

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 22, 2022

Location: Gilbert City Hall, Gilbert, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioners Boyle and Musolf

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Jugovich moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

- Minutes of February 8, 2022
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement of County Bridge 896 Over Unnamed Tributary to the St. Louis River (White Township) [22-85]
- Acceptance of the Amended 2021 ATV Grant [22-86]
- Landfill Environmental Monitoring and Leachate System Operations Contract Amendment [22-87]
- Support Affirming Clay County Resolution No. 2021-56 to Utilize All Solid Waste Management Tax Revenue for Increased SCORE Grants to Counties [22-88]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Christensen (Homestead) [22-89]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Henry Carleton LLC (Non-Homestead) [22-90]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Young / Hanson and McArthur (Homestead) [22-91]
- Special Sale to the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for Affordable Housing [22-92]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing at 9:35 a.m., on March 22, 2022, in the Cherry Town Hall, 9831 Hwy. 37, Iron Junction, MN, for the purpose of considering the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Cotton, Inc. dba El Toro/El Toro Package Store/Wilbert Café. [22-93]. Commissioner Nelson commented that the Liquor Licensing Committee called a special meeting to ensure the license could be issued by the March 31st sale date; all members were in attendance. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

Health & Human Services Committee

McDonald/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist I position (Position code 0413-029, Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B04), to a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist II (Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B10), in the Public Health and Human Services Department, resulting in an increase of \$5,324 to be accounted for in

Fund 230, Agency 230007, Object 610100. [22-94]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the change will help the department to better meet the needs of citizens. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$773,544.40 for project CP 0666-515084 (Bridge 266), Bridge Construction, Bridge 266 on County Road 666 between Hoyt Lakes, MN and Polymet Mining. [22-95]. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

McDonald/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$9,949,100 for project CP 0041-368455, SAP 069-641-005 (Bridge 40) (Low Prime), consisting of ten projects, Reclaim and Overlay, Various Locations in Southern St. Louis County. [22-96]. Administrator Gray said that the projects were bundled together by design. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the following apportionment of the \$3,160,260.76 of net proceeds:

Minnesota Statutes, Section 282.08 clause (4) and Minnesota Law (2002), Chapter 390, Sec 39	
Net Proceeds for Land and Minerals Department Operations	\$3,160,260.76

No more than 30% of the balance is to be used for timber development on tax-forfeited land and dedicated memorial forests to be expended under the supervision of the county board on projects approved by the commissioner of natural resources.	The Land and Mineral Department's fund balance is reviewed annually to ensure it is sufficient to support the memorial forests. The proposed 30% is to support memorial forests investments and to maximize the apportionment to school districts, cities and towns.	\$948,078.23
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No more than 20 percent of the balance is to be used for the following purposes:	Administration recommends that 20% of the balance be elected for these purposes and that it be applied as follows:	\$632,052.15
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(1) Acquisition and Maintenance of County parks and recreation areas (see Minn. Stat. §398.31-398.36)	Improvements and maintenance of furnace, generator, and other camp facilities at Camp Esquagama.	\$
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(2) No more than \$4 per Capita of the County's population on the promotion of tourist, agricultural, and economic development.	To be deposited in the Community Economic Development General Account, to further efforts in partnering with Cities and Townships throughout the County for business and housing development and redevelopment.	\$
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Any balance must be apportioned as follows:	Administration recommends these funds be allocated to economic development -abatements	\$632,052.15
40% county	commitments	\$632,052.15
40% school district		\$316,026.08
20% town or city		

Total Apportioned	\$3,160,260.76
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***\$3,160,260.76 is an estimation for where the apportionment will be. Actual results may be more or less. [22-97].** Julie Marinucci, Land and Minerals Director, said that the switch to an online bid platform has increased the number of bids on tax-forfeited land because the auction is more accessible to the public. The increase in timber sales could be attributed to Huber announcing plans for a new mill in the area. Commissioner Grimm asked the Board to review current and future plans for parks and recreation. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby adopts the updated “St. Louis County Depot Mission and Vision Statement.” [22-98]. Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger discussed how Director Mary Tennis has worked to involve Depot tenants and the community to help make the Depot a welcoming place. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation to the next Board meeting that Director Tennis will be able to attend. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Jugovich/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE Planner position (Position codes 0700-001, Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B20) to a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist III (Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B14) in the Environmental Services Department, resulting in a total decrease of approximately \$9,146, dependent upon the starting salary of a successful candidate, to be accounted for in Fund 600, Agency 600001, Object 610100. [22-99]. Commissioner Nelson said that Environmental Services staff displayed their dedication during the pandemic by never shutting down. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jewell said that he attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference last week; President Biden and his cabinet spoke at the conference. Commissioner Jewell noted that filming for the movie “Cash for Gold” started in the Chisholm area a couple of weeks ago.

Commissioner Jugovich commented that filming has created economic opportunities for folks in the Chisolm area.

Commissioner Nelson reflected on where the county has been and what has been accomplished. Having the same County Administrator for approximately thirteen years has created continuity within the county.

Chair McDonald noted that today is Supermarket Employee Day, and we should appreciate the work they have done throughout the pandemic.

At 11:18 a.m., Commissioner Jewell, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (5-0, Boyle, Musolf absent)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul McDonald", written over a horizontal line.

Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phil Chapman", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board