

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

March 14, 2023

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Boyle called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of March 7, 2023
- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Hermantown for Construction Projects on Lindahl Road (CP 0898-658526/CP 0898-554785 and CP 0000-733435/CP 0000-733436) [23-119]
- Authorization of Emergency Purchases [23-120]
- Special Sale to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth, Minnesota for Affordable Housing (Parcel ID Nos. 010-2320-01660, -00720, -00730, -00740, -00750, -00760, -00770) [23-121]
- Special Sale to Jeffrey and Juli Pederson (Parcel ID No. 141-0050-05470) [23-122]

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## Health & Human Services Committee

McDonald/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Valerie Joeckel as At-Large Representative and Kelly Looby as Youth Representative to the St. Louis County Heading Home Advisory Committee for terms ending December 31, 2026. [23-123]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an amendment to the professional services agreement with LHB, Inc. whereby the County will increase the cost of the services for roadway design as part of CP 0056-493050/SAP069-656-020 by \$38,521, payable from Fund 220, Agency 220595, Object 626600. The total contract cost shall not exceed \$258,425. [23-124]. Commissioner Musolf said the amendment is necessary due to the addition of an additional turn lane. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc., Ely, MN, in the amount of \$386,556.40 for project CP 0000-737955 (2023 North Crushing), Aggregate Crushing at various gravel pits in northern St. Louis County. [23-125]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC, Edina, MN, in the amount of \$1,433,133.91 for project CP 0000-397638, SAP 069-030-045, SAP 016-612-080, SAP 038-030-011,

Pavement Markings located on various County State Aid Highways in Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties. [23-126]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Grimm/Musolf moved that the 2023-2025 Public Works Department Highway Maintenance Divisions bargaining agreement is ratified and county officials are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement; that a Memorandum of Understanding which allows for an Apprenticeship Program, with the job classification of Apprentice to be covered by the Teamster's Collective Bargaining unit, is approved; and further, that renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding which sunsets on December 31, 2025, that allows the job class of Highway Laborer to work seasonal appointments throughout the calendar year and for employees hired after January 1, 2013, to receive an additional day of personal leave effective January 1, 2023, is approved. [23-127]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the contract is a three-year agreement and includes a 3% pay increase each year. In addition, there was an increase in private use and safety shoe allowance, and initial employee sick leave accrual was increased. St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald added that the agreement recognizes Juneteenth as a holiday beginning in 2024 and includes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an apprenticeship program. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

Jugovich/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves commencement of termination of the contracts for purchase or repurchase of state tax-forfeited lands, according to the provisions of Minn. Stat. §§ 282.01, subd. 5, 282.40, and 559.21; and further, that the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of any abandoned personal property left remaining on the parcels described herein after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, or any current occupants. [23-128]. Jonathan Stensland addressed the Board regarding Contract No. 22210105. Mr. Stensland requested that the contract to be extended because of delays in construction due to supply chain issues and ongoing fees. St. Louis County Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci commented that in the past, the Board has considered extensions up to 12 months. Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger said this will be a discussion topic at next week's Board workshop, and administration may recommend a 120-day extension to allow time for the county to review a pending Supreme Court case relating to state tax-forfeited lands. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Grimm commented that the St. Louis County Depot will be up for consideration to be included in the bonding bill and thanked Director Mary Tennis and staff for their efforts. Commissioner Grimm asked for a discussion about public comments during Board meetings and hopes clarity can be provided for citizens addressing the Board.

Commissioner Boyle noted that Duluth will be hosting the 2023 Women's Frozen Four Hockey Tournament at the Amsoil Arena this week.

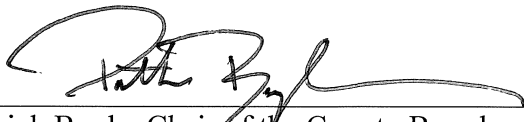
Commissioner McDonald commented that the University of Minnesota-Duluth women's basketball team will be playing in the Elite 8 for the first time ever and the men's basketball team will be playing in the regional finals tonight and can advance to the Elite 8 with a win.

Administrator Gray said that the roof collapsed at the Miller Hill Mall this morning and there were no injuries; due to the collapse, the Service Center had to be closed.

Commissioner Harala said that she toured public safety buildings with Sheriff Ramsay last Friday and commended staff for the work they do.

Chair Boyle noted that a Board Workshop will be next Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> in the Virginia Government Services Center.

At 10:56 a.m., Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner Jugovich, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Patrick Boyle, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board