

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

February 1, 2022

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Musolf

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Boyle/Jugovich moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #4, Sale of Tax Forfeited Land to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa [22-61] was pulled for separate consideration. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

- Minutes of January 25, 2022
- Request to Accept the Housing Fund for Individuals Experiencing or at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness Award [22-58]
- Cancellation of Forfeiture List for Board Approval [22-59]
- Special Sale to the City of Rice Lake [22-60]
- Public Sale of Shoreland Lease Lots [22-62]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Young / Hanson, Hill and McArthur Homestead [22-63]

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## **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase order for the installation of nine dump bodies with hydraulic systems from Towmaster Inc. of Litchfield, MN for \$239,139. [22-64]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of Base One material for the 2022 CIP from Team Lab Chemical Corporation of Detroit Lakes, MN for \$441,075.25. [22-65]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Nelson/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., Grand Rapids, MN, in the amount of \$2,715,865.61 for project CP 0141-493350 (Low); CP 0145-493352 (Tied), Road Construction on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 141 between Garfield St. and CSAH 142 (Grant Ave.); CSAH 145 between Fayal Rd. and Jackson St in Eveleth. [22-66]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

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## **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

McDonald/Jewell moved That the St. Louis County Board approves the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid; and further, that the appropriate County officials are authorized to execute contracts

negotiated by the Planning and Community Development Director and a representative of the County Attorney in order to implement the aid program. [22-67]. Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger noted that the program has expended over \$5 million. On-Site Wastewater Manager Ryan Logan read a statement from Anita Provinzino, District Administrator of North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, and noted that staff recommended funding for all nine applications that were received. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Jewell/Nelson moved to approve the sale of state tax forfeited land to the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for the estimated market value of \$109,100 plus the following fees: 3% assurance fee of \$3,273, deed fee of \$25, deed tax of \$360.03, and recording fee of \$46, for a total of \$112,804.03. [22-61]. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger said that according to state law, the band legally has the first option to purchase the property. Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci said that the City of Brookston was interested in acquiring the property to expand their campground; however, no official communication has been received from the city. Commissioner Nelson said that the county portion of the sale should be given to the city and township because the parcels will be permanently removed from the tax rolls. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Musolf absent)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson recognized the Virginia Fire and Police Departments, the St. Louis County Public Health Department, and the St. Louis County Rescue Squad for their efforts in evacuating two large senior housing units in Virginia that lost heat during one of the coldest nights of the year. Even with COVID restrictions, they were able to evacuate the buildings in a short time.

Commissioner Jugovich noted that the state legislature session started yesterday. The forecasted budget surplus for the State of Minnesota is \$7.7 billion and could be as high as \$8.8 billion. Commissioner Jugovich encouraged citizens to get involved and talk to their representatives regarding potential projects.

Commissioner Jewell said that construction crews cut a main gas line in the City of Duluth during the I-35 construction. Citizens of the eastern portion of the City of Duluth were asked to turn their thermostat to 62 degrees for a few days while the line was repaired. The repair took longer than expected because specialists were out sick with COVID.

Chair McDonald commented that Senator David Tomassoni is battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and received a standing ovation as he walked into the Senate Chamber with his sons Dante and Dan. Chair McDonald asked the everyone keep Senator Tomassoni in their thoughts and prayers.

At 11:01 a.m., Commissioner Jugovich, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)



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Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board