

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

February 2, 2021

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, and Ashley Grimm participated by WebEx.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

McDonald/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed.  
(7-0)

- Minutes of January 26, 2021
- Agreement with the City of Duluth for Construction of Various Projects in the Woodland Avenue/Glenwood Street Area [21-54]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 547 over Shannon River (Balkan Township) [21-55]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 416 over Water Hen Creek (Colvin Township) [21-56]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 777 over Pelican River (Leiding Township) [21-57]
- Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Wisconsin Central, Ltd. to Install Gates and Signals at Railroad Crossing DOT 251911V (Solway Township) [21-58]
- Request for St. Louis County to Act as Fiscal Agent for City of Brookston – LCCMR Grant [21-59]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [21-60]
- Right of Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Big Bear Lake Company (Ault Twp 55-12) [21-61]
- Right of Way and Utility Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Gregory P. Bulinski (Morse Twp 62-13) [21-62]

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved to authorize the purchase of one John Deere Model 644LH Loader from McCoy Equipment of Duluth, MN, for a total cost of \$286,000.00. [21-63]. Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the loader is the first heavy equipment hybrid purchased by the county. The hybrid diesel/electric loader costs 11% more than standard equipment; however, it is expected that there will be

a 25% cost savings over the life of the equipment compared to standard equipment. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

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

Musolf/Jewell moved to approve the 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid and that the appropriate County officials are authorized to execute contracts negotiated by the Planning and Community Development Director and a representative of the County Attorney in order to implement the aid program. [21-64]. Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, requested that AIS prevention aid funding be made available for repair and heated storage for the cleaning units. Natalya Walker, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, said that in 2020 they conducted 25,301 inspections, did 130 decontaminations, and added several lakes to the program. Planning and Community Development Director Matthew Johnson commented that in the past recipients were required to maintain the equipment due to the uncertainty of program funding; the department will work with applicants to assist with maintenance costs. St. Louis County Senior Planner Ryan Logan provided a brief overview of the application process and noted that nine applications were received for 2021. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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

Commissioner Boyle commented on virtual attendance at St. Louis County Board meetings by Commissioners. Commissioner Boyle noted that county public health workers and volunteers are working six days a week to get people immunized and tested and there were over 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 in January. Commissioner Boyle said that he will continue to attend the meetings virtually because it is best for our community health.

Commissioner Jewell said that work has started on the One Watershed, One Plan for the St. Louis River. The watershed is the largest watershed out of Minnesota and it includes the North and South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District.

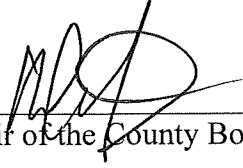
Commissioner McDonald said that approximately 200 people attended a vaccination clinic that was held at the Vermilion Community College over the weekend.

Chair Jugovich said that a celebration will be held tomorrow for Bill Loushine in Chisholm. Mr. Loushine is turning 100 years old.

Commissioner Nelson commented that he considers himself a frontline worker and has not missed a day of work because he wants to ensure people's issues are taken care of.

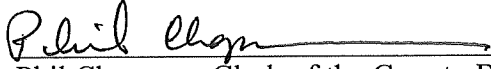
Commissioner Jewell commented that all of the Board is working, even though some are working from home to prevent the spread of the disease.

At 12:25 p.m., Nelson/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)



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Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board