

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 15, 2022

Location: McDavitt Town Hall, Forbes, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Musolf

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of November 1, 2022
- Host County Contract with Lutheran Social Services for Emergency Shelter Services [22-480]
- CY 2023 Out-of-Home and Day Treatment Agreements for Services to Families and Children [22-481]
- CY 2022-2023 Contract Amendments: Supported Family Time Services [22-482]
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with MnDOT for SAP 069-646-002, CP 0046-553435 [22-483]
- Professional Services Agreement with LHB, Inc. for Design Engineering Services for CP 0024-314089 [22-484]
- Authorization of Permanent Easement over County Lands for the Expansion of the Mesabi Trail [22-485]
- Award of Bids: Precast Concrete Box Culverts for CP 0006-397798 [22-486]
- Award of Bids: Precast Concrete Box Culvert for CP 0038-368339, SAP 069-638-001 [22-487]
- Extension of Agreement for Labor Negotiations, Grievance, and Arbitration Professional Services [22-488]
- Reclassification of State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Non-conservation [22-489]
- Special Sale to the Duluth Economic Development Authority for Blight Removal (010-1180-02770) [22-490]
- Special Sale to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth, MN, for Affordable Housing (parcel code 010-4650-00270) [22-491]

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes Public Health and Human Services staff to enter into contract with Medical Transportation Management, Inc. with increases in the yearly contract maximums for the 3-year (CY2023 through CY 2025) contract with Medical Transportation Management, Inc., St. Louis, MO, for transportation logistics management, not to exceed \$400,000 for

CY 2023, \$500,000 for CY 2024, and \$600,000 for CY 2025, payable from Fund 230, Agency 231014, Object 629900, and authorizes PHHS staff to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement for the purpose of participating in a joint contract for coordination of non-emergency medical transportation. [22-492]. St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch said the rates paid for non-emergency medical transportation are established by the federal government and the county reimburses on an actual basis. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board will extend the nickel dedicated to the school account for another twenty (20) years expiring in 2044 and that County staff is directed to pursue viable legislative alternatives to support future increases in the allocation of the Production Tax to St. Louis County. [22-501]. Commissioner Nelson commented that the nickel-per-ton provision was included in the tax bill; however, the bill was not passed by the state legislature. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray noted that in 2014 the nickel-per-ton was redirected by the County to support school consolidation and debt management. Commissioner Jewell said that this is a transfer that takes money from the County and transfers money to the Iron Range School Districts. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (5-1, Jewell nay, Musolf absent)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that after a review of the Project application and other submitted materials, the new homeless shelter proposed by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) is eligible as it is considered housing support and providing services for unhoused persons; that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$1,869,000 of American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funding to AEOA for its new homeless shelter in Hibbing, MN; and further, that AEOA shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act. The project will be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act Funds. [22-497]. St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger commented that the county worked with AEOA on the Bill's House project and AEOA is hoping to close on the sale by year-end. Scott Zahorik, Executive Director of AEOA, said that currently AEOA is using a motel in Hibbing as a shelter; the proposed facility is formerly a memory care center and will work well for their needs. Director Zahorik said they would also like to finalize the sale by year-end and that people will begin moving into the facility as soon as possible once the sale is complete. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

A point of personal privilege was taken at 12:07 p.m. At 12:14 p.m., the Board reconvened with all members present except Commissioner Musolf.

Boyle/Jewell moved that after an initial review, the project proposed has been determined to be eligible as it is considered Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities - Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons; that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$625,000 of ARPA funding for the renovation of the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) Dabinoo'igan Shelter; and further, that the American Indian Community Housing Organization shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act. The project will be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act. [22-496].

Deputy Administrator Fritsinger said the proposal is to expand the existing facility located in Duluth and the total project is estimated to cost \$2.125 million. LeAnn Littlewolf, Economic Development Director of AICHO, said the current shelter serves approximately 130 to 150 people and they turn away approximately 500 to 600 people annually. Jennifer Davey, House Manager of AICHO, said the need for housing has increased; the facility is a 30-day shelter. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$750,000 of ARPA funds to support the Northland Foundation's Childcare American Rescue Plan Act funding program; that the Northland Foundation shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the ARPA U.S. Treasury guidelines and or County sub-recipient obligations; and further, that the appropriate County officials are authorized to enter into an agreement with the Northland Foundation for this project with funds for the above project payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act. [22-495]. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger gave the Board an overview of the program framework. Tony Sertich, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Northland Foundation, said there is a significant opportunity to leverage funds. The Foundation will be able to leverage approximately 2 to 3 times what the county contributes to the program. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a contribution in the amount of \$7,300 to the PathBlazers Snowmobile Club for the construction of a restroom at their club house; and further, if necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to execute a funding agreement, payable from Fund 178. [22-494]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

McDonald/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the transfer of \$305,054.49 from the Land and Minerals Department 290-290003-697600 to the Environmental Trust Fund/Shoreline Sales 500-500001-590100 and that any additional sales proceeds received after November 4, 2022, will be transferred to the Minnesota State Bureau of Investment no later than December 31, 2022. [22-493]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Commissioner Boyle temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 1:01 p.m. to 1:03 p.m.

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoints Mr. Don Potter to the Cook-Orr Healthcare District Board of Directors to represent unorganized townships in the Cook Hospital Healthcare District for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2026. [22-498]. Administrator Gray asked that the resolution be passed without recommendation so that the County can verify the term length. The motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Musolf absent)

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby reappoints Gary Rantala to the Cooperative Extension Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. [22-499]. The motion passed. (6-0, Musolf absent)

At Administration's request, the reallocation of Public Works Maintenance Manager to Shop Superintendent item was removed from the agenda. [22-500].

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson noted that all Commissioners received a letter from the Fredenberg Town Board regarding their position on gravel pits; discussions regarding Fredenberg gravel pits should take place within the community. Commissioner Nelson asked that next year's Board Chair consider establishing a small committee to review the County Purchasing Policy. Commissioner Nelson commented that this will be his last term serving on the County Board and encouraged people within his district to participate and show interest because the County Board needs dedicated people who are willing to serve.

Chair McDonald thanked the Auditor's Office for their work during elections. Chair McDonald commented that he attended the Ely High School Girls Volleyball team's first trip to the State Volleyball Tournament and noted that the team received the Academic Gold Award. The award is presented to teams that have a cumulative grade point average over 3.75. Chair McDonald noted that the Mountain Iron-Buhl Ranger's nine-man football team will be playing in the Prep Bowl being held at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Administrator Gray commended the efforts of Commissioner Jugovich and Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci for identifying the site for the new homeless shelter in Hibbing.

At 1:14 p.m., Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting.

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

Paul McDonald, 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