

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

November 1, 2022

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Nelson

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Jewell/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

- Minutes of October 25, 2022
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with MnDOT for SAP 069-698-016, CP 0098-599317 [22-464]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-465]
- Authorization to Apply and Accept Depot Foundation Grant for St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center: Replacement of Theatre Equipment [22-466]
- Arrowhead Counties Association Lobbying Services Agreement [22-467]
- Utility Easements Across State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Lake Country Power (54-15 and 54-16) [22-468]

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## **Time Specific Presentation**

At 10:38 a.m., Chad Crotty, Aggregate Mapper of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), gave the Board an update regarding the St. Louis County Aggregate mapping project. Mr. Crotty said the program will produce easy to read maps and usable GIS data that will indicate high, moderate, low, or limited aggregate potential. Portions of the county have already been mapped and the project is expected to take two to three years to complete. The southern portion of the county is expected to be finished in spring of 2024; the northern portion is expected to be finished in the summer of 2025. Heather Arends, Mineral Potential Section Manager of the DNR, said this is the first step of the process and will assist the county with land use planning.

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## **Health & Human Services Committee**

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) to temporarily increase its FTE compliment by 3.0 FTE Financial Workers. These positions will be paid out of Fund 230, Agency 23200x, and 50% is reimbursed by State/Federal sources. PHHS will

eliminate 3.0 FTE Financial Workers through attrition at the end of the twelve-month calendar year in which renewals restarted post-end of the Federal Public Health emergency and report back to the County Board. [22-469]. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Boyle/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the increase of a 1.0 FTE Social Worker position for the Assertive Community Treatment program and the increase of a 1.0 FTE Social Worker position for the Transition Assertive Community Treatment program in the Public Health and Human Services Department to be funded through the rate setting process set by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. PHHS will adjust the Assertive Community Treatment contracts with the Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment (CADT) in accordance with these changes. [22-470]. Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch commented that this was a reallocation due to staff shortages and not an increase in services. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

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### **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to Redstone Construction, LLC, Mora, MN, in the amount of \$974,529.50 for project CP 7992-398713, SAP 069-599-049, Bridge Construction, Township Road 7992 over Pelican River, City of Rice Lake, City of Duluth and Lake County. [22-471]. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

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### **Finance & Budget Committee**

Jewell/Grimm moved the St. Louis County Board accepts the proposal from and authorizes a service agreement with Architecture Advantage, LLC of Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$599,875 for the planning, analysis, predesign, design, preparation of construction bid documents, project administration, project commissioning and close out for The Depot mechanical, electrical, plumbing infrastructure improvement project, payable from Fund 400, Agency 400024 with funds transferred from Fund 403, Agency 403001; and further, authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents with Architecture Advantage, LLC of Duluth, MN. [22-472]. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

McDonald/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the 2022 third quarter budget changes. [22-473]. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

McDonald/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approve the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan amendment. [22-474]. St. Louis County Capital Planning Manager Pete Miller said the county has approximately \$320 million of capital improvement projects planned over the next five years, including \$66 million in road and bridge projects planned for 2023 and \$50 million in 2024. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Grimm/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$247,200 of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to ensure appropriate staffing for warming shelters by funding the gap for CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) staffing. CHUM shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act or by the County. Further, the project be payable from Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act. [22-475].

Director Mirsch commented that the need for warming shelters has increased since 2019 and the county relies on community centers to staff the shelters. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

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### **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

Jugovich/Boyle moved that St. Louis County Board approves commencement of the cancellation process under Minn. Stat. §§ 282.40 and 559.21, subd. 2a, relating to purchase and repurchase contracts C22180059 and C22180088 for tax-forfeited lands now in default; and further, that the St. Louis County Auditor is authorized to sell or dispose of any abandoned personal property left remaining on the parcels described herein after making reasonable effort to provide at least 28 days' notice to the former owner, taxpayer, or any current occupants. [22-476]. St. Louis County Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci said the Board acted in March to authorize an extension to October 31, 2022, for four contract holders to cure defaults. Two contract holders cured their defaults, and two contract holders remain outstanding. Brian Knutson, of Duluth, requested that the Board give him a six-month extension. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Nelson absent)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement with Apex Equipment, LLC, Mound, MN, for the purchase and installation of an Excel Model 2R9D Two Ram Baler w/Soft Start for the St. Louis County Recyclables Processing Facility at a cost of \$372,634.00, which includes a trade-in value of \$25,000 for the facility's current baler, payable from Fund 600, Agency 601004 (Recycling). [22-477]. Commissioner Jugovich commended staff for getting 23 years of use out of a piece of equipment that has a 12-year lifespan. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray noted that the two bids received were a few hundred dollars apart. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

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### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

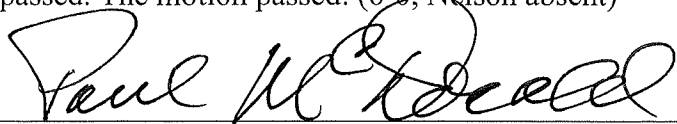
Commissioner Jugovich commented that Minnesota firearms deer season opens this weekend and encouraged everyone to be safe.

Commissioner Boyle noted that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing kits are available from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and can be requested online or by visiting your local DNR office. Commissioner Boyle reminded everyone that the State General Election will take place on November 8, 2022, and thanked County Auditor Nancy Nilsen and Deputy Auditor Phil Chapman for their work administering the election.

Commissioner Grimm encouraged people to practice gun safety in the home and commented that most suicides are from guns. Commissioner Grimm also asked that the Board discuss allowing Commissioners to provide comments to the public during the public comment period. Commissioner Grimm acknowledged the time and effort that county staff have spent providing correspondence to Fredenberg Township gravel pit questions.

Commissioner McDonald said the Friends of the Wirtanen Pioneer Farm will be holding a bake sale Friday, November 4, 2022, and Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the Colvin Town Hall.

At 10:57 a.m., Jewell/Jugovich moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. The motion passed. (6-0, Nelson absent)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McDonald", written over a horizontal line.

Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Chapman", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board