

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,  
HELD ON MAY 25, 2021**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, at 9:32 a.m., at the Grand Lake Town Hall, Saginaw, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, Ashley Grimm, Paul McDonald, Keith Musolf, Keith Nelson and Chair Mike Jugovich - 7. Absent: None - 0.

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.

Commissioner Jewell commented on gun violence and noted that a shooting occurred last Sunday near his home. A young man was murdered by a seventeen year old who had been carrying guns, wandering the neighborhood, and shooting at people over the last two years.

The Board proclaimed May 25, 2021, as Walter Beckman Day in St. Louis County, Minnesota. Commissioner Nelson commented that Mr. Beckman has spent his entire life in public service and has set an example when dealing with adversity in his life. Commissioner Nelson noted that even though Mr. Beckman has two prosthetic legs, he continues to cut and split wood. Mr. Beckman thanked the Board for the recognition and commented that the doctor was amazed at how far he was able to walk when he received his first prosthetic leg.

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

At 9:45 a.m., a public hearing was conducted pursuant to Resolution No. 21-296, adopted May 11, 2021, to solicit public input prior to considering a request for tax abatement financing to the City of Duluth to assist the ST Paper 1, LLC plan to purchase and convert the existing Verso paper mill facility into a new manufacturing plant. St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Deputy Director Darren Jablonsky said that ST Paper 1, LLC is proposing to convert the existing Verso Paper mill facility into a tissue paper manufacturing plant. The total project investment will be in excess of \$42 million. The current annual real estate taxes paid to St. Louis County is over \$912,000 annually, with estimated annual gross sales of approximately \$84.6 million. City of Duluth Planning and Economic Development Director Chris Fleege said that the City of Duluth approved a \$600,000 tax abatement a few weeks ago and project labor agreements are in place. Ron Thiry, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ST Paper, LLC, commented that ST Paper, LLC operates other facilities in Oconto Falls, WI, and Franklin, VA. Mr. Thiry said that the plant will employ approximately 80 full-time employees once the facility is operational. Chair Jugovich asked if there were any opponents or citizens who wished to speak regarding the proposed action, and no one came forth. At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to close the public hearing. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes up to \$600,000 tax abatement financing to the City of Duluth, payable from Fund 100, Agency 178001, Object 500900 or its designated fund; and further, that the St. Louis County Board waives applicable provisions of the Board's Tax Abatement Financing Policy to allow this project to proceed and application fees. Provided all required documentation is submitted by the City of Duluth, the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute a tax abatement agreement with the City of Duluth and execute any other related documents after review and approval by a representative of the County Attorney's Office. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 21-315.

Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner McDonald, moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner Nelson, moved to consider a resolution to authorize an Architect & Engineer Services Agreement with DSGW Architects, Inc., of Virginia and Duluth, MN, for the Clarity Center for Wellbeing project; the item had not been to Committee of the Whole. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner McDonald, moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a services contract with DSGW Architects, Inc., of Virginia and Duluth, MN, and any amendments approved by the County Attorney's Office, for the site selection, predesign, design, construction and bid documents, project administration, and project commissioning and close out for the Clarity Center for Wellbeing project in an amount of \$359,500, payable from Capital Project Fund, Fund 400, Agency 400001. Reimbursement for all funds expended on these design services will come from State general obligation bond proceeds authorized in 2018 and 2020 for this purpose. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 21-316.

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

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, and Jason Meyer, Land and Minerals Deputy Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-217, Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation.—61484

Final approvals for Plats & Surveys submitted during CY 2021.—61485

Proclamation: Walter Beckman Day – May 25, 2021.—61486

Kevin Gray, County Administrator, Linnea Mirsch, Public Health & Human Services Director, submitting Board Letter No. 21-223, Architect & Engineer Services Agreement – Clarity Center for Wellbeing.—61487

Addendum to Purchase Agreement, Contract No. 90269A, between the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners and Legacy Group, LLC, for Motivational Interview Trainings, adding a 6<sup>th</sup> set of Motivational Interview 2-part trainings.—21-378

Addendum to Purchase Agreement, Contract No. 16235C, between the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners and The Salvation Army for Housing Navigation Services, changing the date included on the signature page of 16235B to August 31, 2022.—21-379

Contract for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Highway Project between the County of St. Louis and Redstone Construction, LLC, Mora, MN, for CP 0186-300190: Bridge 69A76 (County Bridge 159) and Approach Grading; CP 0825-368349: Grading, Aggregate Surfacing, Bridge 69A79 (County Bridge 138, Guardrail, Traffic Control, Turf Establishment, Erosion Control, and Signing; CP 0860-554930: Bridge 69A80 (County Bridge 147) and Approach Grading located on CSAHs 186, 825 and 860.—21-380

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2021 State of Minnesota Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Patrol Grant Contract Agreement in the amount of \$22,625 for the term May 14, 2021, to September 6, 2021.—21-381

Amendment No. 1, Original Damion No. 2018-012502, between the County of St. Louis and Superior Forestry Service, Inc., Tilly, AR, for tree planting services in accordance with RFB #5489, extending the terms of the original contract an additional two (2) year term effective June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2023, and amend the minimum acres to 600 acres in the Spring of 2022 and 600 acres in the Spring of 2023.—21-382

Service Contract No. 5678A between the County of St. Louis and TNT Timber, Duluth, MN, to reduce fire risk in wildland-urban interface areas through December 31, 2021.—21-383

St. Louis County On-Line Software Subscriber Agreement between the County of St. Louis and Isaac Mooney, Saint Paul, MN.—21-384

Upon motion by Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner McDonald, resolutions numbered 21-304 through 21-314, as submitted on the consent agenda, were unanimously adopted as follows:

**BY COMMISSIONER BOYLE:**

RESOLVED, That the official proceedings of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners for the meeting of May 11, 2021, are hereby approved.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-304

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services has made available grant funds to counties to implement a plan to improve system access and service delivery by engaging individuals with serious mental illness who are homeless or exiting institutions who have complex needs and face high barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Continuum of Care Leadership Team has reviewed this opportunity and it meets unique needs of the homeless population in St. Louis County and systemic barriers; and

WHEREAS, Community partners are willing to continue to engage in this work and the Bois Forte Tribe will be included as project partner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public

Health and Human Services Department to accept a grant amendment award in the amount of \$172,000 for Housing Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness extending the 2019-2021 grant cycle for one year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), with St. Louis County serving as the fiscal agent for the grant.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the 2021 revenue and expenditure budgets be increased as follows with any adjustments to be made in the 2021 and 2022 budgets accordingly if there are any unspent funds or overspent funds not to exceed the grant amendment funding of \$172,000.

Budget Reference:

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 629900, Grant 23269, Grant Year 2021

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 633100, Grant 23269, Grant Year 2021

Fund 230, Agency 232001, Object 530674, Grant 23269, Grant Year 2021

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-305

WHEREAS, Pandemic vaccination planning is a combined state and local responsibility that requires close collaboration between public health, health care, external agencies, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has made funding available to Community Health Boards or counties within their local jurisdictions for resources necessary for COVID-19 response efforts based on jurisdictional priorities and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MDH guidance; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services Department (PHHS) has been allocated additional COVID-19 Response Vaccine Implementation funding from MDH through our local Carlton-Cook-Lake-St Louis County Community Health Board (CHB); and

WHEREAS, PHHS wishes to accept the COVID-19 Response Vaccine Implementation funding from the MDH through the CHB in an amount up to \$915,148 to support COVID-19 response efforts, supporting vaccination administration and promoting vaccine confidence and increasing vaccination uptake, for time period of April 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That PHHS accept grant funding from the MDH through a contract with our local CHB to focus on COVID-19 response efforts, supporting vaccination administration, promoting vaccine confidence, and increasing vaccination uptake based on jurisdictional priorities and CDC and MDH guidance, in an amount up to \$915,148 for the time period of April 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That PHHS utilize the funding to support staffing, the purchase of supplies and necessary equipment, and enter into subcontracts for vaccine administration and services with local partners as necessary.

BUDGET: 230-233999-540285-23379-99999999-2021

230-233999-610000-23379-99999999-2021

230-233999-640900-23379-99999999-2021

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-306

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department is planning a road construction project over 0.32 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 141 within the City of Eveleth; and

WHEREAS, The project begins at the intersection of CSAH 141 (Douglas Avenue) and Garfield Street and extends northerly approximately 0.32 miles to the intersection of Temple Place and CSAH 142 (Grant Street); and

WHEREAS, These improvements consist of grading, aggregate base, replacement of drainage structures, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and bituminous surfacing as determined necessary to provide for the safety and convenience of the public; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the existing highway right-of-way, certain lands are required for said construction, together with temporary construction easements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Director to proceed with the acquisition of the necessary lands and temporary easements for County Project 0141-493350 and to execute the easement documents as may become necessary on behalf of the county. Right-of-way is payable from Fund 200, Agency 203001.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 4, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to grant highway easements across tax forfeited lands necessary for the project.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-307

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department is planning a road construction project over 0.26 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 145 within the City of Eveleth; and

WHEREAS, The project begins at the intersection of CSAH 145 (Roosevelt Avenue) and CSAH 101 (Fayal Road) and extends northerly approximately 0.26 miles to the intersection with Jackson Street; and

WHEREAS, These improvements consist of grading, aggregate base, replacement of drainage structures, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and bituminous surfacing as determined necessary to provide for the safety and convenience of the public; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the existing highway right-of-way, certain lands are required for said construction, together with temporary construction easements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Director to proceed with the acquisition of the necessary lands and temporary easements for County Project 0145-493352 and to execute the easement documents as may become necessary on behalf of the county. Right-of-way is payable from Fund 200, Agency 203001.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.04, Subd. 4, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to grant highway easements across tax forfeited lands necessary for the project.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-308

RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board elects to reappoint James T. Foldesi as the St. Louis County Highway Engineer/Public Works Director for a four-year term effective May 1, 2021, and ending May 2025 at his current biweekly compensation rate of \$6,558 (Pay Plan A, Grade A33, Step M5) of the Management Compensation Plan, with all benefits at his current level and as provided in the St. Louis County Management Compensation Plan.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-309

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 May 25, 2021. No. 21-310

WHEREAS, A request to purchase county fee land was submitted by Craig William

DuMarce and said property is described in County Board File No. 61407; and

WHEREAS, Craig William DuMarce has agreed to pay \$5,400 for the property.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to the requirements and procedures of Minn. Stat. § 373.01, Subdivision 5(i), the Chair of the County Board and the County Auditor are authorized to execute and deliver a quit claim deed conveying the above listed property to Craig William DuMarce for the amount of \$5,400, payable to Fund 100, Agency 128014, Object 583202, where the grantee is also responsible for deed tax and recording fees.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-311

WHEREAS, A request to purchase county fee land was submitted by KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN and said property is described in County Board File No. 61407; and

WHEREAS, KGM Contractors, Inc., has agreed to pay \$9,720 for the property.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to the requirements and procedures of Minn. Stat. § 373.01 Subdivision 5(i), the Chair of the County Board and the County Auditor are authorized to execute and deliver a quit claim deed, conveying the above listed property to KGM Contractors, Inc., for the amount of \$9,720, payable to Fund 100, Agency 128014, Object 583202 where the grantee is also responsible for deed tax and recording fees.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-312

WHEREAS, All parcels of land becoming the property of the State of Minnesota in Trust through forfeiture for nonpayment of real estate taxes shall be classified or reclassified as conservation or non-conservation as required by Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 94.344, Subd. 2, Class B lands must be classified for sale before given in exchange for any privately owned land; and

WHEREAS, The parcels listed in County Board File No. 61484 forfeited to the State of Minnesota for nonpayment of real estate taxes and were previously classified as conservation; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department has recommended that these parcels be reclassified as non-conservation after considering, among other things, the present use of adjacent land, the productivity of the soil, the character of forest or other growth, the accessibility of lands to established roads, schools, and other public services, and their peculiar suitability or desirability for particular uses; and

WHEREAS, These parcels of land are located inside the boundaries of a municipality or town and Minn. Stat. § 282.01 provides that classification or reclassification and sale of lands situated within a municipality or town must be approved by the governing body of the municipality or town; and

WHEREAS, The town or municipality is considered to have approved the classification or reclassification and sale of these parcels if the county board is not notified of the disapproval of the classification or reclassification and sale within 60 days of the date the request for approval was transmitted to the town or municipality in which the parcels are located.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the state tax forfeited parcels described in County Board File No. 61484 shall be reclassified as non-conservation, and the request for approval of the reclassification shall be transmitted by the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department to the clerk of the municipality or town in which the parcels are located.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the reclassification of these parcels will be deemed approved if the county board does not receive notice of the municipality's or town's disapproval of the reclassification of any parcel within 60 days of the date on which this resolution is delivered to the

clerk of the municipality or town.

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-313

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the preliminary plat of Annieland on December 10, 2020, and granted preliminary approval for the plat; and

WHEREAS, The final prints of Annieland have been submitted and conform with the requirements set forth by the Planning Commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board grants final approval to the plat of Annieland located in SW ¼ of NW ¼ EX 2 acres in NW corner and NW ¼ of SW ¼, Section 35, Township 61 North, Range 13 West (Unorganized).

Adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-314

**BY COMMISSIONER NELSON:**

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §§ 469.1812 through 469.1815, Abatement Authority, requires that a public hearing be conducted prior to granting tax abatement financing; and

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

WHEREAS, The City of Duluth has requested St. Louis County to consider 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 tissue paper manufacturing plant and associated site development costs for a site located at 100 N. Central Ave., Duluth, MN, 55807; and

WHEREAS, The specific parcels to be included in the tax abatement are as follows:

010-0130-00170; 010-2700-00514; 010-2806-00010; 010-2806-00020; 010-2806-00030; 010-2806-00040; 010-4470-04220; 010-4470-04225; 010-4470-04230; 010-4470-04240; 010-4470-04250; 010-4470-05330; 010-4470-05480; 010-4470-05640; 010-4470-05650; 010-4470-05660; 010-4470-05670; 010-4470-05680; 010-4470-05700; 010-4470-05710; 010-4470-05720; 010-4470-05730; 010-4470-05740; 010-4470-05750; 010-4470-05760; 010-4470-05770; 010-4470-05780; 010-4490-00010; 010-4490-00040; 010-4490-00050; 010-4490-00060; 010-4490-00070; 010-4490-00080; 010-4490-00090; 010-4490-00100; 010-4490-00110; 010-4490-00120; 010-4490-00130; 010-4490-00135; 010-4490-00185; 010-4490-00215; 010-4490-00285; 010-4490-00505; 010-4490-02735; 010-4490-02862; 010-4490-07220; and 010-4490-07400; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board held a public hearing on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 9:35 A.M. at the Grand Lake Town Hall, 5297 Highway 53, Saginaw, MN, to solicit public input prior to considering the proposed tax abatement request; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board determines that the public benefits gained by the creation of new full-time jobs, new potential spin-off development and support services, develop unused or underutilized real property, and other benefits exceeds the costs of the tax abatement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes up to \$600,000 tax abatement financing to the City of Duluth payable from Fund 100, Agency 178001, Object 500900 or its designated fund.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board waives applicable provisions of the Board's Tax Abatement Financing Policy to allow this project to proceed and application fees.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That provided all required documentation is submitted by the City of Duluth, the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute a tax abatement agreement with the City of Duluth and execute any other related documents after review and approval by a representative of the County Attorney's Office.

Unanimously adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-315

**BY COMMISSIONER BOYLE:**

WHEREAS, St. Louis County plans to build a new regional behavioral health/mental health services building in Duluth, MN, in response to a growing need for these services; and

WHEREAS, State general obligation bond funds authorized in 2018 and 2020 totaling \$5 million along with County and private funds will be used to finance the project; and

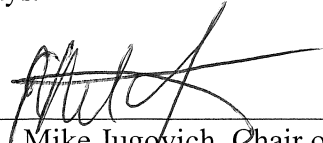
WHEREAS, This facility will be utilized by community partners specializing in behavioral health and mental health services for all age groups from child to adult. The building will be owned and maintained by the County. Service providers will be required to sign user agreements with the County and pay rent, which will include a contribution to ongoing maintenance, to occupy space in the facility; and

WHEREAS, County Purchasing issued a Request for Proposals for Contract #5708 for architect engineer services. DSGW Architects, Inc., of Virginia and Duluth, MN, was evaluated as providing the best overall proposal, project concept, qualifications, presentation and price for the project.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a services contract with DSGW Architects, Inc., of Virginia and Duluth, MN, and any amendments approved by the County Attorney's Office, for the site selection, predesign, design, construction and bid documents, project administration, and project commissioning and close out for the Clarity Center for Wellbeing project in an amount of \$359,500, payable from Capital Project Fund, Fund 400, Agency 400001. Reimbursement for all funds expended on these design services will come from State general obligation bond proceeds authorized in 2018 and 2020 for this purpose.

Unanimously adopted May 25, 2021. No. 21-316

At 10:15 a.m., May 25, 2021, Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Musolf, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

  
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)