

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 3, 2022

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of April 26, 2022
- Acquisition of Right-of-way for CP 5766-555602 [22-215]
- FHWA's National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP) Grant Application [22-216]
- Cooperative Agreement with MnDOT and BNSF (SP 069-002211, CP 0029-528302) [22-217]
- Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Grant Application [22-218]
- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Eveleth (CP 0142-592214) [22-219]
- Rural Surface Transportation Grant Application (CP 0004-490685) [22-220]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-221]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to ALLETE, Inc., d/b/a Minnesota Power (52-14) [22-222]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Jugovich/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing on May 24, 2022, at 9:40 a.m. at the Northland Town Hall, 7271 Highway 53, Canyon, MN, to solicit public input on the proposed Subdivision Ordinance 60 amendments. [22-223]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jewell moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$5,684,864.01 for project CP 0009-382898, SP 069-609-047, SP 118-157-023(Low)(Low Prime) consisting of three projects; CP 0037-382899, SP 069-637-025, SP 118-162-016, SP 118-163-004 (Tied); Milling, Grading, Bituminous Surfacing, Traffic Signals, ADA Improvements, Retaining Wall, Roundabout, and Lighting on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 (Woodland Avenue) from West Arrowhead Road to CSAH 37 (Snively Road) and CSAH 37 Snively Road/Jean Duluth Road from 550' South of Glenwood Street to 350' North of Glenwood Street in Duluth. [22-224]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the Broadband Infrastructure Grant program request in the amount up to \$400,000 to be used for a broadband public infrastructure construction project in the City of Rice Lake; that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents as necessary to administer the program, comply with the American Rescue Plan Act and fund projects, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054 or its designated fund; that the applicant 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 required under the American Rescue Plan Act; and further, that the St. Louis County Board rescinds Resolution No. 21-476. [22-225]. City of Rice Lake Councilor Suzanne Herstad said that the City of Rice Lake did not receive a larger federal grant, so the project had to be scaled down. Currently, City Hall is utilizing Starlink; however, broadband infrastructure must be installed due to the need for a static IP address for administration of absentee voting. In addition to the Rice Lake City Hall, the infrastructure will provide broadband service to approximately 219 homes and businesses. Consolidated Telephone Corporation (CTC) will fund a project to allow connection for neighboring townships north of the City of Rice Lake. Brad Gustafson, St. Louis County Planning Manager, said that the City of Rice Lake project will be constructed this summer and he expects that over the next couple of months, three more broadband projects will be brought to the Board for consideration. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board supports the South St. Louis County Veterans Treatment Court's application for grant funding and authorizes the Board Chair to send a letter of support to the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) for inclusion in the grant application. [22-226]. Sixth Judicial Judge Dale Harris said that the BJA Veterans Treatment Court Enhancement Grant would allow the court to continue serving veterans in the community. The goal of the court is to connect veterans as soon as possible to treatment and community resources that they might not know exist. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jewell said that he attended a film festival over the weekend and said the films about Chisholm were wonderful and commented that musician Steve Solkela was a hit in *Iron Opera*.

Commissioner Nelson said that the Board should consider a process for appointments to the Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC) Advisory Board. Commissioner Nelson has asked county administration to see if there is an appointment process; if not, he will be bringing forward a resolution to establish a process.

Commissioner Jugovich urged everyone to be safe for the upcoming fishing opener, given that there still may be ice on the lakes. Commissioner Nelson noted that many of the small lakes will be open and encouraged people to visit the area.

Commissioner Musolf noted that the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) will be providing food assistance for those in need beginning in May.

Chair McDonald commented that May is Mental Health Awareness month and encouraged people to recognize people who are struggling. Chair McDonald also noted that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked teachers for all their work. Chair McDonald said that he and Administrator Gray took part in a Voyageur Country ATV ride last weekend. Over 150 people participated in the ride to help raise money for the club and to help stimulate the economy.

Commissioner Jewell commented on the Barry family shooting that took place in Duluth recently and encouraged Commissioners to make a push for funding for mental health related projects such as the Clarity Project.

Commissioner Grimm encouraged Commissioners to use their legislative connections to press senators and representatives for mental health funding and discussed the shortage of mental health beds in the area. Due to the shortage, people are being sent out of state for mental health care.

Commissioner Nelson discussed the success of the Board's decision to allow ATV riders to use road shoulders to connect to trails and encouraged the City of Duluth to consider ATV use in West Duluth. In addition, Commissioner Nelson thanked all Commissioners for their work at the legislature and said that he would be going to meet with representatives tomorrow and would be advocating for the Depot and the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project.

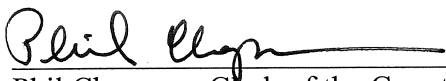
Commissioner Jugovich mentioned that he is aware of people purchasing ATVs from other dealers because there is not a place to test-drive an ATV in West Duluth.

Commissioner Musolf indicated that there is a group in the Hermantown area that would like to start an ATV club and asked Commissioners that sit on the ATV Joint Powers Board for additional information.

At 10:39 a.m., Jugovich/Nelson moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board