

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

July 7, 2020

Location: Government Services Center, St. Louis River Room, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Olson

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Note: Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, and Beth Olson participated by WebEx.

Commissioner Olson entered the meeting at 9:39 a.m. by WebEx.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

McDonald/Jewell moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #1, Authorization to Accept Funds from DHS for Child Welfare Opiate Allocation [20-240] was pulled for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of June 23, 2020
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: CP 0056-284469, SP 069-656-018 by Eminent Domain Proceedings [20-241]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: Culvert Replacement Project on CSAH 27 in Lavell and McDavitt Townships [20-242]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: Culvert Replacement Project on CSAH 25 in Unorganized Township 60-19 and Alango Township [20-243]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way: Culvert Replacement Project on CSAH 82 in Sturgeon and Alango Townships [20-244]
- Purchase of Property Insurance [20-245]
- Lawful Gambling Application (Solway Township) [20-246]
- 2020 Next Generation 9-1-1 Customer Premise Equipment Grant Amendment [20-247]
- Application and Acceptance of the 2020 State Boat and Water Safety Grant [20-248]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Olson moved to establish a public hearing on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 9:45 a.m. in the St. Louis County Government Service Center in Virginia, Minnesota, to solicit public input prior to considering the proposed tax abatement for the City of Duluth – public infrastructure improvements and associated site development costs project. [20-249]. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

McDonald/Musolf moved to authorize the County Auditor to spread local levies for the furnishing of fire protection and/or first responder services in unorganized townships; and further, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to sign any associated contract documents. [20-250]. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Jewell moved to authorize the Information Technology (IT) Department to the utilize Sourcewell cooperative purchasing Contract # 081419-CDW to procure enterprise software licensing and associated consulting service contracts from CDW-G, Inc., to implement Microsoft M365 with an estimated annual cost of \$671,422.00 annually, payable from Fund 100, Agency 117001, Object 634800, Project 23601001, with funds transferred from the Information Technology assigned fund balance, Fund 100, Object 311139; that the one-time implementation consulting costs in the amount of \$210,450.00 payable from Fund 100, Agency 117001, Object 629900, Project 23601001, with funds transferred from the Information Technology assigned fund balance, Fund 100, Object 311139, is approved; and further, that a one-year trial of the software support platform Quest is also approved to be purchased for the additional cost of \$61,200.00 at the discretion of the IT Department. [20-251]. St. Louis County IT Director Jeremy Craker said that the agreement will help keep software current and consistent and will provide a number of tools for county staff to utilize when collaborating on projects. Director Craker commented that it would cost \$4 million to purchase the software and services separately. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Public Safety & Corrections Committee**

Olson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the application and acceptance of the 2021 DWI Officer Grant in the amount of \$94,888.89; and further, that the County Board approves the hiring of a 1.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff position contingent upon acceptance of the grant, which will be eliminated at the end of the grant period. [20-252]. St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman commented that the grant will pay for the entire cost of the assignment; however, the person must keep track of their time because the only costs eligible for reimbursement are costs related strictly to DWI enforcement. Sheriff Litman said that over the past four years the county has been in the top five in the state in alcohol-related crashes, deaths and injuries; hopefully, this position will help reduce the number of DWI incidents. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Health & Human Services Committee**

Olson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorize PHHS to accept funds from DHS for the Child Welfare Opiate Allocation in the amount of \$443,583.00 for the budget period July 1, 2020-December 31, 2020; that beginning January 2021, funds will be allocated for a 12-month period, aligning with the calendar year; and further, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes PHHS to enter into contracts with community partners to fulfill the obligations outlined in the Child Welfare Opiate Allocation Agency Plan. [20-240]. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson thanked Commissioner Musolf for his involvement with the Decorative Products Sealed Bid Auction. Commissioner Nelson discussed issues and impacts relating to the closure of the Verso Paper plant in Duluth. Commissioner Nelson encourage local leaders to work with the mill to find ways to provide incentives to encourage the company to remain in the area, rather than recruiting new business.

County Attorney Mark Rubin commented on remodeling and renovating the courts and said that the district courts lease space from the county and the Board and district courts should mutually agree to any remodeling or renovation of the courts.

Commissioner McDonald discussed the importance of having a Veterans Service Officer in Ely and commented that many area veterans are concerned about staffing due to the recent retirement of the Ely Veterans Service Officer. Commissioner McDonald mentioned that the Ely social worker has transferred to Virginia and it was imperative that the position is located in Ely and not moved to Virginia.

Commissioner Nelson suggested that the Virginia Veterans Service Officer or Duluth staff could help in Ely until the position is filled.

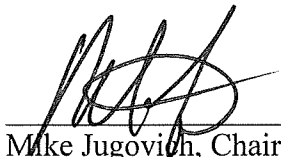
Commissioner Jewell asked that meeting protocols be established for future Board meetings.

Chair Jugovich thanked everyone for wearing masks at today's meeting and indicated that staff is working on establishing meeting protocols.

Commissioner Nelson commended the work of first responders, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, and the Eveleth Police Department for their response to a recent plane crash.

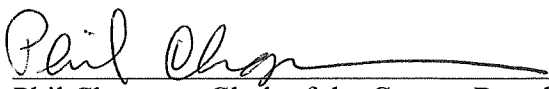
Commissioner Boyle indicated that he would be writing a letter to ask the Governor to implement a statewide mask requirement. Commissioner Boyle discussed the importance of keeping Verso Paper located in the area.

At 10:32 a.m., Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner McDonald, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (7-0)



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Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board