

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,
HELD ON AUGUST 10, 2021**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 10th day of August 2021, at 9:31 a.m., at the Government Services Center, Virginia, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, Ashley Grimm, Paul McDonald, Keith Nelson and Chair Mike Jugovich - 6. Absent: Commissioner Keith Musolf - 1.

Chair Jugovich asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of all victims of violence, foreign and domestic; followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chair Jugovich acknowledged the effort and sacrifices that frontline workers have made during the pandemic.

Chair Jugovich opened the meeting to persons who wish to address the Board concerning issues not on the agenda, and no one came forth.

Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed; six yeas, zero nays, one absent (Musolf).

The Board recessed at 9:33 a.m. At 11:52 a.m., the Board reconvened with the following members present: Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, Ashley Grimm, Paul McDonald, Keith Nelson and Chair Mike Jugovich - 6. Absent: Commissioner Keith Musolf - 1.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Boyle, moved to approve a second consent agenda consisting of items passed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed; six yeas, zero nays, one absent (Musolf).

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to approve the proposed settlement and authorize the appropriate county officials to negotiate and execute appropriate settlement documents and to make the settlement payment contemplated by the proposed settlement in the amount of \$28,425.15 to Wendy Morrison-Thompson. The motion passed; six yeas, zero nays, one absent (Musolf). Resolution No. 21-480.

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

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, Julie Marinucci, Land and Minerals Director, and Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor/Treasurer, submitting Board Letter No. 21-333, Adjoining Owner Sales.—61533

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Todd Ells, County Veterans Service Officer, submitting Board Letter No. 21-339, Acceptance of County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant.—61534

Cancellations of Contract for Purchase of State Tax Forfeited Land (Defaults) approved during CY 2021.—61535

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, Julie Marinucci, Land and Minerals Director, and Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor/Treasurer, submitting Board Letter No. 21-353, Conveyance of State Tax Forfeited Land to Town of Morse.—61536

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Matthew Johnson, Planning and Community Development Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-355, Authorization to Apply for and Accept MN Board of Water & Soil Resources SSTS Abatement Grant.—61537

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, Jim Foldesi, Public Works Director/Highway Engineer, Wally Kostich, Arrowhead Regional Corrections Executive Director, and Julie Marinucci, Land and Minerals Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-356, Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of the Wellstone Memorial.—61538

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Matthew Johnson, Planning and Community Development Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-357, American Rescue Plan Act Funds, St. Louis County Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.—61539

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Matthew Johnson, Planning and Community Development Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-358, Approval of a Broadband Infrastructure Grant – Consolidated Telephone Corporation (CTC).—61540

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Mark Rubin, County Attorney, submitting Board Letter No. 21-360, Wendy Morrison-Thompson Settlement Agreement.—61541

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, Linnea Mirsch, Public Health and Human Services Director, and James Gottschald, Human Resources and Administration Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-361, Required Face Coverings in all St. Louis County Buildings.—61542

Agreement for Services between the County of St. Louis and Alliant Engineering, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, for Intersection Control Evaluation Studies on Rice Lake Road County State Aid Highway 4 (CP 0004-490685).—21-611

Department of Human Services SFY 2022 Housing Support Agreement – Group Settings, Contract No. 54159, between St. Louis County and Drew Shaine, LLC, Duluth, MN.—21-612

Department of Human Services SFY 2022 Housing Support Agreement – Group Settings, Contract No. 54079, between St. Louis County and Johnson Country Living, Floodwood, MN.—21-613

Agreement for Services between the County of St. Louis and LHB Corporation, Duluth, MN, for a stream restoration design consisting of a natural weir structure to a section of Prairie River located at County Bridge No. 136 (State Bridge No. 7717) crossing.—21-614

Tax Abatement Agreement 5721; Rev 1, between the County of St. Louis and the City of Duluth, for up to \$600,000 in tax abatement financing for the ST Paper 1, LLC plan to convert the existing Verso paper mill facility into a new manufacturing plant.—21-615

Amendment No. 2, Amendment No. 1 - 2020-013846, Original Damion No. 2019-013056, between the County of St. Louis and Oneida Realty Company, Duluth, MN, extending the term of the contract for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and amending the scope of service to janitorial services only at the Depot.—21-616

Service Contract between the County of St. Louis and Gausman & Moore, Duluth, MN, for specifications, bidding and construction administration services for the Virginia Government Services Center Emergency Generator project.—21-617

Upon motion by Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Jewell, resolutions numbered 21-441 through 21-455, as submitted on the consent agenda, were unanimously adopted as follows:

BY COMMISSIONER McDONALD:

RESOLVED, That the official proceedings of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners for the meeting of August 3, 2021, are hereby approved.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-441

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department is leading a project in 2022 to resurface County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 138 (Giants Ridge Road), beginning at MNTH 135 and ending at the end of pavement, which project is identified as SAP 069-738-009, CP 0138-367846; and

WHEREAS, Giants Ridge, which is a subsidiary of the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, requested improvements be made to an existing pedestrian crossing on CSAH 138, located 0.68 mile south of the end of pavement; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department reviewed this request and agreed to incorporate certain improvements to this pedestrian crossing in the roadway resurfacing project; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County will be responsible to construct pedestrian landings and install pavement markings whereas the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will be responsible for the cost to pave the trail on the east side of Giants Ridge Road that connects to this pedestrian crossing; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department will prepare the plan and specifications, award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, perform all necessary contract administration from contract award to certification of final payment, and perform all record keeping and construction inspection; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will pay to St. Louis County for their respective cost share as detailed in the plan at the contract unit prices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the appropriate county officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement, and approve any amendments approved by the County Attorney's Office, with the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) to complete pedestrian improvements on CSAH 138 (Giants Ridge Road). The funds received from the IRRR will be receipted into Fund 220, Agency 220613, Object 532304.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-442

WHEREAS, The Voyageur Country ATV Club (VCATV) has secured a State grant in the amount of \$154,300 from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) to complete work on various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV trail system located in St. Louis County, hereafter referred to as the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County shall act as the fiscal agent and contract administrator for the State grant funds for the Project; and

WHEREAS, The VCATV Club, or its Consultants, shall perform the planning, design, environmental permitting, and right-of-way acquisition for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Any Project costs in excess of the State grant funds are responsibility of the VCATV Club.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the execution of a grant with the State of Minnesota.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement, and any amendments approved by the County Attorney, with the VCATV Club to receive and administer the State grant to complete work on various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV system located in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Revenue for these grants will be receipted into the project specific Agency in Fund 220, Object 530818.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-443

WHEREAS, Four (4) ATV Clubs intend to complete a FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) in the amount of \$950,000 for improvements to various segments of each club's ATV trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota, hereafter referred to as the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is requested to act as the sponsoring agency for the Project grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR); and

WHEREAS, Each individual ATV Club will be responsible for all costs not covered by the IRRR grant for the Project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) of four (4) ATV Clubs to perform work on various segments of each trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota. Revenue for these grants will be receipted into the project specific Agency in Fund 220, Object 530818.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-444

WHEREAS, The Purchasing Division prepared a Request for Bids seeking qualified contractors to furnish, deliver and apply Calcium Chloride and bids were received and opened by the St. Louis County Purchasing Division on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, for the contract containing 38% Liquid Calcium Chloride; and

WHEREAS, 2021 has presented challenges with the low rainfall amounts resulting in drought conditions and significant dust on the gravel road network and in order to preserve and protect the existing roadways, it was determined increase product quantities would be necessary; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department has identified the need for increasing the furnished and delivered quantity by 200,000 gallons, a net increase of \$202,000.00, and increasing the bulked delivered quantity to 100,000, a net increase of \$97,000.00, will allow the completion of services requested plus treatment to areas originally not accounted for prior to the drought conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Board Resolution No. 21-290, adopted as on May 11, 2021, to hereby be amended as follows: To increase the total cost of liquid calcium chloride delivered and applied cost to \$1,070,000.00 plus increase alternates to a cost of \$147,000.00 for new total cost of \$1,217,000.00 payable from Fund 200, Agency 207001, and Object Code 653400.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-445

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department's 2021 budget includes purchase of sodium chloride (road salt) and alternative chemical deicer (brine solutions); and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department requested State Contact Pricing for road salt and brine solutions; and

WHEREAS, Morton Salt, Inc., of Chicago, Illinois, successful negotiated the lowest furnished and delivered price to 16 locations under State of Minnesota Contract 177615 in the amount of \$1,199,570.00; and

WHEREAS, Envirotech Services, Inc., and K-Tech Specialty Coatings, Inc., have selected from the State of Minnesota's multi-awarded contract to provide deicer alternatives at the estimated delivered cost of \$75,000.00.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the estimated purchase of salt at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Morton Salt, Inc., of Chicago, Illinois, for a maximum delivered cost of \$1,199,570.00, payable from Fund 200, Agency 207021, Object 651700.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board authorizes the purchase of brine at the State of Minnesota Contract price Envirotech Services, Inc., of Denver, Colorado, and K-Tech Specialty Coatings, Inc. of Ashley, Indiana, at the estimated delivered cost of \$75,000.00 payable from Fund 200 Agency 207001 Object 651700.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-446

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. 61426.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-447

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 an intoxicating liquor license is hereby approved, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61408.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That said license is approved contingent upon license holder paying real estate or personal property taxes when due.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if the named license holder sells their licensed place of business, the County Board may, at its discretion and after an investigation, transfer the license to a new owner, but without pro-rated refund of the license fee to the license holder.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That said license is approved contingent upon proof of Beatty Township approval.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That said license shall be effective through June 30, 2022:

Northern Financial Holdings, LLC dba Elbow Lake Lodge, Beatty Township,
On-Sale and Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License, transfer.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-448

RESOLVED, That pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 51, the application for license to sell tobacco products at retail, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61402, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is authorized to issue the license to the following establishment:

T. Musech Enterprises, Inc. dba Country Store, City of Cook, transfer.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if the named license holder sells their licensed business, the County Board may, at its discretion and after an investigation, transfer the license to a new owner, but without pro-rated refund of the license fee to the license holder.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-449

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Ordinance No. 28, Section 11, Subdivision 11.06, authorization is hereby granted to Authentic Property Investments, LLC dba Eagle's Nest Resort,

Fredenberg Township, to sell/serve outside the designated serving area of the County Liquor License for the date of August 25, 2021, as per application on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61408.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-450

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Ordinance No. 28, Section 11, Subdivision 11.06, authorization is hereby granted to Dawghouse Bar & Grill, LLC dba Dawghouse Bar & Grill, Northland Township, to sell/serve outside the designated serving area of the County Liquor License for the dates of September 10 - 12, 2021, as per application on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 61408.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-451

WHEREAS, St. Louis County received an amended petition for revocation of a portion of Savanna Road lying north of the intersection of Savanna Road/County Road 186 and Floodwood Road in the Town of Halden, St. Louis County, specifically revoking the portion of Savanna Road/County Road 186 beginning at the southern-most part of parcels 390-0010-00330 in the west and 390-0010-00120 in the east and running north until Savanna Road/County Road 186's terminus; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 163.11, Subd. 5, the County Board may, by resolution, revoke any County highway and the highway shall thereupon revert to the town in which it is located; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 163.11, Subd. 5a, and before adopting a resolution revoking a county highway that would revert to a town, the County Board shall fix a date, time, and place of hearing in the town where the highway is located to consider the revocation; and

WHEREAS, A public hearing on the Amended Petition was properly noticed and held on August 2, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Halden Township; and

WHEREAS, No parties appeared in opposition to the Petition; and

WHEREAS, A Consent to Vacation was signed by Chris Pulling and Allyn Clark, who are the only private property owners with land served by this right-of-way, and are attached to the Amended Petition; and

WHEREAS, Petitioner has executed an easement granting St. Louis County and other appropriate parties and entities continued access to the tax forfeit properties along the segment being revoked and vacated; and

WHEREAS, On July 20, 2021, Halden Township passed a Resolution waiving all rights to damages and claims under Minn. Stat. § 163.11 and immediately vacating this right-of-way under Minn. Stat. § 164.07 upon revocation by St. Louis County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 163.11, the County Board hereby revokes the following right-of-way, which shall revert to Halden Township:

All of the public road right-of-way lying north of the intersection of Savanna Road/County Road 186 and Floodwood Road in the Town of Halden, St. Louis County, specifically revoking the portion of Savanna Road/County Road 186 beginning at the southern-most part of parcels 390-0010-00330 in the west and 390-0010-00120 in the east and running north until Savanna Road/County Road 186's terminus.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the County Board shall send two (2) certified copies of this Resolution to the Halden Township Board of Supervisors.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-452

WHEREAS, William T. Foreman and Joanne E. Foreman have requested a 33-foot wide non-exclusive right-of-way easement across state tax forfeited land to access private property; and

WHEREAS, The easement encumbers 2.21 acres in the S ½ of Section 13, Township 52 North, Range 16 West; and

WHEREAS, There are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the property and exercising the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 4a, authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant easements across state tax forfeited land for such purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant a non-exclusive right-of-way easement to William T. Foreman and Joanne E. Foreman across state tax forfeited lands as described in County Board File No. 61411.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the granting of this easement is conditioned upon payment of \$2,211 land use fee, \$300 administration fee, plus \$46 recording fee, for a total of \$2,557 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-453

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board desires to offer for sale, as recommended by the Land Commissioner, certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, These parcels cannot be improved because they are less than the minimum size, shape, frontage and/or access required by the applicable zoning ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The County Auditor has determined that a non-public sale to adjacent property owners will promote the return of the lands to the tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, These parcels of land have been classified as non-conservation land pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01; and

WHEREAS, These parcels are not withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.016(c) authorizes the County Auditor to identify any person or entity, or entity controlled by such person, as a prohibited purchaser or bidder if said person or entity is delinquent on real or personal property taxes in St. Louis County. The prohibited purchaser or bidder condition applies to all sales of tax forfeited parcels that are offered at a public auction, adjoining property owner sales, and properties that are on past and future available land lists; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 4(c), authorizes the County Board to provide for the listing and sale of individual parcels by other means, including through a real estate broker, notwithstanding the public sale provisions in Minn. Stat. § 282.01 Subd. 7. This subdivision shall be liberally construed to encourage the sale and utilization of tax forfeited land in order to eliminate nuisances and dangerous conditions and to increase compliance with land use ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.135 authorizes the County Board to delegate to the County Auditor any authority, power, or responsibility relating generally to the administration of tax forfeited land, including developing the necessary policies and procedures to implement the sale of individual tax forfeited parcels by alternative methods as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 4(c).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the sale of the parcels described in County Board File No. 61533, and the County Auditor is authorized to offer the parcels at private sale to the adjacent property owners, with prohibited purchaser and bidder conditions, to encourage return of the parcel to the tax rolls. Funds from the sales are to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Land Commissioner shall give at least a 30-day notice of the sales to all adjoining property owners.

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board desires to offer for sale, as recommended by the Land Commissioner, certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, The parcels as described in County Board File No. 61473 have been classified as non-conservation as provided for in Minn. Stat. Chapter 282.01; and

WHEREAS, These parcels are not withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, Where approval by the Commissioner of Natural Resources is required, by Minn. Stat. § Chapter 282, such approvals have been obtained; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.016(c) authorizes the County Auditor to prohibit persons or entities from becoming a purchaser, either personally or as an agent or attorney for another person or entity, of tax forfeited properties offered for sale if the person or entity owns another property within the county for which there are delinquent taxes owing; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 4(c), authorizes the County Board to provide for the listing and sale of individual parcels by other means, including through a real estate broker, notwithstanding the public sale provisions in Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 7. This subdivision shall be liberally construed to encourage the sale and utilization of tax forfeited land in order to eliminate nuisances and dangerous conditions and to increase compliance with land use ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 13, authorizes the County Board, or the County Auditor if the Auditor has been delegated such authority, to sell tax forfeited lands through an online auction. When an online auction is used to sell tax forfeited lands, the County Auditor shall post a physical notice of the online auction and shall publish a notice of the online auction on its website not less than ten days before the online auction begins, in addition to any other notice required; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.135 authorizes the County Board to delegate to the County Auditor any authority, power, or responsibility relating generally to the administration of tax forfeited land, including developing the necessary policies and procedures to implement the sale of individual tax forfeited parcels by alternative methods as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 4(c);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to offer the state tax forfeited lands described in County Board File No. 61473 for sale at a public, online auction with prohibited purchaser and bidder conditions, starting at the fair market value in accordance with terms set forth in the Land and Minerals Department policy, and in a manner provided for by law. Funds from the auction are to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-455

Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Boyle, resolutions numbered 21-456 through 21-479, as submitted on a second consent agenda, were unanimously adopted as follows:

BY COMMISSIONER NELSON:

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 authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to accept grant funding in the amount of \$880,900 from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program for the time period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Public Health and Human Services staff are authorized to follow the recommendations of the FHPAP Review Committee, enter into agreements with sub-grantees accordingly, and increase the revenue and expense budget in 2021 with any adjustments to be made in the 2022 and 2023 budgets accordingly if there are any unspent funds or overspent funds not to exceed the grant funding of \$880,900.

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 530701, Grant 23204, Year 2021

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 629900, Grant 23204, Year 2021

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 607200, Grant 23204, Year 2021

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-456

WHEREAS, During the 2013 Legislative Session, the structure of the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant program was modified and state funding increased to provide an annual base grant to all 87 Minnesota counties in the amount of \$7,500, plus an additional allocation based on each counties' veterans population to be used for the purpose of enhancing the benefits programs and services provided to Minnesota veterans; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2021, St. Louis County received notice from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) that the County Veterans Office Operational Enhancement Grant was allocated in the amount of a \$7,500 base grant and an additional \$10,000 based upon the estimated veterans population residing in the county; and

WHEREAS, Counties have until June 30, 2022, to spend the allocated money on qualified items, and by that date, the funds must be spent, documentation of the qualified expenditures received by the MDVA, and any unused funds returned; and

WHEREAS, In order to access the grant funding, a certified County Board Resolution and signed Grant Contract must be received by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a grant contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to accept the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$17,500.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in Minn. Stat. § 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subd. 2, and that this Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Veterans Service Office 2021 adopted budget is amended to include receipt of \$17,500 from the MNDVA, with funds deposited into Fund 100, Agency 124999, Grant 12403, Year 2021.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-457

WHEREAS, Frederic D. and Marlene J. Miller, F & M Miller Family Trust, and Brice Miller have requested a 33-foot wide non-exclusive right-of-way easement across state tax forfeited land to access private property; and

WHEREAS, There are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the property and exercising the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 4a authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant easements across state tax forfeited land for such purposes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant a non-exclusive right-of-way easement to Frederic D. and Marlene J. Miller, F & M Miller Family Trust, and Brice Miller across state tax forfeited lands as described in County Board File No. 61411.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the granting of this easement is conditioned upon payment of a \$594 land use fee, \$150 administration fee, plus \$46 recording fee, for a total of \$790 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-458

WHEREAS, Terry E. Thene has requested a 33-foot wide non-exclusive right-of-way and utility easement across state tax forfeited land to access private property; and

WHEREAS, The easement encumbers 0.228 acres in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 14, Township 53 North, Range 14 West; and

WHEREAS, There are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the property and exercising the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 4a, authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant easements across state tax forfeited land for such purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the St. Louis County Auditor to grant a non-exclusive right-of-way and utility easement to Terry E. Thene across state tax forfeited lands as described in County Board File No. 61411.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the granting of this easement is conditioned upon payment of \$228 land use fee, \$150 administration fee, plus \$46 recording fee, for a total of \$424 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund).

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-459

WHEREAS, The contract with David Scott Nordlund and Amanda I. Nordlund of Mt. Iron, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchasers were properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF MT IRON

NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 EX S 1/2 OF N 1/2 & EX N 1/2 OF NE 1/4 AND EX S 1/2 OF SE 1/4 AND EX S 1/2, Section 33, Township 58 North, Range 18 West

Parcel code: 175-0071-04890

C22160198; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with David Scott Nordlund and Amanda I Nordlund of Mt. Iron, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any

current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-460

WHEREAS, The contract with John P. LeMoyne of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF EVELETH

LOT: 0005 BLOCK: 001, STATE ADDITION TO EVELETH

Parcel code: 040-0170-00050

C22160204; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with John P. LeMoyne of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-461

WHEREAS, The contract with Tanya Lee Catlin of Hibbing, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF HIBBING

LOT: 0031 BLOCK: 008, BROOKLYN

Parcel code: 140-0050-01030

C22170128; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Tanya Lee Catlin of Hibbing, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-462

WHEREAS, The contract with Lance Lee Dement and Denise Marie Dement of Hoyt Lakes, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchasers were properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF AURORA

LOTS 16 AND 17, BLOCK 1, HOLLAND ADDITION CITY OF AURORA

Parcel code: 100-0042-00160

C22170129; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Lance Lee Dement and Denise Marie Dement of Hoyt Lakes, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-463

WHEREAS, The contract with Lance Lee Dement and Denise Marie Dement of Hoyt Lakes, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchasers were properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF AURORA

LOTS 1 THRU 8 and LOT 9 EX E 66 FT, BLOCK 4,

SUNSET ACRES 3RD ADDITION TO AURORA

Parcel codes: 100-0071-00280,00360

C22170377; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Lance Lee Dement and Denise Marie Dement of Hoyt Lakes, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-464

WHEREAS, The contract with Edward V. Enquist of Biwabik, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract for lands legally described as:

CITY OF BIWABIK

LOT: 0003 BLOCK: 010, BIWABIK

Parcel code: 015-0010-00460

C22170252; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Edward V. Enquist of Biwabik, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-465

WHEREAS, The contract with Lewis L. Lester, IV, of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by publication. The cancellation is contingent upon the purchaser failing to cure the default for lands legally described as:

UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP 56-16

N 200 FT OF W 450 FT OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 and S 100 FT OF N 300 FT OF W 450 FT OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4, Section 9, Township 56 North, Range 16 West

Parcel codes: 676-0010-01412 and 676-0010-01414

C22170306; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Lewis L. Lester, IV, of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-466

WHEREAS, The contract with Lewis L. Lester, IV of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by publication. The cancellation is contingent upon the purchaser failing to cure the default for lands legally described as:

CITY OF DULUTH

S 35 FT OF N 105 FT OF LOTS 2 AND 4 EX PART SELY OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A PT 105 FT S OF N LINE & 17 FT W OF E LINE OF LOT 4 TO A PT ON E LINE 88 FT S OF NE COR OF LOT 4 INC S 35 FT OF N 140 FT OF LOTS 2 & 4 EX PART SELY OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A PT 140 FT S OF N LINE & 48.10 FT NELY OF W LINE TO A PT 105 FT S OF N LINE & 17 FT W OF E LINE LOT 4 INC THAT PART OF LOT 6 NWLY OF A LINE RUNNING FROM A PT ON NELY LINE 41 FT SELY OF NELY COR TO A PT ON SWLY LINE 85.68 FT SELY OF NWLY COR, BLOCK 116, DULUTH PROPER THIRD DIVISION

Parcel code: 010-1350-06050

C22170308; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Lewis L. Lester, IV, of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-467

WHEREAS, The contract with Estate of Leigh Ann Surla of Eveleth, MN, for the repurchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by publication. The cancellation is contingent upon the purchaser failing to cure the default for lands legally described as:

TOWN OF FAYAL

LOT: 0046, ELY LAKE SOUTHWOOD

Parcel code: 340-0087-00460

C22180035; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Estate of Leigh Ann Surla of Eveleth, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-468

WHEREAS, The contract with Wayne Kraabel of Virginia, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land is in default for nonpayment of installments and real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, The purchaser was properly served with Notice of Cancellation of Contract by publication. The cancellation is contingent upon the purchaser failing to cure the default for lands legally described as:

CITY OF EVELETH

LOT: 0012, BLOCK: 075, DORR ADDITION TO EVELETH

Parcel code: 040-0080-00130

C22180234; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 2(d), authorizes the County Auditor, with the approval of the County Board, to dispose of or sell abandoned personal property on tax forfeited land after making reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the cancellation of contract with Wayne Kraabel of Virginia, MN, for the purchase of state tax forfeited land described above, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 5, and Minn. Stat. § 282.40, and according to the procedures of Minn. Stat. § 559.21.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of abandoned personal property remaining on the above-described state tax forfeited property after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, and any current occupants.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-469

WHEREAS, The state tax forfeited parcels described in County Board File No. 61483 are currently included in an established memorial forest; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 459.06, Subd. 3, state tax forfeited land which has been included in an established memorial forest and found more suitable for other purposes may, by resolution of the County Board, be withdrawn from the forest if the Commissioner of Natural Resources approves the sale of such land; and

WHEREAS, The state tax forfeited parcels described here are more suitable for purposes other than forest management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the state tax forfeited parcels described in County Board File No. 61483 shall be withdrawn from Memorial Forest status.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-470

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a(e), upon the favorable recommendation of the County Board, the Commissioner of Revenue may convey state tax forfeited land to another governmental subdivision for an authorized public use without monetary compensation or consideration; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Morse wishes to acquire tax forfeited parcel 395-0010-03121 as described in County Board File No. 61536 for road right-of-way purposes; and

WHEREAS, This parcel of land has not been withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, This parcel of land has been classified as non-conservation land pursuant to Minnesota Stat. § 282.01.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board recommends that the Commissioner of Revenue convey the state tax forfeited land parcel described in County Board File

No. 61536 to the Town of Morse, subject to payment of \$250 Department of Revenue fee, \$250 administrative fee, \$1.65 deed tax, \$25 deed fee, and \$46 recording fee, for a total of \$572.65.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-471

WHEREAS, The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has requested to purchase state tax forfeited land located within the Fond du Lac Reservation described in County Board File No. 61473; and

WHEREAS, The 1985 legislature passed into law Chapter 138, Section 5, which gave the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa the first opportunity to purchase tax forfeited land to be sold within the Reservation boundary; and

WHEREAS, These parcels of land have been classified as non-conservation land as provided for in Minn. Stat. Chapter 282.01; and

WHEREAS, These parcels of land have not been withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Natural Resources has approved the sale of these parcels as required by Minn. Stat. Chapter 282.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the sale of state tax forfeited land described in County Board File No. 61473 to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for the estimated market value of \$89,200 plus the following fees: 3% assurance fee of \$2,676, deed fee of \$25, deed tax of \$294.36, and recording fee of \$46, for a total of \$92,241.36, to be deposited into Fund 240 (forfeited tax fund).

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-472

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) 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 Systems (SSTS) identified as Imminent Threats to Public Health; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Environmental Services Department has previously applied for, and received, funding through this grant in 2016 and 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Planning and Community Development Department to apply for and accept up to \$200,000 in grant funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Clean Water Fund to assist low-income households in St. Louis County with the abatement and upgrade of subsurface sewage treatment systems identified as Imminent Threats to Public Health. Funds will be deposited into Fund 286, Agency 286999, Revenue 530102, Grant 28601, Year 2022, or its designated fund.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That should the grant application be successful, matching funds in the amount of 25% will be provided from the Environmental Trust Fund (Shoreline Sales Fund 500, Agency 500001), or its designated fund.

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

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-473

WHEREAS, St. Louis County and the Friends of the Wellstone Memorial wish to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the Wellstone Memorial remains a fitting and inspirational affirmation of the legacy of Paul and Sheila Wellstone, and a loving tribute to their daughter Marcia Wellstone Markuson, their colleagues Mary McEvoy, Tom Lapic, and Will McLaughlin; all of whom died in a plane crash near the site of the Memorial on October 25, 2002; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County will coordinate periodic maintenance of the Memorial site as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of the Wellstone Memorial will use their best efforts to raise sufficient funds to maintain the historic placards located at the Memorial as needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes St. Louis County to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wellstone Group to ensure the Wellstone Memorial is properly maintained into the future and remains a fitting tribute to the Wellstone family and colleagues.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-474

WHEREAS, High-speed internet broadband service has become vital to St. Louis County's economy; and

WHEREAS, There are unserved and underserved broadband service areas of St. Louis County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, The County has identified the need to establish a St. Louis County Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to assist communities with financing broadband infrastructure to expand investment in high-speed broadband initiatives in their communities to unserved or underserved areas in St. Louis County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, The County has previously identified economic development as a strategic priority; and

WHEREAS, The County seeks to invest up to \$1,750,000 in 2021-2024 American Rescue Plan Act Funds in broadband infrastructure projects of which is allowed under the Act; and

WHEREAS, The County also has statutory authority through Minn. Stat. § 375.83 to make such a contribution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the establishment of the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program per Board File No. 61539.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board approves initial funding of up to \$1,750,000 in funds for the program from an allocation of St. Louis County's American Rescue Plan Act.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board 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 in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054 or its designated fund.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-475

WHEREAS, High-speed internet broadband service has become vital to St. Louis County's economy and is an important public infrastructure for all residents, businesses and public facilities within St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, There are unserved and underserved broadband service areas in St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, The County has established a St. Louis County Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to assist communities with financing broadband public infrastructure to expand investment in high-speed broadband initiatives in their communities to unserved or underserved areas in St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, The County has received a Consolidated Telephone Corporation (CTC) request, in partnership with the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC), the City of Rice Lake, and the Towns of Canosia, Gnesen, Lakewood, and Normanna, to St. Louis County's Broadband Infrastructure Grant program in the amount up to \$400,000 to provide a grant match to a federal program application for a broadband public infrastructure construction project for these jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, CTC is in the process of working with these communities and applying to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program to help financially support this approximately \$10 million dollar broadband public construction project; and

WHEREAS, If awarded, it may be required under Minn. Stat. §§ 116J.993 through 116J.995, Business Subsidy Law, that a public hearing be conducted prior to granting any business subsidy in an amount greater than \$150,000 in value, if applicable; and

WHEREAS, Funding is available through St. Louis County's Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program, which is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, The County has previously identified economic development as a strategic priority; and

WHEREAS, The County has statutory authority through Minn. Stat. § 375.83 to make such a contribution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program application from Consolidated Telephone Corporation (CTC) in the amount up to \$400,000 to be used as part of a federal funding grant match for the broadband public infrastructure construction project in the City of Rice Lake and the Towns of Canosia, Gnesen, Lakewood, and Normanna.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes appropriate county officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents as necessary to administer the program, comply with American Rescue Plan Act, and fund projects, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054, or its designated fund.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes that if the funds are not awarded by NTIA, that the project funds are placed back into St. Louis County's Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program pool of funds for other broadband project awards.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That should it be determined that a public hearing be required under Minn. Stat. §§ 116J.993 through 116J.995, such hearing will be held only after it is determined if CTC is successful in its NTIA grant application.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-476

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Regional Landfill (Landfill) opened in November 1993 and provides Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal to the County's Solid Waste Management Area (SWMA); and

WHEREAS, Absent additional improvements and investment, the Landfill capacity is projected to last another twenty years, based on current fill rates; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Services Department (Department) has evaluated alternative waste disposal options for the SWMA after the Landfill reaches permitted ultimate capacity, including the siting of a MSW landfill sized to serve the SWMA, with capability to serve the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, neighboring counties and closed dumps and landfills, should conditions warrant; and

WHEREAS, The Department selected for consideration the Voyageur Industrial Landfill site in Canyon; and

WHEREAS, The Department has retained the services, on an as needed basis, of Stoel Rives, LLP, a nation-wide legal consulting firm with an office in Minneapolis that focuses, in part, on providing guidance to public sector entities in Minnesota related to environmental, land use and solid waste issues involving regulatory compliance, due diligence and negotiation related to facility and property transfers, and siting, permitting and development of solid waste facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Department contracted with Stoel Rives, LLP, earlier this year to conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment of the Voyageur Industrial Landfill in Canyon to determine

if the landfill warrants further consideration as a critical component of the Department's long-range waste management plan; and

WHEREAS, Based on the environmental assessment results, the Department requested and received a proposal from Stoel Rives, LLP, to conduct a real property appraisal and title search, and to assist the Department with property acquisition discussions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate County Officials to enter into a professional services agreement with Stoel Rives, LLP, to conduct a real property appraisal and title search, and property acquisition assistance of the Voyageur Industrial Landfill at a cost of \$199,000 payable from Fund 600, Agency 608001, and Object 660268.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-477

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b), the Committee of the Whole may close a meeting as permitted by the attorney-client privilege; and

WHEREAS, The County Attorney requires candid and open discussion to provide legal advice to the Committee of the Whole with respect to a proposed settlement and litigation strategy relating to *Morrison-Thompson v. Straw*, a state-court action arising from a motor-vehicle accident that occurred at the intersection of U.S. Highway 53 and East Leander Road (also known as County State Aid Highway 87) in Angora Township in January 2015, in a closed session of the Committee of the Whole; and

WHEREAS, A closed session would benefit the public because potential financial liability could result in the expenditure of public funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee of the Whole will convene a closed session on August 10, 2021, for the purpose of discussing the proposed settlement and litigation strategy relating to *Morrison-Thompson v. Straw* in accord with Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b).

RESOLVED FURTHER, That no other pending public business will be discussed at this closed session.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-478

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization deemed COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a Presidential National Emergency, and Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency in Minnesota, to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Due to available vaccine and resulting decrease in reported cases Governor Tim Walz did not renew the Peacetime Emergency in Minnesota and the St. Louis County Board, on July 6, 2021, adopted Resolution No. 21-398 terminating its local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Because of the continuing and increasing spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends that face coverings be worn indoors in public spaces in locations where there is "substantial" or "high" transmission rate of the virus; and

WHEREAS, The CDC has subsequently identified a new COVID variant (Delta) that has been found to be more easily transmittable, even within the vaccinated population; and

WHEREAS, The CDC COVID tracker now indicates that the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in St. Louis County is "substantial"; and

WHEREAS, On August 2, 2021, the Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge issued an order that face coverings be worn in the courtrooms and in publicly accessible areas/hallways in and adjacent to the courtrooms and Court Administration offices in all St. Louis County Courthouses; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board finds that the COVID-19 Delta variant is concerning and with the potential for outbreak in St. Louis County increasing, the need for taking

steps to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and its employees will not be resolved in the immediate future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners, effective immediately, directs the County Administrator (or designee) to institute a face covering requirement for all county employees and visitors to county facilities, regardless of vaccination status, when inside facilities and offices owned or operated by the county, and for employees when they are conducting in-person county meetings away from county owned facilities in the course of their work.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a face covering requirement so implemented, be reviewed for ongoing necessity and actively managed (paused and reinstated) by the County Administrator, in consultation with the Board Chair, until the end of the COVID-19 public health crisis or rescission by County Board action.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That County Administration shall report all COVID-related information to the County Board on a weekly basis including but not limited to location, type of institutions involved, and number of tests performed.

Adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-479

BY COMMISSIONER NELSON:

WHEREAS, In August 2020, Wendy Morrison-Thompson commenced *Morrison-Thompson v. Straw*, a state-court action against St. Louis County and one of its employees arising from a motor-vehicle accident that occurred at the intersection of U.S. Highway 53 and East Leander Road (also known as County State Aid Highway 87) in Angora Township in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, The parties to the action have agreed to a proposed settlement of the action that is subject to the approval of the St. Louis County Board; and

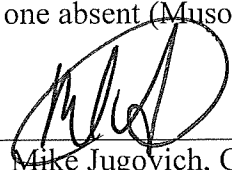
WHEREAS, Under the proposed settlement, Ms. Morrison-Thompson will release her claims against St. Louis County and its officers, employees, and agents, and St. Louis County will make a settlement payment in the amount of \$28,425.15; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board wishes to approve the proposed settlement to avoid the expense and risk associated with litigation.

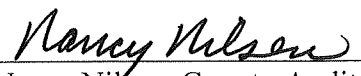
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the proposed settlement and authorizes the appropriate county officials to negotiate and execute appropriate settlement documents and to make the settlement payment contemplated by the proposed settlement in the amount of \$28,425.15, payable from Fund 720, Agency 720001, Expense Code 636200.

Unanimously adopted August 10, 2021. No. 21-480

At 11:54 a.m., August 10, 2021, Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; six yeas, zero nays, one absent (Musolf).


Mike Jugovich, Chair of the Board
of County Commissioners

Attest:


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

(Seal of the County Auditor)