

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 6, 2020

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

Commissioners Frank Jewell and Beth Olson participated telephonically.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #15, Ash River Sanitary District Budget Advance Request [20-357] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of September 22, 2020
- CY2020 Grant Application for the Minnesota Department of Health Influenza Vaccine Project [20-343]
- Application and Acceptance of City of Duluth Critical Technology Support for Children and Families Grant [20-344]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way – Culvert Replacement Project on CSAH 25 in Field Township (62-19) and the City of Cook [20-345]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way – Culvert Replacement Project on County Road 912 in Field Township (62-19) and the City of Cook [20-346]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way – Culvert Replacement Project on County Road 958 in Field Township (62-19) [20-347]
- Cooperative Agreement with Lake County for 2021 Maintenance Striping Project [20-348]
- Cooperative Agreement with Lake County for 2021 State Aid Pavement Marking Project [20-349]
- Sale of Surplus Fee Land – That Part of the SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 31, T52N, R13W (Normanna Township) [20-350]
- Sale of Surplus Fee Land – That Part of the NE ¼ of NW ¼, Section 19, T51N, R20W (Floodwood Township) [20-351]
- Acceptance of County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant [20-352]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [20-353]
- Authorization to Apply for Depot Foundation Grant for St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center: Great Hall Painting [20-354]
- Authorization to Apply for Depot Foundation Grant for St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center: Lighting Upgrade [20-355]
- Food Services Contract for the St. Louis County Jail [20-356]

- Cancellation of Contract for Purchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Avey [20-358]
- Cancellation of Contract for Purchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Sandstrom [20-359]
- Repurchase of State Tax Forfeited Land – Peterson Homestead [20-360]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Lake Country Power (Unorganized Township 55-21) [20-361]
- Conveyance of State Tax Forfeited Land to City of Rice Lake [20-362]

Environmental & Natural Resources Committee

Musolf/McDonald moved to that the St. Louis County Board approves the Ash River Sanitary District request for a \$32,000 grant from the Environmental Trust Fund to support anticipated professional services and other start-up costs for 2020 and 2021; that funding for this grant will be Fund 864, Agency 864001; and further, that the County Auditor is authorized to negotiate and enter into a fiscal/management services agreement with the Ash River Sanitary District. [20-357]. Nelson/Musolf moved to strike “to be repaid from 2021 tax levy funds” wording from the resolution. County Administrator Kevin Gray clarified that the initial request was an advance to be repaid by the district and has since been changed to a grant that the district does not have to repay. Nelson/Musolf withdrew their amendment. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the original motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes 2021 monthly premium rates for the self-funded employee and retiree health insurance plan featuring \$400 Single/\$800 Family Deductibles and \$1,200 Single/\$2,400 Family Out-of-Pocket Caps at Tier 1; \$800 Single/\$1,600 Family Deductibles and \$2,400 Single/\$4,800 Family Out-of-Pocket Caps at Tier 2 as follows: SINGLE COVERAGE: \$982.25, FAMILY COVERAGE: \$2,281.29; that the 2021 stop-loss rate payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota of \$12.89 per contract per month is approved; that a 2021 per contract per month administrative service fee of \$40.25 payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota is approved; that the 2021 monthly premium rate for the self-insured dental plan is approved, with a 3.0% increase, in the amount of \$41.36; that the 2021 per contract per month administrative service fee of \$2.23 payable to Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is approved; and further, that the Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute a contract for administrative services of the medical and dental plans for the time period covering January 1 through December 31, 2021, as set forth above. [20-363]. St. Louis County Human Resources Director Jim Gottschald commented that claims are projected to decrease by 1.8%, which will result in a reduction of claim payments by \$2.2 million. In addition, a funding gap has been closed during negotiations and will result in an additional \$1.6 million in the health plan. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a one-time grant contribution in the amount of \$150,000 to the Upper Minnesota Film Office (UMFO) to be paid upon provision of UMFO’s proof of incorporation as a Minnesota nonprofit 501(c)3 legal status from the State of Minnesota; that County staff develop and identify special performance measures to be accomplished by UMFO to be included in the grant/funding agreement; and further, if necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions and execute appropriate grant/funding agreement(s) with the UMFO and/or its fiscal agents on behalf of the UMFO, payable from Fund 178, Object 311008, or its designated fund. [20-364]. St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger provided the Board with an overview of the funding agreement. Ricki McManus, of UMFO, commented that much of their activity is focused toward workforce development and both the county and state could work in

tandem to develop performance measurements. Shari Marshik, of UMFO, said that they hope to accomplish four goals as a result of the funding: advancement of a production guide, outreach to the industry, continued workforce development, and support of the local economy. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Olson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board supports the concept of establishing a Film Industry Incentive Program and directs the County Administrator and County Attorney to continue to investigate the legal aspects associated with such a program and to develop a detailed incentive program policy, procedures, and funding for the establishment of and funding for a Film Industry Incentive Program to be considered at a future Board meeting. [20-365]. Ricki McManus, of UMFO, said that timing was important in order to attract people to film in the area. A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 11:24 a.m. At 11:33 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present. Philip Gilpin of UMFO, said that timing of the incentive program is critical; delays could result in the county missing out on 2021 funds coming into the area. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson commented that he is wearing a pink mask in recognition of breast cancer awareness month, and encouraged both men and women to get regular checkups.

Commissioner McDonald said that free COVID-19 testing was being offered today at the Ely Public Works building from noon to 6:00 p.m.

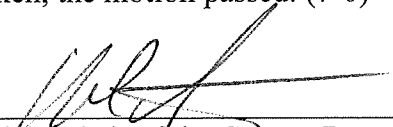
Commissioner Boyle said that Center City Housing broke ground a few weeks ago on the Birchwood housing project; the project is expected to be completed in September of 2021.

Commissioner Jewell commented that the Joint Airport Zoning Board will be proposing new airport zoning rules that will affect Duluth, Canosia, Rice Lake, and Hermantown.

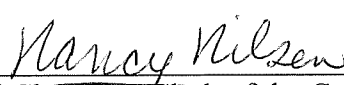
Commissioner Jugovich encouraged everyone to get regular checkups as part of breast cancer awareness month.

Administrator Gray mentioned that approximately 1,900 people would be participating in tomorrow's virtual Health and Human Services conference. In addition, the Depot will be conducting a survey to get citizen feedback.

At 11:54 a.m., Musolf/McDonald 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

auditor