COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 15, 2020

Location: 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 10:24 a.m.

Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle and Beth Olson participated by WebEx.

CONSENT AGENDA

McDonald/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #13, Duluth Airport Authority Denver Air Service Project *[20-466]* was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of December 1, 2020
- Acceptance for Blue Plus Grant Funds for General Assistance for Individuals Experiencing or at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness Award *[20-454]*
- CY 2021-2022 Detox and Hold Services Contracts *[20-455]*
- CY 2021-2022 Employment Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities *[20-456]*
- CY 2020 - 6 Month Host County Contract Addendum with Lutheran Social Services *[20-457]*
- Acceptance of the Housing Fund for Individuals Experiencing or at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness Award *[20-458]*
- Semi-Independent Living Services Contract with Arrowhead Community Employment for Remainder of SFY 2021 *[20-459]*
- CY 2021-22 Family-Based Counseling, Life Management Skills, Community Education and Prevention Services, Foster Care Licensing and Placement for American Indian Families and Children *[20-460]*
- CY 2020 Grant Application and Acceptance of the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Plan Grant *[20-461]*
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: Replacement of County Bridge 130 over Dutchess Slough Creek (Brevator Township) *[20-462]*
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: Replacement of County Bridge 97 over the French River (Normanna Township) *[20-463]*
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to Construct a Left-Turn Lane on US 2 at the Intersection of CSAH 56 (Hermantown) *[20-464]*
- Clerical Amendment to the 2021 Fee Schedule *[20-465]*
- Abatement List for Board Approval *[20-467]*
- Chisholm-Hibbing Airport Authority Industrial Airpark Development *[20-468]*
- Arrowhead Counties Association Lobbying Services Agreement *[20-469]*

- St. Louis County Unorganized Territory Polling Places *[20-470]*
- Joint Powers Agreement with Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, and Lake Counties and WLSSD for the Development of a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for Northeastern Minnesota *[20-471]*
- Scrap Metal and Appliance Processing Contract *[20-472]*
- Adjoining Owner Sales *[20-473]*
- Withdrawal of State Tax Forfeited Land from Memorial Forest Status *[20-474]*
- Public Sale of State Tax Forfeited Properties *[20-475]*

Time Specific Presentation

Commissioners held a discussion regarding the Rural Mental Health and Joint Powers, and Governance subcommittees.

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board attests that the county and its civil service law and rules meet all of the requirements of the Federal Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 CFR Part 900). The Human Resources Department is directed to provide all personnel services previously obtained from the Minnesota Merit System to the county's Public Health and Human Services Department effective January 1, 2021. All previous Board resolutions authorizing the purchase of personnel services through the Minnesota Merit System are hereby rescinded. *[20-476]*. Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald said that the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services has certified that the county's employment system is in compliance with the Federal Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration. Because of this, the county is able to discontinue the purchase of personnel services from the Minnesota Merit System. The change will reduce confusion for applicants, employees and supervisors, and will make employment practices uniform across St. Louis County. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

At 10:56 a.m., Chair Jugovich called for a Point of Personal Privilege. At 11:04 a.m., the Board re-convened with all members present.

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement to reimburse the Bois Forte, Bearville, and Orr Fire Departments for providing coverage for Unorganized Townships 64-21 and 63-21 on a per call basis for the year 2021 as approved by the County Attorney's Office. *[20-477]*. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Olson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the establishment of the Film Production Incentive Program. The St. Louis County Board approves initial funding of $500,000 in funds for the program from the County General Fund Reserve Account. The St. Louis County Board approves up to an additional $500,000 in program funds (for a total not to exceed $1,000,000) from the County General Fund Reserve Account if determined by the County Administrator, after consultation with the County Auditor and Director of Planning and Community Development, that said funds are available, that allocation of such funds to the program will not be detrimental to county fiscal health, and that the initial program funding was successful in achieving program objectives. Funds will be transferred to the Economic Development Fund 178 from Fund 100 (General Fund) Object 311107 (Cash Flow Reserves) into Administration (Agency 104001) where Administration (Agency 104001)

will then transfer funds into Economic Development Projects (Agency 178007) or its designated fund and all program expenditures will be paid therefrom. The St. Louis County Board authorizes County officials to enter an agreement with an appropriate Minnesota development organization to act under the county's direction as the program administrator, which will disburse such funds in accordance with program requirements until funds are depleted or replenished. *[20-478R]*. Deputy Planning Director Darren Jablonsky provided the Board with an overview of the proposed incentive program. The program provides payments in the form of rebates to producers of films, television, episode content, and/or commercials that are produced in St. Louis County, Minnesota; to qualify for the program, a minimum of $10,000 must be spent. Riki McManus, of the Upper MN Film Office, commented that they are working with local schools and colleges to develop a local workforce; there are multiple projects that are currently scouting the area. Shari Marshik, Independent Consultant, reiterated that workforce development is important and indicated that they have been in contact with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) regarding a film incentive program. Philip Gilpin, Executive Director at Catalyst, commented that there are projects that could be ready to begin shooting in a few months and encouraged the Board to approve the incentive program to avoid the risk of delaying projects. Commissioner Nelson indicated he would support being a partner; however, he had questions regarding the incentive program including prevailing wage requirements, payment of workers compensation claims, and program administrative costs. Commissioner Jewell commented that delaying approval of the incentive program could negatively affect local businesses. Commissioner Musolf said he would like to see prevailing wage requirement incorporated into the program and encouraged the use of local schools and colleges, including state accredited apprentice programs, to develop a local workforce. Commissioner Olson stated that historically all seven Board members have supported the trades and stressed the importance of approving the incentive program to attract projects to the area. Commissioner Nelson asked Commissioner Musolf if he would add additional language to the resolution requiring that the Board approve the final incentive program guidelines. Commissioner Musolf requested a break so he could discuss appropriate amendment language with County Administration and the County Attorney.

At 12:03 p.m., Chair Jugovich called for a Point of Personal Privilege. At 12:15 p.m., the Board re-convened with all members present.

Commissioner discussion of the film production incentive program continued. Attorney Rubin recommended that the following wording be added to the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section: Therefore Be It Resolved, that the St. Louis County Board approves the establishment of the Film Production Incentive Program, conditioned upon Board approval of the final guidelines for eligibility, requirements, and application process. Musolf/Jugovich moved to amend the resolution to add wording as recommended by Attorney Rubin. Attorney Rubin stated that the Board would be passing and committing to the establishment of a film production incentive program and funding, conditioned upon the Board approving the final guidelines. A roll call vote was taken, the motion to amend the resolution passed. (7-0) After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the amended motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jewell moved to approve the extension of the original pledge of $50,000 and increases the pledge by $25,000 for a total pledge in the amount of $75,000 to the Duluth Airport Authority. If necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to execute a funding agreement payable from Fund 178, Object 311008. *[20-466]*. Commissioner Nelson expressed concern that the City of Duluth decreased funding for The Depot by $150,000 in March, even though sales tax revenue has largely remained the same; there has been no offer to replace the $150,000 funding that was pulled. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (6-1, Nelson)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved to reappoint Steven Filipovich, Daniel Manick, and Sonya Pineo to the St. Louis County Planning Commission with three (3) year terms expiring December 31, 2023. *[20-479]*. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the salary range reassignment of the Budget and Business Improvement Manager, position #0107-001 (Confidential Public Employees Association, Pay Grade H26 to Pay Grade H30, Step 1), which will result in an approximate annual increase of $10,116 within Fund 100, Agency 104001. The Board authorizes the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE position #0052-001 from Administrative Secretary Supervisor (Management Compensation Plan A16, Step 1) to a 1.0 FTE Administrative Secretary II (Unrepresented Employees Compensation Plan, Pay Grade QBA, Step 1) effective January 1, 2021, which will result in an approximate annual decrease of $13,973 within Fund 100, Agency 104001. *[20-480]*. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the increase of a 1.0 FTE Emergency Management Planner (Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B20) to the Sheriff's Office FTE compliment resulting in an annual increase of approximately $50,447.86, funded by a transfer from the Public Safety Innovation Fund, 100, Object 311426 to the Sheriff's Office - Emergency Management Division, Fund 100, Agency, 132001, Object 610100. The St. Louis County Board authorizes the budget transfer of a vacant 0.5 FTE Information Specialist II (Position code 0421-023, Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B10) from PHHS ($29,219.34). *[20-481]*. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson requested that County Administration bring forward information regarding the Board's commitment to local purchasing. Due to Board action, Amazon purchases by the county have decreased by 80%. Commissioner Nelson discussed the investment that the county has made in the Liz Prebich Building/Virginia GSC and noted that the county is saving over $80,000 annually in energy costs compared to the old building. Commissioner Nelson thanked Chair Jugovich for his work as Chair of the Board.

Commissioner Boyle mentioned that this was Commissioner Olson's last Board meeting and wished her well.

Commissioner Jewell thanked Commissioner Olson for her service, specifically commending her knowledge of victims and public health.

Chair Jugovich commented on the challenges of meeting remotely compared to in-person.

Commissioner Olson highlighted notable Board events during her term as Commissioner, including the reenvisioning The Depot, creation of a scholarship fund, saying goodbye to Commissioner Rukavina,

providing funding for local little league fields, dealing with the pandemic, and creating a film incentive program. Commissioner Olson thanked Commissioners and St. Louis County staff for their commitment to public service and noted that the budgeting and financial matters of the county are well looked after. Commissioner Olson also commented that she hoped Board members spend time listening to people that are not represented on the Board.

Commissioner McDonald noted the passing Public Works Director Jim Foldesi's father and asked that everyone keep Jim and his family in their thoughts and prayers. Commissioner McDonald mentioned that legislation is being considered regarding funding of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Commissioner Musolf commended Commissioner Olson for her public service and commented that her passion for her constituents was second to none.

Deputy Administrator Fritsinger commented that legislature passed a business incentive program and the county expects to be allotted $3.8 million. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger passed along a message from Administrator Gray thanking Commissioner Olson for her many years of service and thanking Commissioner Jugovich for his service as Chair over the past year. In addition, Administrator Gray thanked all Commissioners for their support during his challenging month of December.

At 1:06 p.m., Nelson/Jewell moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board