

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

July 28, 2020

Location: Liz Prebich Room, Government Services Center, Virginia, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Commissioner Beth Olson participated by WebEx.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #2, Change In Construction Bidding Advertising Procedure [20-264] and Item #5, Balsam Fir Price Adjustments in Response to Verso Paper Mill Closures [20-267] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of July 14 2020
- Acceptance of DHS Substance Use Disorder Grant Program Extension [20-263]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [20-265]
- Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation [20-266]
- Withdrawal of State Tax Forfeited Land from Memorial Forest Status [20-268]

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## **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

McDonald/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the estimated purchase of salt at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Morton Salt, Inc., of Chicago, IL, for a maximum delivered cost of \$1,356,703.20, and the purchase of brine at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Envirotech Services, Inc., of Denver, CO, and K-Tech Specialty Coatings, Inc., of Ashley, IN, at the estimated delivered cost of \$100,000.00. [20-269]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Jugovich moved to authorize the Public Works Department to discontinue advertising road and bridge project bids in newspapers after February 6, 2021. [20-264]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that there are four different electronic ways that the Public Works department has been sending out bid notices. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approve a contract with Johnson Wilson Constructors of Duluth, MN, in an amount of \$407,600.00, for the emergency replacement of the Depot roof – 1975 addition and for the tuck-pointing of the 1975 addition where funds are available from the facilities capital improvement fund. The cost of this emergency replacement repair shall be considered part of the County's matching requirements for future projects authorized and identified in the Minnesota State Legislatures State Bonding Bill. [20-270R]. St. Louis County Building and Property Management Director Jerry Hall commented that that there are multiple layers on the roof that are leaking and are in need of repair. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Musolf/Nelson moved to authorize the Land Commissioner to reduce the price of balsam fir to \$5.00 per cord to be applied to cutting blocks having harvest operations performed from June 1, 2020, until May 1, 2021, and for those contractors having unsold stockpiles of balsam fir. [20-267]. St. Louis County Land Commissioner Mark Weber said that he was hopeful that CARES Act funding could be used to offset the price reduction. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the repurchase application by Herman Martin Zuponcic and Rhonda Lee Zuponcic of Cook, MN, subject to the removal of personal and business property, payment to the City of Eveleth in the amount of \$16,282.04, payments to St. Louis County including total taxes and assessments of \$20,153.85, deed tax of \$66.51, deed fee of \$25, and recording fee of \$46, for a total of \$20,291.36, all by December 31, 2020 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund), plus a service fee of \$500 to be deposited into Fund 100 (General Fund), and further subject to any other conditions discussed herein. [20-271]. St. Louis County Deputy Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci provided a brief overview of the repurchase agreement. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

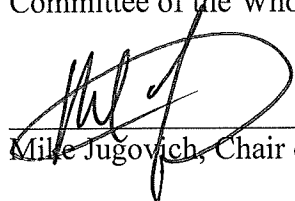
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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Boyle said that he was concerned that there were twenty people in the meeting room at times today and urged the Board to modify the meeting format to ensure they were following recommendations as outlined in the governor's order.

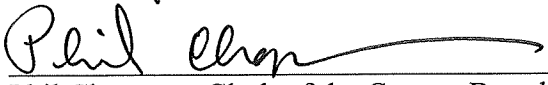
Commissioner Nelson mentioned that there have been comments relating to using his mask as a billboard; any donations he receives will go in to the Youth in Action scholarship fund.

At 12:46 p.m., Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jewell, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. 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