

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 14, 2020

Location: Midway Town Hall, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Olson/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #7, Public Auction of a Timber Stand Improvement and Decorative Product Harvest Lease on State Tax Forfeited Land [20-18] was removed from the agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of January 7, 2020
- Highway Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land for CSAH 4 (Colvin Township 56-15) [20-12]
- Lawful Gambling Application (Ellsburg Township) [20-13]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [20-14]
- Classification of November 7, 2019 Forfeitures (Conservation) [20-15]
- Classification of November 7, 2019 Forfeitures (Non-Conservation) [20-16]
- 2020 Special Legislation for the Private Sale of State Tax Forfeited Lands [20-17]

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Boyle moved to approve the 2020 St. Louis County Pay Equity Implementation Report and authorize the Board Chair to sign the report to be submitted to the State of Minnesota by the January 31, 2020 deadline. [20-19]. St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald provided the Board with an overview of the report. Director Gottschald said that the report is submitted every three years and consists of three separate statistical analysis tests (underpayment ratio, salary range, and exceptional service pay) that the county must pass. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Musolf/Nelson moved to authorize the County Auditor, pursuant to Minn. § Stat 282.04, Subd. 1(d), to offer at public sale and execute to the highest responsible bidder a lease of state tax forfeited land for the purpose of timber stand improvement work and decorative product harvesting; that the lease will be available at the minimum royalty rate of \$0.20 per black spruce top removed on Black Spruce Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Treatments; \$0.32 per black spruce top removed on Black Spruce Top Harvest Treatments; and \$0.05 per pine bough removed on Pine TSI Treatments, with the proceeds being deposited into Fund 240, Forfeited Tax Fund. The County and the successful contractor will have 90 days after the effective date to agree on the specific lands included in the lease, up to a maximum of six

hundred (600) acres, and sixty (60) acres have been identified as required under this lease, with a lease fee of \$10.00 per acre being paid annually, which is eligible to be applied to and set off against the annual royalty payment, with the proceeds being deposited into Fund 240, Forfeited Tax Fund. [20-18]. Commissioner Nelson briefly discussed opportunities for small businesses to work in this area. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jewell invited any of the four Commissioners who voted to table the refugee resolution to meet with him and a former refugee on Monday, January 20, 2020. Commissioner Jewell mentioned that he posted a letter written by the late Commissioner Tom Rukavina on his Facebook page and had numerous people who were immigrants respond saying that they did not feel welcome.

Commissioner Boyle asked for Board support regarding the City of Duluth legislative priority to address the erosion problem on Park Point, London Road, and Knife River. Commissioner Boyle discussed Chronic Wasting Disease (CDW) and said that he would be bringing forward a resolution in the future to address the issue.

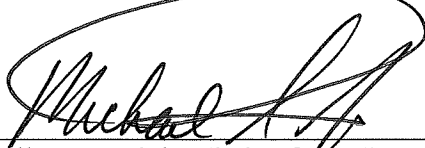
Commissioner Jewell attended a meeting organized by Senator Erik Simonson last week to discuss the erosion problem in Duluth and said that they are looking to meet with state and federal officials in the future.

Commissioner Nelson said that Commissioner Boyle has his full support in addressing the CWD issue and commented that the Minnesota Department of Resources issues an emergency; however, there is no follow-up action.

Commissioner Olson asked Chair Jugovich about the purpose of the Joint Powers and Governance Committee (established by Chair Jugovich at the January 7, 2020 Board meeting). Chair Jugovich responded that the purpose of the committee is to review joint powers agreements to see if they are running optimally and to educate the Board.

Commissioner McDonald said that he is having knee replacement surgery tomorrow and thanked everyone for their support.

At 10:11 a.m., Commissioner Jewell, supported by Commissioner Musolf, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. (7-0)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board