

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 27, 2021

Location: Morse Town Hall, Ely, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Jewell

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Musolf/McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

- Minutes of April 13, 2021
- SFY 2021 Mental Health Contract with Northland Counseling Center [21-183]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 918 Over the CN Railroad Tracks (Proctor) [21-184]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 195 Over the Whiteface River (Meadowlands Township) [21-185]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 842 Over the Partridge River (Hoyt Lakes) [21-186]
- Cooperative Agreement with Duluth and Hermantown for the 2021 Traffic Signal Painting Project [21-187]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [21-188]
- Amendment to the Scrap Metal and Appliance Processing Contract [21-189]

Time Specific Presentation

At 10:08 a.m., Steve Giorgi, Executive Director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) provided the Committee with an update regarding rural broadband. Director Giorgi commented that the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) has removed parcels from existing projects, making them less viable for providers. Director Giorgi requested that the Board consider dedicating 10% of the \$54 million American Rescue Plan funding to rural broadband development.

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist II position (Position code 0420-022, Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B10) to 1.0 FTE Information Specialist Supervisor (Civil Service Supervisory Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade E19) in the Public Health and Human Services department, resulting in a total increase of approximately \$11,895, dependent upon the starting salary of a successful candidate. [21-190]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Jugovich/McDonald moved to award a bid to Landwehr Construction, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, in the amount of \$1,098,434.20 for project CP 0444-529528 (Br 785), Bridge Construction and Approaches, County Bridge 785 on County Road 444 between Swinnerton Road and Newton Road in Hibbing. [21-191]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/McDonald moved to approve the 2020 fourth quarter budget changes. [21-192]. Administer Gray commented that the resolution signals the end of the fiscal year and a number of accounting entries were related to CARES Act funding. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)

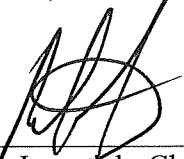
COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

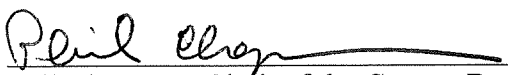
Commissioner Boyle commended the state legislature for dedicating funding for the 2020 census. Because of their effort, Minnesota will keep all eight of its congressional seats.

Chair Jugovich commented that for a few days in February, Hibbing Public Utilities customers paid 500% higher than average for energy use. The Hibbing Public Utilities Commission is looking at possible ways to rectify the issue.

Commissioner Grimm asked that Chair Jugovich keep the Board posted on the Hibbing utility issue.

At 11:10 a.m., Boyle/Grimm moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Jewell absent)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board