

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 27, 2021

Location: Proctor City Hall, Proctor, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Jewell moved to approve the consent agenda Item #2, Acceptance of MN DHS Housing and Support Services Grant to Develop Community Living Infrastructure [21-317] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of July 13, 2021
- Request to Apply for HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Funds [21-316]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [21-318]
- Lawful Gambling Application (Duluth Township) [21-319]
- Authorization to Apply for Depot Foundation Grant for St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center: Basement Buildout [21-320]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Dertinger / Housey and Schaeftbauer (Non-Homestead) [21-321]
- Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation [21-322]
- Consideration of Request for Free Conveyance of State Tax Forfeited Land to St. Louis County – Integrated Waste Management Facility [21-323]

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board invest and distribute up to \$5,183,159 in 2021-2024 American Recovery Act funds through its Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Department to support school districts and individual schools within St. Louis County to reengage students and get them back on track for academic success following the pandemic, and further, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes PHHS to enter into contracts with the University of Minnesota to provide *Check & Connect* implementation and management (training, program coordination, evaluation, coaching, technical support), and selected school districts and individual schools within St. Louis County for three years of funding to support mentors and coordinators beginning August 2021 through August 2024. [21-324]. St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Deputy Director Paula Stocke commented that truancy numbers are not available for last year due to COVID-related waivers; however, school districts have indicated that truancy was an issue. Deputy Director Stocke mentioned that PHHS contacted opt-out districts and many already had programs in place. In response to Commissioner Boyle's question regarding the type of applicants that were being considered, Deputy Director Stocke said that the agreements gave the districts flexibility for hiring mentors. County Administrator Kevin

Gray said that the agreements are purposeful with a 3-year window and funding would be available if opt-out districts decided to opt-in at a future date. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to accept grant funds in the amount of \$395,850 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Housing and Supports and Services Division for the 2021-2023 grant cycle including continued funding of Position Code G030-001, to enter into agreements with community partners and to increase the 2021 revenue and expense budget to reflect the awarded amount, with any unspent funds to be carried over into the 2022 and 2023 grant cycle. [21-324]. Commissioner Jewell asked for clarification as to who would be served by the grant and requested that the item be moved without recommendation. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Jugovich/McDonald moved that St. Louis County approves a grant in the amount up to \$1,200,000 to the St. Louis County Agricultural Fair Association for the purposes of constructing new buildings at the St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Chisholm, MN; that these funds be used exclusively for the construction of a cattle, sheep, goat & swine barn and rabbit, poultry & small animal buildings; and further, that the County Administrator and County Attorney are authorized to negotiate and execute appropriate agreements payable from Fund 403, Object 403002, or if determined eligible by the County and prioritized by the County Board, from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds or from other fund savings as a result of the County's receipt of ARPA funds. [21-325]. St Louis County Fair Board President Brian Toivola said that putting the tents up is a major project and it costs \$10,000 annually to put up the tents. Commissioner Nelson commented that this will help fulfill a 24-year promise by the Board to get the fairgrounds back to the operable condition it was in before the Board forced it to move to Chisholm. Chair Jugovich said that the buildings will enhance the experience for fairgoers and will make it much better for the animals. Commissioner McDonald commented that there are safety concerns for the handlers and animals due to excessive heat and lack of airflow inside the tents. Commissioner Musolf asked if this agreement would follow St. Louis County purchasing rules. Commissioner Nelson asked the maker of the motion if he wished to include St. Louis County purchasing rules requirements. Jugovich/McDonald revised the motion to require that St. Louis County purchasing rules are followed. Commissioner Nelson commented that the St. Louis County Fair Board would be following that protocol and using Building and Trades for construction. Commissioner Nelson noted that the St. Louis County Fair has the finest children's barn because it was it built by Building and Trades and volunteer labor. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/McDonald moved that the 2020-2022 Deputy Sheriff Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement is ratified, and the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services. [21-326]. Administrator Gray said that this was the final bargaining agreement to be approved and noted that this went to arbitration. In addition, insurance premiums are consistent with all other bargaining units. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson commented that he and former Commissioner Forsman volunteered to pour concrete for the St. Louis County Fair Children's barn. Commissioner Nelson noted that Dr. Jack (John)

Jordan passed away recently. Mr. Jordan donated over \$2 million in safety investments for the west side of Lake Vermilion, including contributions to the fire brigade and a contribution for the purchase of a fireboat.

Commissioner Musolf thanked the Board for meeting in Proctor and commented that City of Proctor Mayor Chad Ward sends warm wishes. Commissioner Musolf also thanked Representative Mary Murphy for attending the meeting.

At 10:55 a.m., Nelson/Boyle moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board