

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 28, 2022

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of June 14, 2022
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way for CP 7992-398713, SAP 069-599-049 by Eminent Domain Proceedings [22-284]
- Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Biwabik to Receive and Disburse the Transportation Alternatives Federal Aid Funds for the City of Biwabik (CP 0000-597354, SAP 069-596-015) [22-285]
- Professional Services Agreement with Sambatek for CP 0142-592214 [22-286]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-287]
- Abolishment of Obsolete Job Classification Titles [22-288]
- Joint Powers Agreement – Anti-Heroin Task Force Program [22-289]

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an amendment of the professional services contract with McGough Construction of Duluth, MN, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) services, with a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Public Works county-wide improvements construction project in an amount not to exceed \$23,430,123.68. Funding is available in Fund 450, Agencies 450002 (Culver), 450003 (Kugler) and 450004 (Whiteface), Object 660266, with costs split between these three agencies. [22-290]. St. Louis County Public Works Deputy Director Brian Boder commented that the combined cost for all three buildings is approximately \$23 million. Commissioner Nelson stressed the importance of completing the projects according to the original specifications. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of Property and Related Insurance coverage on major structures and equipment, amended contents, and boiler and machinery from Chubb Group of Insurance Companies through Otis-Magie Insurance Agency of Duluth, MN, for the period July 24, 2022, to July 24, 2023, at the annual premium of \$425,834.83 payable from Fund 720 (Property, Casualty, Liability), Agency 720001 (Property, Casualty, Liability), Object 635100 (Insurance); and further, that the Purchasing Division is authorized to add or delete county properties to the policy or increase the base amount on future determination of valuation of county structures during the policy period. [22-291]. St. Louis County Purchasing Director Donna Viskoe noted that Bob Heimbach will be retiring this summer and Chris James, from Otis-Magie Insurance, Inc., and Kristi Anton, St. Louis County Procurement Specialist Senior, will be handling the county's insurance needs going forward. Kristi Anton said that the premium proposal is \$425,834.83. Bob Heimbach, Account Executive at Otis-Magie Insurance, Inc., said that the premium increased by approximately 2%; however, this was offset by \$10.6 million in new construction and an increase in building values due to inspections. Mr. Heimbach noted the average increase for the market is between 7% and 10%. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 11:08 a.m. At 11:09 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

Musolf/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a Broadband Infrastructure Grant program award in the amount up to \$345,000 to Lakewood Township to be used for a broadband public infrastructure construction project in the Township, and authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents as necessary to administer the program, comply with the American Rescue Plan Act and fund projects, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054 or its designated fund. Further, Lakewood Township and Mediacom, LLC 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 required under the American Rescue Plan Act. [22-292]. Diane Holiday-Welsh, Board Chair Lakewood Township, thanked the Board for their support and said that currently 90% of the township is underserved, and 95% of the township will have access to broadband as a result of the project. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to levy for the furnishing of fire protection and/or first responder services in identified unorganized territories within the county beginning January 1, 2023, and to authorize the agreements with the listed corporations for the provision of these services with funds being accounted for in Fund 148, Agency 148001, Object 699100. [22-293]. County Auditor Nancy Nilsen said that the county is responsible for providing fire protection to unorganized territories. Deputy Auditor Phil Chapman noted the work of Brenda George to contact the fire departments and compile the information, and commented that the 4.42% increase is in line with previous years. Deputy Auditor Chapman noted that many departments asked for an increase due to inflation and increased fuel costs. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/McDonald/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an additional contribution to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) in the amount of \$5,000 for use associated with The Wall that Heals. [22-294]. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a one-time financial assistance grant contribution in the amount of up to \$36,000 to Visit Grand Rapids, fiscal agent to the multi-organizational partnership, to implement the Northern Minnesota Mine Tour Project; and further, that if necessary, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials execute appropriate funding agreement(s) and associated documents. [22-295]. Megan Christianson, Executive Director of Visit Grand Rapids, provided the Board with an overview of the project. Director Christianson noted that the project includes 32 communities and covers more than 40 mining areas. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Grimm/McDonald moved the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of 14 sit-stand Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consoles in the amount of \$389,882.88, payable from Fund 179, Agency 179001, Object 640300, and flooring materials furnished and installed from Russ Bassett in the amount \$138,500, also payable from Fund 179, Agency 179001, Object 640300, for a total estimated project value of \$528,382. [22-296]. St. Louis County Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky said that the current consoles are 15 years old and the average life is 10 years. Undersheriff Lukovsky said that the call center is open 24/7 and takes over 200,000 calls annually. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners hereby declares a State of Local Disaster in St. Louis County, MN, due to conditions resulting from severe Spring storms starting May 29, 2022, and request state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 12B.30 for any eligible storm recovery activities. [22-299]. County Administrator Kevin Gray recognized the work of the Emergency Management Team and said that the resolution will allow for potential state and federal assistance. The motion passed. (7-0)

A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 12:00 p.m. At 12:12 p.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Environmental Services Department to accept \$446,000 in grant funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for a Fiscal Year 2022 Minnesota Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to fund the Regional Landfill Leachate Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Reduction Demonstration Project. [22-297]. St. Louis County Environmental Services Director Dave Fink said that the project has nation-wide implications and the project will try to replicate the pilot project on a larger scale. Director Fink commented that they test for 200 parameters. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the quote from Mesabi Bituminous Inc. for \$137,860.50 to construct two (2) demonstration project wetland treatment ponds at the Regional Landfill, payable from American Rescue Plan Fund 239, Agency 239200. [22-298]. The motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jugovich urged everyone to be safe when celebrating the Independence Day holiday.

TIME SPECIFIC PRESENTATIONS:

At 12:32 p.m., St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger continued the budget presentation from the June 14, 2022, meeting. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger said that the lack of a tax/bonding bill will have impacts to St. Louis County and county administration is looking for Board feedback regarding the baseline budget.

At 1:03 p.m., Jewell/Jugovich moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McDonald", written over a horizontal line.

Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Chapman", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board