

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

March 22, 2022

Location: Cherry Town Hall, Iron Junction, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of March 8, 2022
- Hepatitis C Care Coordination and Service Delivery [22-130]
- Agreement with the City of Hermantown (CP 0091-681361) [22-131]
- RAISE Grant Application for Rice Lake Road Reconstruction (CP 004-490685) [22-132]
- RAISE Grant Application for Rock Ridge School Transportation Improvements (CP 0142-592214) [22-133]
- Establishment of No Parking Zones on County Roads [22-134]
- Amendment to MnDOT Contract No. 1048779 for SP 069-070-055, CHBP 6922(250) [22-135]
- Acquisition of Right of Way for CP 0101-235499, SP 069-701-007 by Eminent Domain Proceedings [22-136]
- Authorization to Purchase Election Assisted Voting Devices [22-137]
- Authorization to Purchase Upgraded Election Hardware and Software [22-138]
- Authorization to Purchase Voting Tabulation Equipment [22-139]
- Public Auction of Earthen Material on State Tax Forfeited Land (McDavitt Township) [22-140]
- Free Conveyance of State Tax-Forfeited Land to City of Hibbing [22-141]
- Special Sale to the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for Affordable Housing [22-142]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Bergman (Homestead) [22-143]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Crist (Non-Homestead) [22-144]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Wegener (Non-Homestead) [22-145]
- Right of Way Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Big Bear Lake Company (Ault Twp 55-12) [22-146]
- Right of Way Easement Exchange Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to McCahill LLC Partnership (Morse Twp 62-13) [22-147]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing at 9:40 a.m., on April 26, 2022, in the Hoyt Lakes City Hall, Hoyt Lakes, MN, for the purpose of considering the

issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Copper & Clover LLC dba Gruben's Marina & Resort. [22-148]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Time Specific Presentation**

At 11:11 a.m., the North Soil & Water Conservation District gave a presentation to the Committee. District Administrator Anita Provinzino provided the Committee with a handout detailing financial information. As of December 31, 2021, the has funding sources of \$962,661 and a 5.1-month operating reserve. Phil Norvitch, Natalya Walker, Zach Evans, Kelsea Goettl, Tuomas Sivula, and Becca Reiss gave a brief overview of their areas of responsibility.

A point of personal privilege was taken at 11:36 a.m. At 11:43 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

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### **Health & Human Services Committee**

Boyle/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes PHHS to utilize up to 11 concurrent training positions for the purposes of developing a child protection onboarding cohort to meet evolving business needs. These positions will be paid out of Fund 230, Agency 232008, Object 610201, a new object to track these training expenditures and ensure that existing personnel budgets are sufficient to cover these additional positions where no additional personnel budget is authorized. [22-149]. Administrator Gray commented that this will improve training and make onboarding of staff more efficient. Human Resources and Administration Director Gottschald said there may be times when the child protection area will exceed their assigned full-time equivalent (FTE); however, the department will not exceed their assigned FTE. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Jugovich/McDonald moved to award a bid to Casper Construction, Inc., Grand Rapids, MN, in the amount of \$1,080,000 for project CP 0084-368342, SAP 069-684-005 (Bridge 547) (Low); CP 0315-368346 (Bridge 473) (Tied): Bridge Construction, Bridge 547 on CSAH 84 between Latick Road and CR 134; Bridge 473 on CR 315 between CR 317 and CR 756. [22-150]. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved to award a bid to Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc., Ely, MN, in the amount of \$282,564 for project CP 0000-649271 (2022 Southwest Crushing), Crushing, Various Gravel Pits in Southwestern St. Louis County. [22-151]. Commissioner Nelson commented that the Board's decision to break up crushing contracts by area, has resulted in more timely delivery of gravel. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jewell moved to award a bid to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC, Edina, MN, in the amount of \$762,878.10 for project CP 0000-369669, SAP 069-030-044, SAP 038-030-010, Pavement Markings, Various Locations in St. Louis and Lake Counties. [22-152]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Boyle moved to award a bid to Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp, Saint Cloud, MN, in the amount of \$4,658,923.57 for project CP 0000-554769, SAP 069-030-055 (2022 Chip Seal) (Low) (Prime); CP 0000-650780 (Tied), CP 0000-660266 (Tied), Chip Seal, Various Locations in St. Louis County, City of Rice Lake, City of Duluth and Lake County. [22-153]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves and authorizes the appropriate county officials to sign the first amendment to the 2022-2024 Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Minnesota Extension to provide additional Extension programs at the Depot totaling \$76,949 in 2022 (pro-rated for balance of 2022 based on start date), \$78,681 in 2023 and \$80,648 in 2024, payable from Fund 155, Agency 155001, Object 629900. The County Board approves payment of \$100,000 from Fund 239, to be used to supplement the Depot personnel budget to staff the proposed contracted position over the course of the 2022-2024 MOA, to address lost admissions revenues, development of virtual exhibits and youth educational experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. [22-154]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board, based on the considerations set forth in the amendment and overall plan and as set forth herein, approves the Capital Improvement Plan, as amended for the years 2022 through 2026. [22-155]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Jewell/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board reappoints James Glancy – At Large; John Rauzi – Eveleth; Marcia Hage – Association of Townships; Rory Johnson – At Large; and Sasha Lehto – At Large as representatives to the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Further, that the County Auditor advertise and accept applications through June 30, 2022, for four vacant positions on the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee: At Large (two), Northern Townships (one), and Hibbing representative (one) with a term to expire December 31, 2026. In addition, the St. Louis County Board modifies the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee member term of service for all members to begin January 1 and continue through December 31 of their respective third year. [22-156]. Planning and Community Development Director Matt Johnson said the resolution changes terms of members to align with the calendar year. Planning Manager Brad Gustafson commented that the department depends on communities to make recommendations and the department reviews backgrounds before making recommendations for appointments. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints the Planning and Community Development Department Director and Community Development Manager as the St. Louis County responsible Federal officials and certifying officers for environmental responsibilities required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG, HOME, ESG, and Continuum of Care Programs with appointment to be effective with this resolution. [22-157]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Public Safety & Corrections Committee**

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board adopts the Lead Evidence Technician job classification, which is allocated to Grade B17: \$45,376 - \$63,550 (annual and longevity steps through twenty-two years of service) in the Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan. [22-158]. Commissioner Jewell temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 12:07 p.m. to 12:19 p.m. Director Gottschald said the approval of body worn cameras has resulted in the need to have additional staff focus on management of digital evidence. The motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a vacant 1.0 FTE Information Specialist II position (position code 0432-023), Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B10), to Evidence Technician (Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan, Pay Grade B15), in the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, resulting in an annual increase of approximately \$6,006 for the position, dependent upon the starting salary of a successful candidate, payable from Fund 100, Agency 129000, Object 610100. [22-159]. Director Gottschald commented that the change will result in a \$6,006 annual budget increase. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Jugovich urged the public to be patient regarding road repair; crews will begin repairing roads once the weather allows.

Commissioner Nelson commented that St. Louis County has assembled a tremendous team and he is eager for staff to get back in full force now that it appears we are coming out of the pandemic.

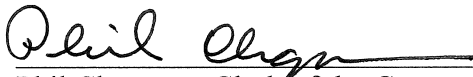
Chair McDonald noted that Senator Tom Bakk, Representative Jennifer Schultz, and Representative Mike Sundin announced that they will not be seeking reelection and thanked them for all their support for St. Louis County.

At 12:19 p.m., Nelson/Jugovich moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board