

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2021

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

McDonald/Nelson moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Nelson briefly discussed Item #5, Title III Funds for Firewise Community Activities, and recognized the efforts of Commissioner McDonald in developing a better relationship with the U. S. Forest Service. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of April 27, 2021
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Culvert Replacement of CSAH 100 (White Township) [21-194]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement Bridge 288 Over the Dunka River (Babbitt) [21-195]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement Bridge 872 Over the Canadian National Railroad Tracks (Hoyt Lakes) [21-196]
- 2020 Emergency Management Performance COVID-19 Supplemental Grant [21-197]
- Title III Funds for Firewise Community Activities [21-198]
- Trail Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to the Hermantown Night Riders Snowmobile Club (CanosiaTwp) [21-199]
- Withdrawal of State Tax Forfeited Land from Memorial Forest Status [21-200]
- IRRR Grant Application: Residential Redevelopment [21-201]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Jugovich/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 9:35 A.M., at the Government Service Center in Duluth, Minnesota, for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the established priorities and funding recommendations included in the Amendment to the 2020 Action Plan. [21-202]. Commissioner Grimm asked how notice is provided for public hearings. In response, Deputy Auditor Phil Chapman commented that a minimum of ten days prior to the hearing, notice is published in the official newspaper, posted on the county website and county bulletin boards, and is automatically emailed to citizens who have signed up to receive electronic notices. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 9:35 A.M. at the Grand Lake Town Hall, 5297 Highway 53, Saginaw, Minnesota, to consider the request for tax abatement financing in an amount up to \$600,000 for the City of Duluth – ST Paper 1, LLC's plan to convert the existing Verso paper mill facility into a new tissue paper manufacturing plant and associated site development costs. [21-203]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Information Technology Department to utilize the State of Minnesota Contract Release C-1046(5) for the scheduled replacement of standardized computer hardware utilizing multiple equipment orders throughout the year totaling approximately \$436,178 utilizing Fund 100, Agency 117051, Object 640400, with funds transferred from the Information Technology assigned fund balance, Fund 100, Object 311139, where funds will be recouped from each department via Intra-County Transfer at the time that the equipment is deployed. [21-210]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray said that the state contract will be utilized for purchase of the equipment. The motion passed. (7-0)

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints the following applicant to the Heading Home St. Louis County Governance Board for terms ending December 31, 2023: Angela Neal, Rural Housing Coalition Representative; Shelly Holmes, Business Representative. [21-204]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the St. Louis County Purchasing Division to enter into a contract with EnviroTech Services, Inc. of Greeley, CO, for 810,000 gallons of 38% liquid calcium chloride delivered and applied for the bid price of \$1.01 per gallon with a total cost of \$818,100.00 plus \$50,000 for alternates, for a total cost of \$868,100.00. [21-205]. Administrator Gray commented that the price point went up approximately 1%, which is acceptable in today's market. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc., Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$4,099,999.00 for project CP 0056-284469, SP 069-656-018, STPF 6921(151) (Low); CP 0056-431717, SAP 069-656-019, SP 6908-69 (Tied), Intersection Improvements & Reclaim Overlay, County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 56 between Trunk Highway 2 and CSAH 91 in Hermantown. [21-206]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that additional Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant funding, applied for by the South St. Louis Soul & Water Conservation District, was being used to replace an existing box culvert that was preventing fish passage. Director Foldesi said that approximately \$470,000 of MN DOT, Local Partnership Program (LPP) funding will be used for significant safety enhancements at the intersection of Highway 2 and the Morris Thomas Road. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc., Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$355,892.50 for project MP 0008-581749 (Low Prime) including 23 Projects, Plant Mixed Bituminous Surface and Aggregate Surfacing at Railroad Crossings, Various Railroad Crossings throughout St. Louis County. [21-207]. Commissioner McDonald noted that the project bid was approximately 30% under the engineer's bid. Director Foldesi said that the project will eliminate the need for road graders to enter the danger zone when grading gravel roads. In addition, salt and sand can be used at the crossings during the winter season. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved to award a bid to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., Gilbert, MN, in the amount of \$826,547.30 for project CP 0000-434930, SAP 069-596-013, Grading, Bituminous Surfacing, Utilities,

and ADA Improvements, Harbor Drive and Pine Street from Enterprise Drive to US Highway 169 in the City of Tower. [21-208R]. Director Foldesi commented that the resolution was revised because additional Local Roads Improvement Project (LRIP) funds were available to apply to the project. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Buhl to complete the storm sewer rehabilitation of CSAH 64 (Pennsylvania Avenue) with the St. Louis County's share of the project estimated to be \$375,388.85. [21-209]. Director Foldesi said that the cooperative agreement will allow the county to take advantage of economies of scale pricing. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

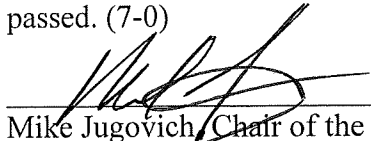
Jewell/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints the following individuals to serve as the Special Board of Appeal and Equalization for Assessment Year 2021: John Vigen, Duluth - Commissioner District #1; John Doberstein, Duluth - Commissioner District #2; Sherri Puckett, Duluth - Commissioner District #3; Leonard Cersine, Ely - Commissioner District #4; Tim Peterson, Hermantown - Commissioner District #5; Dawn Cole, Town of Fayal - Commissioner District #6; and Frank Bigelow, City of Hibbing - Commissioner District #7; that members be compensated at the rate of \$200 per meeting day (payable from Assessor's Department Fund 100, Agency 118001, Object #635300 - Non-employee fees) and be reimbursed for mileage and expenses at the current county rate (from Assessor's Department Object #635500 - Non-employee travel); and further, that the Special Board of Appeal and Equalization is: Delegated all powers and duties of the County Board of Appeal and Equalization; To report the results of their deliberations back to the St. Louis County Board in the form of minutes kept by the Clerk of the County Board; Directed to hold at least one meeting day in the Government Services Center in Duluth, and one meeting day in the Government Services Center in Virginia, Minnesota. [21-211]. Commissioner Nelson asked County Administration to review the meeting compensation rate for members and to bring a recommendation to the Board next week. The motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner McDonald noted that May is skin cancer awareness month and encouraged people to think of how to protect themselves from sunburn when they are outside. Commissioner McDonald commented on the upcoming fishing opener and encouraged people to use care when boating and wear floatation devices.

Chair Jugovich encouraged everyone to be safe with the approaching fishing opener and wished mothers a happy Mother's Day.

At 10:48 a.m., Boyle/McDonald moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board