

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

September 13, 2022

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of September 6, 2022
- Acquisition of right-of-way for CP 0078-685127 [22-398]
- Detour Agreement with MnDOT for Detouring US 2 onto CSAH 13 (Midway Road) [22-399R]
- Detour Agreement with MnDOT for Detouring MNTH 23 onto CSAH 3 (Becks Road) [22-400R]
- Removal of the St. Louis County Auditor from the Chain of Responsibility for Activities Related to the Ely and West Duluth Motor Vehicle Offices [22-401]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Boben (Homestead) [22-402]
- Special Sale to the City of Aurora for Blight Removal (100-0077-00360) [22-403]
- Special Sale to Duluth Economic Development Authority (010-0580-00170, -00190, -00340, -00500) [22-404]
- Special Sale to the Duluth Economic Development Authority (010-4670-00590) [22-405]

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## Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies the maximum property tax levy for 2023 in the amount of \$163,366,729.47. [22-408]. A point of personal privilege was taken at 10:59 a.m. At 11:03 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. County Administrator Kevin Gray gave a handout to the Committee and provided an overview of the 2023 Preliminary Maximum Levy Proposal. Administrator Gray noted that the proposed levy increase is 4.39%. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board, acting on behalf of unorganized townships for the purpose of road and bridge maintenance and construction, adopts and certifies a maximum levy of \$1,775,439.20 for the year 2023 to be levied only in such unorganized townships. [22-406]. Commissioner Jewell requested information regarding the per parcel increase; due to the smallness of the population, increases affect the population at a higher rate. Commissioner Nelson commented that he

expected the Certification of the 2023 Maximum Property Tax Levy, the 2023 Unorganized Township Road Levy, and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) 2023 Proposed Levy to appear on regular agenda for the next Board meeting. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies the HRA maximum property tax levy for 2023 in the amount of \$230,288. [22-407]. Administrator Gray noted that was no proposed increase for the 2023 HRA levy. The motion passed. (7-0)

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$75,000 of American Rescue Act Plan (Revenue Loss) funding to assist with the construction of an expanded building at the Hartley Center; that the City of Duluth and/or Hartley Nature Center 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, and authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents with the City of Duluth and/or Hartley Nature Center as necessary to administer the program and comply with the American Rescue Plan Act; and further, that the project be payable from Fund 239, Agency 239801, American Rescue Plan Act or, if more appropriate, from Fund 178, Agency 178008. [22-409]. Commissioner Musolf commented that the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department hired contractors from Ohio. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Boyle requested that the Board Chair reach out to the St. Louis County Historical Society to provide the County Board with an update regarding the recruitment and hiring of their new director.

Commissioner Nelson asked County Administration to review state statutes to determine if St. Louis County has a role in hiring the new director for the St. Louis County Historical Society

Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger said that he is not aware of any statute that gives the County Board authority regarding the hiring of the St. Louis County Historical Society Director.

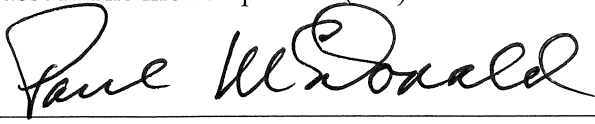
Commissioner Jewell commented that it seems appropriate that St. Louis County would get an update from the St. Louis County Historical Society regarding the hiring of a new director. Commissioner Jewell mentioned that he was leaving for vacation and may not be back to vote on the levy; however, he wants to make it clear that he supports the levy amount that was voted on during today's meeting.

Commissioner Grimm said that we are in the middle of the largest nursing strike in U.S. history and encouraged Commissioner to attend today's rally to show support and solidarity for nurses.

Commissioner Jugovich noted that small game season opens this weekend and urged everyone to be safe.

Chair McDonald said that Commissioner Nelson spent the entire day, including set-up and take-down, at the Wirtanen Farm Fall Festival and that there were great crowds at the Fall Festival and SISU Community Night Out events. Chair McDonald noted that a Board Workshop will be held on September 20, 2022, starting at 9:30 a.m. at Camp Esquagama.

At 12:02 p.m., Jewell/Jugovich moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. The motion passed. (7-0)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and "M".

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Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and "C".

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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board