

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 19, 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 10:58 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of December 12, 2023
- Title IV-E Administrative Agreement for Parent Legal Representation Reimbursement [23-547]
- Approval of amendment to Hibbing Clerical Services Agreement [23-548]
- Memorandum of Agreement for Increased Civil Service Basic Cold Weather Outdoor Wear Reimbursement [23-549]
- Authorization to Participate in the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program [23-550]
- Professional Services Agreement with Northland Psychological Services [23-551]
- Authorization to Accept Minnesota Office of Justice Programs Crime Victim Services Grant [23-552]
- Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of Minnesota and St. Louis County [23-553]
- Septic Sand Storage Lease to Bougalis Incorporated, in Norway Ridge/312 Pit (McDavitt Twp. 56-18) [23-554]
- Authorization to Request and Accept South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District Grant Proceeds [23-555]
- State Tax-Forfeited and County Fee Land Use Permit – Quad City ATV Club [23-556]
- 2023/2024 New and Renewal of Non-Exclusive Right-of-Way, Yard, Garden, Dock, Parking and Miscellaneous Leases on State Tax Forfeited Land [23-557]

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of ten (10) 2024 Mack Granite tandem trucks (64FR) from Nuss Truck & Equipment, Inc. of Roseville, Minnesota, in accordance with the above stated State of Minnesota Contract T-647(5) pricing, inclusive of additional fees and taxes, for a total for \$1,691,654.00. [23-558]. County Administrator Kevin Gray noted that the purchase includes approximately \$136,000 in sale tax. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Jugovich/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a one-time financial grant contribution to Churches United in Ministry (CHUM) in the amount of up to \$21,000 for staffing support of the warming shelter; and further, approves a one-time financial grant contribution to the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) in the amount of up to \$300,342 for staffing support at the new Range Transitional Housing (RTH) Family Shelter, Hibbing Home, and Bill's House. If necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions and execute appropriate grant/funding agreement(s) with CHUM and the AEOA. [23-559]. St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch commented that the county will receive the first payment on December 26, 2023, and the program is administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Harala/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the addition of two (2) 1.0 FTE Emergency Communications Specialist positions in the 911 Communications Division for onboarding and training purposes. The projected cost of approximately \$155,423.28 will be paid from personnel savings associated with current and future vacancies. No additional funding is authorized. [23-560]. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, commented that training and onboarding for Emergency Communications Specialist positions are significantly higher compared to other positions in the county; the training positions will improve efficiencies during the onboarding process. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Commissioner Discussion Items and Reports

Commissioner Musolf commented that he had a video presentation that highlighted over \$70 million of Public Works projects; however, there were technical difficulties and he was unable to show the video. Commissioner Musolf commended Public Works staff and the leadership of Director Jim Foldesi.

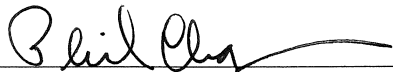
Commissioner McDonald said over 150 people attended last week's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) meeting in Mountain Iron. During the EMS meeting, Commissioner Nelson brought forth a concern that counties are not getting reimbursed for search and rescue operations taking place on federal lands. Commissioner McDonald commented that the National Association of Counties (NACo) will be bringing a resolution regarding reimbursement for federal lands search and rescue to February's legislative conference.

Commissioner Harala thanked administration and county staff for pulling the legislative meeting together. Commissioner Harala also thanked staff and colleagues for working with her during her first year as a commissioner and commended the leadership of Chair Boyle.

At 11:22 p.m., McDonald/Nelson moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)

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

Patrick Boyle, 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