

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 13, 2022

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Commissioner Nelson commented that the Mountain Iron-Buhl Raiders won the boys high school nine-man football championship game. It marked the 50th anniversary since the team won the Class B high school football championship game in 1972. Commissioner Nelson said that small communities are part of the fabric that make up St. Louis County.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of November 29, 2022
- Request to Apply for Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant [22-525]
- CY 2023 Host County Contract for Life House, Inc. –Sol House & The Loft [22-526]
- Professional Services Agreement with LHB, Inc. for Construction Administration and Inspection of Three Turn Lane Construction Projects [22-527]
- Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for Arrowhead Road Sidewalk Construction Project (CP 0032-746772) [22-528]
- Acquisition of Right of Way for CP 0075-557638 [22-529]
- Request for 2023 State Aid Advance [22-530]
- Agreement with the Duluth Superior Symphony Association [22-531]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-532]
- Certification of Property Assessed Clean Energy (MinnPACE) Financing for Energy Improvements [22-533]
- Revised Policy – St. Louis County Family Medical Leave Act [22-534]
- 2022 Justice Assistance Grant [22-535]
- Transfer Trailer Haulage Contract [22-536]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – EH Pooled 311 LP/Colburn Ventures, LLC (Non-Homestead) [22-537]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing at 9:40 a.m., on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the Morse Town Hall, 911 S. Central Avenue, Ely, MN, for the purpose of considering the suspension/revocation of liquor licenses for failure to pay real estate or personal

property taxes when due, pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28. [22-538]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board will convene a public hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 9:35 a.m., Canosia Town Hall, Duluth, MN, to consider the amendment of the 2023 Fee Schedule for The Depot Theatre rental fees, merchandise, and Property Management services at the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (The Depot). [22-539]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Jewell moved that pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 94.344, subd. 7, a public hearing shall be scheduled on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 9:45 a.m. at the Morse Town Hall, Ely, MN, for a Class B land exchange. The County Auditor shall post in the Auditor's Office a notice of hearing containing a description of lands affected by the exchange. [22-540]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Time Specific Presentation

At 11:15 a.m., Tony Tolliver, Sarah Milnar, and Margaret Dalton, of the Center for Economic Inclusion, gave the Board a final report regarding contracted diversity, equity and inclusion consulting services. The report included recommendations for advancing racial equity and inclusion in St. Louis County. Commissioner Jewell stepped out of the meeting from 11:59 a.m. to 12:11 p.m.

A point of personal privilege was taken at 12:23 p.m. At 12:30 p.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appointment of the following PHHS Advisory Committee members for terms ending December 31, 2024: At Large, Janet Kennedy, and Heather Kainz; District 3, Alyssa Hopke; District 4, Sally Koski and Brittany Nieters; District 5, Shannon Jorgenson; District 6, Timothy Nybo; and District 7, Janet Purcell-Putikka for the term CY 2023-2024. Fond du Lac representative Nathan Sandman, and Bois Forte representative Terry Defoe will have no term limits. Further, the St. Louis County Board shall continue to accept applications for the vacancies that remain in Districts 2 and 7. [22-541]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora MN, in the amount of \$2,486,870.28 for project CP 0004-398241, SP 069-604-084, STBG 6923(034), Reclaim and Overlay, located on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4 between 0.2 miles S. of Township Road 6550 and CSAH 111 in Colvin and White Townships. [22-542]. Public Works Director Jim Foldesi commented that the county is utilizing \$1.4 million in federal funding for the project. Director Foldesi noted that Bituminous pricing has increased from approximately \$55 per ton to \$70 per ton. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora MN, in the amount of \$172,579.95 for project CP 0038-368339, SAP 069-638-001 (Br 12), Bridge Construction, located on CSAH 38 between CSAH 44 and CSAH 40 in Normanna Township. [22-543]. Administrator Gray commented that the bid is 30% below the engineer's estimate. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora MN, in the amount of \$5,164,217.80 for project CP 0020-398242, SAP 069-620-005 (Low); CP 0097-520503, SAP 069-697-009 (Tied); CP 0108-398249, SAP 069-708-006 (Tied); CP 0636-398251 (Tied); CP 0650-398496 (Tied); CP 9214-556207 (Tied), various locations in northern St. Louis County. [22-544]. Director Foldesi commented that the entire project is being funded using transportation sales tax funds. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a one-time grant contribution in the amount of \$60,000 to the Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community to support the Minnesota International Film Festival and Minnesota Media Arts Schools; and further, that if necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions and execute appropriate grant/funding agreement(s) with the Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community, payable from Fund 178, Object 311008 or its designated fund. [22-545]. Tony Cuneo, Executive Director of Zeitgeist, said one of their goals is to help grow the filmmaker industry and bring new talent to the area. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby approves the continued expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to ameliorate negative financial impacts suffered by congressionally chartered veteran organizations owning property in St. Louis County due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and further, directs County Administration to establish a process by which these organizations may apply for ARPA funds to offset these financial impacts, in an amount no greater than their total 2022 property taxes. [22-546]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby suspends Purchasing Rule Section V, C, 2, related to the leasing of light-duty pick-up trucks from Enterprise Fleet Management for use by the St. Louis County Public Works Department. [22-547]. Director Foldesi commented that this allows the department to enter into the negotiation process and to purchase a larger quantity of trucks that can be paid back over a period of time. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners hereby declares a State of Local Disaster in St. Louis County, Minnesota, due to conditions resulting from a severe storm on November 10, 2022, and request state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minn. Stat. §12B.30, for any eligible storm recovery activities. [22-548]. The motion passed. (7-0)

A point of personal privilege was taken at 12:59 p.m. At 1:45 p.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes the 2023 salary for the St. Louis County Sheriff at Step 6 (\$157,955 - 2022 salary rate) of the Management Compensation Pay Plan AE for elected department heads, payable from Fund 100, Agency 129003. [22-549]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a vacant 1.0 FTE Engineering Technician Intermediate position (Basic Unit, \$4,189 at Grade B-20 Step 1, position code 0869-016) to a 1.0 FTE Engineering Technician (Basic Unit, \$3,658/mo. at Grade B-16 Step 1) in the Public Works Department. [22-550]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoints David Pollock to the St. Louis County Planning Commission with a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025. [22-551]. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoints Diana Werschay and Ray Svatos to the St. Louis County Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025. [22-552]. The motion passed. (7-0)

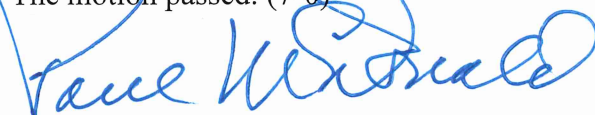
Boyle/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the “2023 St. Louis County Legislative Priorities” and directs its Intergovernmental Relations Director to work to achieve these outcomes and report progress on other initiatives during the 2023 Legislative Session. [22-553]. John Ongaro, St. Louis County Director of Intergovernmental Relations, recognized the effort of Commissioner Jewell and Representative Pete Stauber to ensure that the county continues to receive Thye-Blatnick funding; this will save the county approximately \$1 million annually. Commissioner Boyle temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 2:12 p.m. to 2:14 p.m. Director Ongaro provided the Board with an overview of county legislative priorities. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board will convene in a closed meeting of the Committee of the Whole after the County Board meeting held on December 13, 2022, in the Duluth Courthouse, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations in accord with Minn. Stat. § 13D.03. No other pending public business will be discussed at this closed session. The motion passed. (7-0)


COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair McDonald commented that this was Commissioner Jewell’s last Board meeting. In recognition of Commissioner Jewell’s service to the county, the Board presented him with a service award. Commissioner Jewell commented that continued Board representation on the Public Lands Committee will be integral for the county. Commissioner Boyle thanked Commissioner Jewell for being a mentor to him.

At 2:34 p.m., Chair McDonald adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. The motion passed. (7-0)



Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board