

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, MINNESOTA,
HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2024**

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of St. Louis, Minnesota, met this 23rd day of January 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Hermantown City Hall, Hermantown, Minnesota, with the following members present: Commissioners Annie Harala, Patrick Boyle, Ashley Grimm, Paul McDonald, Keith Musolf, Mike Jugovich and Chair Keith Nelson - 7. Absent: None - 0.

Chair Nelson asked for a moment of silence to honor those men and women who serve and protect this great nation and for those individuals adversely affected by conflict or violence both here and abroad; followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The St. Louis County Board recognized former Representative Mary Murphy's dedication to improving the lives of St. Louis County residents and all Minnesotans by naming its environmental trust fund the "Mary Murphy Trust Fund". The Board presented Ms. Murphy with a plaque to commemorate the naming of the fund; Ms. Murphy thanked the Board for the recognition.

Commissioner Musolf, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner McDonald, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved to consider a resolution requesting that St. Louis County amend the existing \$600,000 Tax Abatement Financing (TAF) agreement with the City to reflect a change in ownership of the former Verso paper mill (Duluth Mill) from ST Paper 1, LLC (ST Paper) to Sofidel; the item had not been to Committee of the Whole. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.

Commissioner Harala, supported by Commissioner Grimm, moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the amendment of the existing \$600,000 Tax Abatement Financing agreement with the City of Duluth to reflect the change in ownership of the Duluth Mill from ST Paper 1, LLC to Sofidel, payable from Fund 100, Agency 178001, Object 500900 or its designated fund; that appropriate county officials are authorized to amend the tax abatement agreement with the City of Duluth and execute any necessary related documents after review and approval by a representative of the County Attorney's Office; and further, that the amended agreement will be conditioned upon the City of Duluth City Council approval of the tax abatement amendment. Darren Jablonsky, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director, noted that the request is to reflect the change of ownership and that the plant conversion completed in 2023 resulted in 80 new full-time jobs. Emily Nygren, Economic Developer at the City of Duluth, commented that the Duluth City Council approved the amendment last night and Sofidel intends to uphold the job growth, retention terms and wage goals. Ron Thiry, Chief Operations Officer of ST Paper, LLC thanked the Board, employees, and trades people for their work in converting the plant. Simone Giacomelli, of Sofidel, said the company plans to expand to add finished goods to the facility and plan to be at net-zero emissions by the year 2050. After further discussion, the motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays. Resolution No. 24-73.

The following Board files were created from documents received by this Board:

Linnea Mirsch, Public Health & Human Services Director, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-18, Rescind County Board Resolution No. 23-647 and Authorize Appointment of Additional 2024 PHHS Advisory Committee Members.—62101

Abatement lists approved during CY 2024.—62102

Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor/Treasurer, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-28, Violation of St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, Country Corner Bar, LLC dba Country Corner Bar, LLC.—62103

Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor/Treasurer, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-29, Violation of St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, KDRS, LLC dba The Breeze Inn.—62104

Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor/Treasurer, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-30, Violation of St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, The Highway 5 Company dba The Highway 5.—62105

Claims and accounts approved during CY 2024.—62106

Darren Jablonsky, Economic and Community Development Interim Director, submitting Request for Board Action No. 24-33, Tax Abatement Financing for the City of Duluth – Agreement Amendment on Sale of Business from ST Paper 1, LLC to Sofidel.—62107

Upon motion by Commissioner Musolf, supported by Commissioner Harala, resolutions numbered 24-54 through 24-72, as submitted on the consent agenda, were unanimously adopted as follows:

BY COMMISSIONER MUSOLF:

RESOLVED, That the official proceedings of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners for the meeting of January 9, 2024, are hereby approved.

Adopted January 23, 2023. No. 24-54

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Advisory Committee is to seek input about the PHHS delivery system and make recommendations to the St. Louis County Board and the Department relative to the service needs of the community consistent with Minn Stat. § 402.03; and

WHEREAS, There are current openings on the PHHS Advisory Committee and applications have been received; and

WHEREAS, Board Resolution No. 23-647 made two additional appointments in Districts 5 and 6 for vacancies that did not exist that needed to be rectified.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board appoints and reappoints the following individuals to two-year terms beginning January 1, 2024:

- | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| District 1: | Reappoint Kaitlin Erpestad and Pam Kramer | terms to expire 12/31/2025 |
| District 2: | <i>continue to seek appointees for 2 vacancies</i> | |
| District 3: | Appoint David Schreyer | term to expire 12/31/2025 |
| District 4: | Appoint Rachel Phillips | term to expire 12/31/2025 |
| District 5: | Reappoint Gina Marsalla | term to expire 12/31/2025 |
| District 6: | Reappoint Loretta Bickford | term to expire 12/31/2025 |

District 7:	Appoint Jeff McNickle	term to expire 12/31/2025
At Large:	Reappoint Nathaniel Coward,	terms to expire 12/31/2025
	Appoint Lauren Pipkin	
Fond du Lac:	Nathan Sandman	no term limits
Bois Forte:	Terry Defoe	no term limits

RESOLVED FURTHER, Board Resolution No. 23-647 is hereby rescinded.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-55

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department has applied to the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for the construction of State Bridge 69L19 (County Bridge 437), further identified as CP 0016-555210, SAP 069-616-059; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge construction project is available, and the project has been selected to receive Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) grant funding supported through the State Transportation Fund (Bridge Bonds); and

WHEREAS, The amount of the grant has been determined to be \$282,253.88 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper County officials are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the project will be funded by a combination of LBRP Funds (2023 LBRP Funds – SAAS Acct 377, \$282,253.88) and State Aid funds (\$449,780.14). LBRP funds received for this project will be receipted into Fund 220, Agency 220765, Object 530401.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-56

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department has applied to the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for the construction of State Bridge 69L17 (County Bridge 603), further identified as CP 0592-555606, SAP 069-598-076; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge construction project is available, and the project has been selected to receive Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) grant funding supported through the State Transportation Fund (Bridge Bonds); and

WHEREAS, The amount of the grant has been determined to be \$378,243.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper County officials are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the project will be funded by a combination of LBRP Funds (2023 LBRP Funds – SAAS Acct 377, \$378,243.00) and local funds (\$68,522.98). LBRP funds received for this project will be receipted into Fund 220, Agency 220766, Object 530401.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-57

WHEREAS, The Active Transportation infrastructure grants are administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Aid Division; and

WHEREAS, Funds for the Active Transportation program were first appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature in the 2021 special session under the 1st Special Session, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 2; and

WHEREAS, \$13.2 million in Active Transportation funding is available for the 2023 solicitation for infrastructure projects that construct or improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department proposes to submit a funding application to the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant program to construct a sidewalk along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 110 in the year 2025 located in the City of Hoyt Lakes, further identified as CP 0110-642531; and

WHEREAS, The proposed sidewalk improvements along CSAH 110 would begin at 0.1 mile West of Wyandotte Road and end at 0.1 mile East of Coventry Road for a total length of 1.1 mile; and

WHEREAS, If the proposed project is awarded funding, St. Louis County would be responsible for design engineering, right-of-way acquisition services, permitting, bidding, and construction engineering and administration at the cost of St. Louis County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Department to submit a funding application to the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program in the amount of \$450,000 to construct a sidewalk along CSAH 110 in the year 2025 located in the City of Hoyt Lakes.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if the project funds are awarded, St. Louis County will provide the necessary cost contribution for this project, including any necessary cost share of potential cost overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County agrees to assume full ownership and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new county road infrastructure constructed under this grant.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-58

WHEREAS, The Active Transportation infrastructure grants are administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Aid Division; and

WHEREAS, Funds for the Active Transportation program were first appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature in the 2021 special session under the 1st Special Session, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 2; and

WHEREAS, \$13.2 million in Active Transportation funding is available for the 2023 solicitation for infrastructure projects that construct or improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Public Works Department proposed to submit a funding application to the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant program to construct a sidewalk/trail along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 110 in the year 2025 located in the City of Aurora, further identified as CP 0110-841179; and

WHEREAS, The proposed sidewalk along CSAH 110 would begin at CSAH 100 and end at the easterly entrance to the Essentia Health Northern Pines facility for a total length of 0.41 mile; and

WHEREAS, If the proposed project is awarded funding, St. Louis County would be responsible for design engineering, right-of-way acquisition services, permitting, bidding, and construction engineering and administration at the cost of St. Louis County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Works Department to submit a funding application to the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program in the amount of \$400,000 to construct a sidewalk/trail along CSAH 110 in the year 2025 located in the City of Aurora.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if the project funds are awarded, St. Louis County will provide the necessary cost contribution for this project, including any necessary cost share of potential cost overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County agrees to assume full ownership and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new county road infrastructure constructed under this grant.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-59

WHEREAS, The Local Partnership Program (LPP) was created to provide statewide transportation partnership opportunities with local agencies to construct highway improvements that are mutually beneficial at locations that are not currently programmed on state trunk highways; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Aid Division, administers the Local Partnership Program where funding is available for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department has identified the intersection of MN Trunk Highway (MNTH) 73 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16/CSAH 60 (Town Line Road) located in the City of Hibbing as a high priority safety project; and

WHEREAS, The County Road Safety Plan ranks this intersection as 33 out of 1,488 intersections by presence of risk factors (assigned 4 risk factors) which places this intersection in the top four percent of intersections by risk; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department proposes to submit a funding application to the Local Partnership Program to obtain funding to complete safety improvements at the intersection of MNTH 73 and CSAH 16/CSAH 60 (Town Line Road).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to submit a Local Partnership Program funding application to complete safety improvements at the intersection of MNTH 73 and CSAH 16/CSAH 60 (Town Line Road) located in the City of Hibbing. This project is further identified as CP 0016-839546.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if awarded, St. Louis County will provide the necessary cost contribution for this project, including any necessary cost share of potential cost overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County hereby agrees to assume full ownership and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new county road infrastructure constructed under this project.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-60

WHEREAS, The Local Partnership Program (LPP) was created to provide statewide transportation partnership opportunities with local agencies to construct highway improvements that are mutually beneficial at locations that are not currently programmed on state trunk highways; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Aid Division, administers the Local Partnership Program where funding is available for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department has identified the intersections of US 53 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 68 (Britt Road/Hwy. 68)/CSAH 106 (Britt Bypass) located in Unorganized Township 60-18 and Sandy Township (Britt) as a high priority safety project; and

WHEREAS, The County Road Safety Plan ranks the intersection of US 53 and CSAH 68 (Britt Road/Hwy. 68) as 11 out of 1,488 intersections by presence of risk factors (assigned 5 risk factors) which places this intersection in the top one percent of intersections by risk; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department proposes to submit a funding application to the Local Partnership Program to obtain funding to complete safety improvements at the intersections of US 53 and CSAH 68 (Britt Road/Hwy. 68)/CSAH 106 (Britt Bypass).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to submit a Local Partnership Program funding application to complete safety improvements at the intersections of US 53 and CSAH 68 (Britt Road/Hwy. 68)/CSAH 106 (Britt Bypass) located in Unorganized Township 60-18 and Sandy Township (Britt). This project is further identified as CP 0068-839831 and CP 0106-840320.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That if awarded, St. Louis County will provide the necessary cost contribution for this project, including any necessary cost share of potential cost overruns.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That St. Louis County hereby agrees to assume full ownership and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new county road infrastructure constructed under this project.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-61

WHEREAS, The Woodland Avenue & Hartley Park Green Infrastructure Project is programmed to be constructed in 2024 and is further identified as CP 0009-689681; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department determined it is necessary to secure an engineering consultant to provide professional services to perform construction administration, inspection, and construction staking on the project; and

WHEREAS, A request for proposals was sent to six engineering consultants and using a quality-based selection method, LHB, Inc. was selected for the project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an engineering services agreement, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, with LHB, Inc. to provide professional services to perform construction administration, inspection, and construction staking on the project.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the total cost of these professional services shall not exceed \$88,954.00, payable from Fund 220, Agency 220708, Object 626600, with \$66,715.50 being funded through the Army Corps of Engineers grant share and the remaining 25% match of \$22,328.50 being paid for by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources grant. This project is further identified as CP 0009-689681.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-62

WHEREAS, Bids have been received by the St. Louis County Purchasing Department for Bid 5977 (CP 0000-807642); and

WHEREAS, Bids were opened in the Richard H. Hansen Transportation and Public Works Complex, Duluth, MN, on December 15, 2023, and the low responsible bid was determined.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the award on the above project to the low bidder:

<u>LOW BIDDER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Johnson Wilson Constructors, Inc.	4431 Michigan St. Duluth, MN 55807	\$406,360.00

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the appropriate county officials are authorized to approve the contractor's performance bonds and to execute the bonds and contract for the above listed project payable from:

WHEREAS, Lake County and St. Louis County previously entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) creating the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA); and

WHEREAS, The RRA has expressed interest in St. Louis County providing a variety of services related to purchasing; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Purchasing has reviewed the request and this agreement will increase the workload for staff in the Purchasing Division and as a result a fee not to exceed \$10,000 will be charged to the JPA Board; and

WHEREAS, The term of this agreement is January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Purchasing Division to enter into an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority to provide purchasing services for the Joint Powers Board.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-64

RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the applications for abatement, correction of assessed valuations and taxes plus penalty and interest, and any additional accrual, identified in County Board File No. 62102.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-65

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Liquor Licensing Committee met on January 2, 2024, to consider recommending action to be taken by the County Board as a result of an alleged liquor law violation, sale to minor, on September 14, 2023, against Country Corner Bar, LLC dba Country Corner Bar, LLC, Culver Township; and

WHEREAS, The Liquor Licensing Committee recommended a ten (10) day license suspension and \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year, and recommended that the County Attorney's Office propose this penalty to Country Corner Bar, LLC; and

WHEREAS, The Country Corner Bar, LLC has agreed to accept the proposal if approved by the County Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute an agreement suspending the Combination On/Off-Sale & Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License issued to Country Corner Bar, LLC dba Country Corner Bar, LLC, Culver Township, for ten (10) days and a \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the date of suspension of the liquor license will be January 29, 2024.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a new violation within the next year (ending September 14, 2024) will result in the imposition of the suspension and civil penalty and may also be cause for additional action against the liquor license of the licensee pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, Section 13.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-66

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Liquor Licensing Committee met on January 2, 2024, to consider recommending action to be taken by the County Board as a result of an alleged liquor law

violation, sale to minor, on September 15, 2023, against KDRS, LLC dba The Breeze Inn, Lakewood Township; and

WHEREAS, The Liquor Licensing Committee recommended a ten (10) day license suspension and a \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year, and recommended that the County Attorney's Office propose this penalty to KDRS, LLC; and

WHEREAS, KDRS, LLC has agreed to accept the proposal if approved by the County Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute an agreement suspending the Combination On/Off-Sale & Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License issued to KDRS, LLC dba The Breeze Inn, Lakewood Township, for ten (10) days and a \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the date of suspension of the liquor license will be January 29, 2024.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a new violation within the next year (ending September 15, 2024) will result in the imposition of the suspension and civil penalty and may also be cause for additional action against the liquor license of the licensee pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, Section 13.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-67

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Liquor Licensing Committee met on January 2, 2024, to consider recommending action to be taken by the County Board as a result of an alleged liquor law violation, sale to minor, on August 18, 2023, against The Highway 5 Company dba The Highway 5, Unorganized Township 59-21; and

WHEREAS, The Liquor Licensing Committee recommended a ten (10) day license suspension and a \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year, and recommended that the County Attorney's Office propose this penalty to The Highway 5 Company; and

WHEREAS, The Highway 5 Company has agreed to accept the proposal if approved by the County Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute an agreement suspending the Combination On/Off-Sale & Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License issued to The Highway 5 Company dba The Highway 5, Unorganized Township 59-21, for ten (10) days and a \$1,000 civil penalty, with nine (9) days of the suspension and \$900 of the civil penalty stayed for one (1) year on the condition that the licensee has no same or similar violations during that year.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the date of suspension of the liquor license will be January 29, 2024.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a new violation within the next year (ending August 18, 2024) will result in the imposition of the suspension and civil penalty and may also be cause for additional action against the liquor license of the licensee pursuant to St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, Section 13.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-68

RESOLVED, That pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 340A, as amended, and Rules

and Regulations adopted by this Board under St. Louis County Ordinance No. 28, dated May 22, 1978, as amended, the following application for permit authorizing the consumption and display of intoxicating liquor is hereby approved, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 62085.

Wilkins Pine Aire Resort, Inc. dba Pine Aire Resort, Kabetogama Township,
renewal.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-69

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the Finance Committee for payment of claims and bills against the County of St. Louis, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 62106, are hereby approved and the County Auditor shall issue checks in the following amounts:

November 2023

100	General Fund	\$7,556,656.16
149	Personal Service Fund	2,171.64
155	Depot	115,461.24
160	MN Trail Assistance	28,838.24
173	Emergency Shelter Grant	7,062.54
178	Economic Development – Tax Forfeit	483,638.11
179	Enhanced 9-1-1	2,156.00
180	Law Library	7,572.71
183	City/County Communications	230.33
184	Extension Service	71,832.69
192	Permit to Carry	21,575.94
200	Public Works	4,551,310.22
204	Local Option Transit Sales Tax	947,860.39
215	Ditching	6,429.75
220	State/Federal Road Aid	3,727,165.35
228	2022 Flooding Event	2,878.79
230	Public Health & Human Services	9,032,409.80
238	HHS Conference	141,241.53
239	Pandemic Response Fund	308,902.48
240	Forfeited Tax	452,646.07
260	CDBG Grant	131,159.48
270	Home Grant	29,684.92
287	Septic Loans HRA	7,561.89
289	On-Site Wastewater	116,361.21
290	Forest Resources	102,034.95
298	Opioid Remediation	92,441.34
400	County Facilities	176,090.64
402	Depreciation Reserve Fund	9,634.18
403	Emergency Repairs	45.00
405	Public Works Building Construction	2,440,699.98
407	Public Works – Equipment	2,140,119.41
450	2021A – Capital Improvement	4,787.27
600	Environmental Services	876,222.65
715	County Garage	95,871.14
720	Property Casualty Liability	41,227.31
730	Workers Compensation	242,346.02

740	Medical Dental Insurance	3,210,176.49
770	Retired Employees Health Ins.	646.00

\$37,185,149.86

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-70

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the Finance Committee for payment of claims and bills against the County of St. Louis, on file in the office of the County Auditor, identified as County Board File No. 62106, are hereby approved and the County Auditor shall issue checks in the following amounts:

December 2023

100	General Fund	\$7,800,782.18
149	Personal Service Fund	2,794.63
155	Depot	90,935.54
160	Minnesota Trail Assistance	52,187.81
167	Attorney's Forfeitures	11,000.00
168	Sheriff's State Forfeitures	19,200.00
169	Attorney Trust Accounts-VW	1,641.24
173	Emergency Shelter Grant	12,635.96
178	Economic Development – Tax Forfeit	59,839.07
179	Enhanced 9-1-1	14,539.15
180	Law Library	33,175.56
183	City/County Communications	74.25
184	Extension Service	154,964.17
192	Permit to Carry	5,935.47
200	Public Works	2,989,929.47
204	Local Option Transit Sales Tax	448,102.40
220	State/Federal Road Aid	855,539.15
228	2022 Flooding Event	3,408.75
230	Public Health & Human Services	8,594,652.56
239	Pandemic Response Fund	2,125,645.14
240	Forfeited Tax	503,924.94
260	CDBG Grant	132,369.22
270	Home Grant	593,030.00
280	Federal Septic Loan – EPA Fund	38,606.61
288	Septic Loans – Env Trust Fund	6,000.00
289	On-Site Wastewater	61,680.87
290	Forest Resources	4,700.28
298	Opioid Remediation	45,498.96
324	2015B – Refunding 316-2008B	964,250.00
325	2015C – Capital Improve Bond	2,936,003.13
326	2016A – Capital Improve Bond	1,746,893.75
327	2016B Refunding 318-2013A	1,293,375.01
328	2018A Capital Improve Bond	1,537,965.63
329	2018B Capital Improve Bond	830,300.00
330	2020A TST Capital Improve Bond	1,317,318.76
331	2020B Refunding 2013D & 2014A	943,603.75
332	2021A – Capital Improvement	261,943.76
400	County Facilities	161,748.38
402	Depreciation Reserve Fund	16,064.00

403	Emergency Repairs	70,091.53
405	Public Works Building Construction	853,638.08
407	Public Works – Equipment	1,118,261.04
450	2021A – Capital Improvement	709,500.43
600	Environmental Services	728,584.13
640	Plat Books	11.05
715	County Garage	192,114.41
720	Property Casualty Liability	8,782.52
730	Workers Compensation	429,272.74
740	Medical Dental Insurance	3,369,420.79
770	Retired Employees Health Insurance	1,158.00
		<u>\$44,153,094.27</u>

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-71

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Historical Society (SLCHS) is governed by a Board of Governors; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County, under the by-laws of the SLCHS, is provided two voting member seats and one alternate seat on the Board of Governors; and

WHEREAS, The Depot Operations Committee has recommended that the County Board consider eliminating its representation on the Board of Governors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board hereby eliminates it's representation on the St. Louis County Historical Society Board of Governors.

Adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-72

BY COMMISSIONER HARALA:

WHEREAS, On May 25, 2021, the St. Louis County Board adopted Resolution No. 21-315, approving a \$600,000 tax abatement financing with the City of Duluth (City) associated with ST Paper 1, LLC plans to convert the existing Verso paper mill facility (Duluth Mill) into a new tissue paper manufacturing plant and create 80 jobs; and

WHEREAS, In reliance on the tax abatement financing, ST Paper 1, LLC invested millions of dollars in the Duluth Mill and generated new local employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, ST Paper 1, LLC is in the process of selling the Duluth manufacturing mill facility to Sofidel; and

WHEREAS, The City is requesting that St. Louis County amend the existing \$600,000 Tax Abatement Financing (TAF) agreement with the City to reflect the ownership change from ST Paper 1, LLC to Sofidel; and

WHEREAS, Sofidel has agreed to uphold the existing job growth and retention terms.

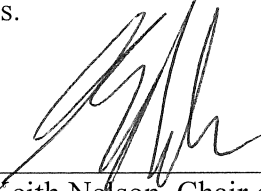
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board approves the amendment of the existing \$600,000 Tax Abatement Financing agreement with the City of Duluth to reflect the change in ownership of the Duluth Mill from ST Paper 1, LLC to Sofidel, payable from Fund 100, Agency 178001, Object 500900 or its designated fund.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That appropriate county officials are authorized to amend the tax abatement agreement with the City of Duluth and execute any necessary related documents after review and approval by a representative of the County Attorney's Office.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the amended agreement will be conditioned upon the City of Duluth City Council approval of the tax abatement amendment.


Unanimously adopted January 23, 2024. No. 24-73

At 10:33 a.m., January 23, 2024, Commissioner Boyle, supported by Commissioner Harala, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed; seven yeas, zero nays.



Keith Nelson, Chair of the Board
of County Commissioners

Attest:



Nancy Nilsen, County Auditor
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board
of County Commissioners

(Seal of the County Auditor)