

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 9, 2021

Location: St. Louis County Public Works Facility, Virginia, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Commissioners Frank Jewell, Patrick Boyle, and Ashley Grimm participated by WebEx.

At 10:14 a.m., the Committee convened in a closed session for the purpose of discussing the proposed settlement and litigation strategy relating to *King v. County of St. Louis*, Case No. 69DU-CV-17-529, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, Subd. 3(b). At 10:29 a.m., the closed session concluded.

At 10:40 a.m., the Committee of the Whole meeting convened with all members present.

CONSENT AGENDA

McDonald/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #5, Sponsoring Agency Requests for Various City and Township Local Road Improvement Program Projects [21-71] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of February 2, 2021
- Application and Acceptance of Community Paramedic Team Funds [21-67]
- Cooperative Agreement with the St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority for the Palo Tia Segment of the Mesabi Trail [21-68]
- Agreement for Advanced Construction with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Improvements to a Segment of CSAH 116 (Morse Township) [21-69]
- Agreement for Advanced Construction with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Improvements to a Segment of CSAH 5 (Hibbing) [21-70]
- Request for St. Louis County to Act as Fiscal Agent for Crane Lake Township – LCCMR Grants [21-72R]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/McDonald moved to establish a public hearing at 9:40 a.m., on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, in the Duluth Government Services Center, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of considering the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to Neighbor's BBQ LLC dba Neighbor's BBQ, Vermilion Lake Township. [21-73]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jugovich/McDonald moved to support the efforts of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, the City of Chisholm, and Essentia Health to build a new clinic and public health and social services facility in the City of Chisholm to replace the outdated clinic in that City. St. Louis County will commit, through its social services or public health providers, to lease at a minimum 1,500 feet of space in this facility. In the case that a provider(s) cannot be identified to lease such space, St. Louis County will begin work with City of Chisholm and the developer to identify the scope of a project including space needs, lease rates and terms as part of a lease that would accommodate County office needs. Before any lease be entered into by the County, staff is directed to bring all terms and conditions of such lease to the Board for final consideration and action. [21-76]. Chair Jugovich commented on the importance of expanding mental health and chemical dependency services in the northern part of the county and mentioned that the space commitment outlined in the resolution will help get partners to commit to the project. Commissioner Boyle expressed concern about voting on the resolution due to the lack of information, specifically the total cost of the commitment by the county and related budget details. Commissioner Grimm was concerned about the lack of details regarding the county commitment and proposed that the item be discussed at a Board workshop next Tuesday. Chair Jugovich indicated that he would prefer to move forward with the resolution. Commissioner Jewell said that he supports having clinics throughout the county; however, he was concerned due to the lack of information relating to this project. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger commented that the resolution allows for discussion, and approval of terms and conditions of a lease would be brought to the Board for future approval. Deputy Fritsinger estimated that the costs to lease would be \$10,000 to \$15,000 per month. Public Health and Human Services Deputy Director Paula Stocke commented on the overall need for substance and mental health options in the northern part of the county. Deputy Director Stocke indicated that they have reached out to several partners and have struggled with the level of detail; providers need to know the cost and square footage before they are able to commit to the project. A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 11:32 a.m. At 11:47 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. Commissioner McDonald reiterated that discussions with various groups by the sub-committee have identified a need for these types of services in the area. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (4-3 Jewell, Boyle, Grimm)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Nelson moved to authorize the lease of twelve John Deere Model 672GP motor graders for five years with an extended five (5) year warranty and a one (\$1) dollar purchase option at the end of the lease from McCoy Equipment of Duluth, MN, at the annual per machine cost of \$54,350.00, for an annual total cost of \$652,200.00 and a grand total cost of \$3,261,000.00. [21-74]. Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the life expectancy of a grader is approximately 12,000 hours of use. Of the forty-one graders owned by Public Works, eleven graders have over 12,000 hours of use and ten have over 10,000 of use. Approximately half of the county grader fleet is at the end of its life. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved to authorize the purchase of twelve Walk n Rollers from McCoy Equipment of Duluth, MN, for a total cost of \$438,480.00. [21-75]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board act as the sponsoring agency for various Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) projects in Vermilion Lake Township, White Township,


Proctor, Fredenberg Township, Hermantown, Alborn Township, Greenwood Township, and Morse Township. [21-71]. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

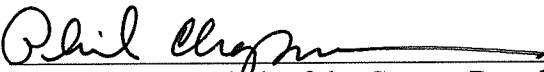
Commissioner Grimm asked to clear the record regarding statements that were made at the last meeting implying that a person who provided public comment was paid by the hour. Commissioner Grimm confirmed that was not the case and said that most people have to take time off from work or use vacation time in order to provide public testimony.

Commissioner Nelson mentioned that the county seat did not include bond funding for The Depot as a legislative priority; to have a better chance of receiving funding, the county needs to ask the city to be a partner for The Depot. Commissioner Nelson clarified that when he had COVID-19, he was able to work through the sickness; however, he followed all CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines. Commissioner Nelson commented that many older individuals are having difficulties when they are trying to get on state COVID-19 vaccination lists due to the lack of computer skills or the lack of internet access. Thankfully, St. Louis County has a COVID-19 help line that callers can talk to a live person. Commissioner Nelson said that the St. Louis County COVID-19 help number is 218-625-3600.

At 12:33 p.m., Nelson/Musolf moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed. (7-0)



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board