

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 5, 2023

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Harala/Grimm moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of August 8, 2023
- Acceptance of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) Grant Award and Enter into Contracts with Community-Based Providers [23-347]
- Acceptance of ZERO TO THREE Funding to Continue as an ITCP Evaluation Site and Supplement Existing Contracts with Community Providers [23-348]
- Cooperative Agreement with Lake County for 2024 Chip Sealing – CP 0000-669832 [23-349]
- Apply for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant for the Rock Ridge School Transportation Improvement Project – CP 0142-592214 [23-350]
- Apply for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) for the Rock Ridge School Transportation Improvement Project – CP 0142-592214 [23-351]
- City of Rice Lake Park Playground Improvement Project, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [23-352]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [23-353]
- St. Louis County Public Works – Jean Duluth Roof Collapse Temporary Cold Storage Building [23-354]
- Authorization to Apply and Accept 2024 DWI Officer Grant along with the addition of 1.0 Deputy FTE [23-355]
- Approval of Registered Land Survey No. 153 [23-356]
- Western Lake Superior Sanitary District 2023-2027 Household Hazardous Waste Contract [23-357]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Clyde Peterson and Karin Trygg Peterson (Morse Twp. 62-13) [23-358]
- Right-of-Way and Utility Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to City of Virginia (PID No.090-0137-00030) [23-359]
- Ruffed Grouse Society's Protection/Enhancement of Forest Habitats Project [23-360]
- Application for Class B Land Exchange (Sax Zim #3 Exchange) [23-361]
- Final Plat Approval of Breezy Bay, Section 1, Township 52N, Range 15W (Fredenberg) and Sections 35 and 36, Township 53N, Range 15W (Unorganized Township) [23-362]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Grimm/McDonald moved that pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 164.08, subd. 2., a public hearing shall be held Tuesday October 3, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. at the Duluth Courthouse, 100 N. 5th Ave. W., Duluth, 55802, to hear the cartway petition of Michael Clement. [23-363]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Harala/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves an amendment to the service agreement with Architecture Advantage, LLC of Duluth, MN, to raise the amount from \$599,875 to \$997,775 to complete all phases of the planning, analysis, predesign, design, preparation of construction bid documents, project administration, project commissioning and close out for the Depot's mechanical, electrical, plumbing infrastructure improvement project payable from Fund 400, Agency 400024 with funds transferred from Fund 403, Agency 403001. [23-364R]. Deputy County Administrator Brian Fritsinger commented that after completion of Phase I of the project, it was determined that the total project costs will be closer to \$16 million, compared to the original estimate of \$9 million. Due to the increased cost of the project and the discovery of the higher complexity of work involved, costs for Phase II and III for schematic design, design development, preparation of construction bid documents, project administration, project commissioning and close out has increased. St. Louis County Property Management Director Jerry Hall commented the project is strictly for HVAC and there is flexibility if there are future buildouts related to the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Angela Jivery as a regular member of the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission for a three-year term ending September 11, 2026; designates Julie Waltenburg as a regular member for the duration of her term on the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission ending November 4, 2025; appoints Alan Widell as an alternate member of the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission for a three-year term ending September 11, 2026. [23-365]. Commissioner Nelson noted that individuals serving on citizen committees are serving as volunteers and it is disappointing to hear negative comments regarding people who are volunteering their time. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoints Mark Baumann as a citizen advisory member of the St. Louis County Cooperative Extension Committee for a three-year term ending September 11, 2026. [23-366]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Jenny Bourbonais as the Virginia representative to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026; reappoints Paul Buckentin – Southern Townships and Jayme Heim – Rice Lake as representatives to the CDBG Advisory Board for three-year terms ending December 31, 2026; and further, appoints Paul Peltier, the Executive Director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), as a representative to the CDBG Advisory Board. [23-367]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Grimm moved that the Jail/911 Unit 2023 Worked Hours Reconciliation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is ratified, and the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute the

Memorandum of Understanding. [23-368]. Jim Gottschald, St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration, said that that a tight labor market resulted in a temporary suspension of employee's ability to take government leave. Because of this, there may be a negative impact to employees on the annual end-of-year reconciliation. The MOU will help mitigate any negative impact to employees. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Boyle moved that the 2023-2025 Merit Supervisory Unit contract is ratified, and county officials are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. [23-369]. Director Gottschald said the agreement is consistent with previous agreements and 10 out of 11 contracts have been settled. The motion passed. (7-0)

Commissioner Discussion Items and Reports

Commissioner Nelson noted that the bonding committee will be touring the area today and requested that commissioners continue to work with state representatives to get state funding for the county.

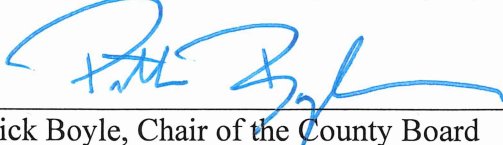
Commissioner Harala commented that there has been discussion between the county and the city of Duluth regarding encampments located on tax-forfeited land. Commissioner Harala said discussions have focused on responsibilities and encouraged commissioners to contact her to tour the areas of concern.

Commissioner Nelson said this is the third time in his tenure that the city of Duluth has approached the county regarding encampment issues and commented that the city needs to address the situation.

Commissioner McDonald said the bonding committee tour will include tours of The Depot, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Canyon and the Ash River Sanitary Sewer District. Commissioner McDonald noted that the Wirtanen Farm Fall Festival will take place on September 9, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Makinen. In addition, the Harvest Moon Festival will be taking place in Ely on September 8, 2023, through September 10, 2023.

Chair Boyle said the September 19, 2023, Board Workshop at Camp Esquagama may be rescheduled to October 17, 2023. Chair Boyle noted the Duluth and Hermantown delegation will be touring the Clarity Project, The Depot and 48-hour hold facilities on Friday.

At 10:53 a.m., Chair Boyle, supported by Commissioner Nelson, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

