abatement, correction of assessed valuations and taxes plus penalty and interest, and any additional accrual, identified in County Board File No. 61875.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-290

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Approximately \$350 billion of the ARPA funding was allotted to assist state, local tribal, and territory governments in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Funds received are required to be used in accordance with the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) requirements as provided within the guidance issued by the United States Treasury:

- To respond to the public health emergency
- To address its negative economic impacts
- To serve the hardest hit

- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County has been awarded \$54,536,596 in ARPA funds to be used in accordance with the above requirements; and

WHEREAS, Range Transitional Housing (RTH) has addressed homeless needs in northern St. Louis County since 1993 and has serviced in excess of 1400 people in 2021 for homeless and at-risk individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, RTH maintains 90 serviceable units for homeless individuals and families throughout St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering effects has put additional stresses on family units and increased domestic abuse violence; and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2022, the County Board adopted Resolution No. 22-122 approving up to \$1,200,000 of funding assistance from the County's ARPA funds to develop up to five (5) family emergency housing units for such families on a parcel of property located at 214 5<sup>th</sup> Street North, Virginia, MN; and

WHEREAS, The impacts of supply chain, inflation and other items has resulted in a project funding shortfall of approximately \$800,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to an additional \$200,000 of American Rescue Act Plan funding for the construction of up to five (5) family emergency housing units by Range Transitional Housing.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That all construction and renovations shall be in compliance with local zoning regulations, state building code and accomplished using St. Louis County purchasing rules.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Range Transitional Housing 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.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the above project be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-291

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 a Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License is hereby approved, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61855:

Lake 14 & Lake Leander Club, Unorganized Township 60-19, Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License, for the date of July 1, 2023, renewal.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-292

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Ordinance No. 28, Section 11, Subdivision 11.06 authorization is hereby granted to K & E Enterprises Inc. dba The Munger Tavern & Grill, Solway Township, to sell/serve outside the designated serving area of the County Liquor License for the dates of June 21 - 23, 2023, as per application on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61855.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-293

WHEREAS, St. Louis County has the opportunity to apply for funding of up to \$200,000 through the 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, Grant funds would be used to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is looking to expand on the current mental health program by contracting with a specialized mental health and wellness provider to offer more robust programming to law enforcement, corrections staff, emergency communications staff and the rescue squad volunteers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the application to the 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Grant up to \$200,000 over a two-year grant period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025, to support the funding of a robust mental health and wellness program to be accounted for in Fund 100, Agency 129999, Grant 12956, Year 2023.

Adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-294

**BY COMMISSIONER McDONALD:**

WHEREAS, The County has prepared plans to complete improvements on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 100 between CSAH 4 and CSAH 99 in White Township, herein after referred to as the "Project" further identified as CP 0100-398247, SP 069-700-020, STBG 6923(035); and

WHEREAS, The County has received \$1,230,000.00 of Federal State Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds for the Project; and

WHEREAS, The County and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) need to enter into an agreement for advanced construction, which allows for 1) MnDOT to act as the agent in accepting the federal aid in connection with the project and 2) letting the project in 2023 before federal funds are available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of St. Louis County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the County Board Chair, County Auditor, Public Works Director and the Assistant County Attorney are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of St. Louis County to execute and enter into an Agreement, and any amendments to the Agreement, with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in MnDOT Contract Number 1052834, a copy of which said Agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That funds for CP 0100-398247, SP 069-700-020 will be receipted into Fund 220, Agency 220731, Object 540702.

Unanimously adopted May 23, 2023. No. 23-295

At 10:14 a.m., May 23, 2023, Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the Board  
of County Commissioners

Attest:

*Phil Chapman*

Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor / *Phil Chapman*  
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board *Deputy Auditor*  
of County Commissioners

(Seal of the County Auditor)