

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

September 8, 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 10:38 a.m.

Commissioners Frank Jewell and Beth Olson participated by WebEx.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of September 1, 2020
- Authorization to Accept Funds for the Minnesota State Targeted Opioid Treatment, Prevention & Recovery Services Grant [20-322]
- Professional Services Agreement with LHB Inc. for Design Services on CSAH 56 [20-323]
- Acceptance of MVLST Bridge Grant Funds for Bridge Bundling Project Engineering Design Services [20-324]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to MN Power/ALLETE, Inc. (Unorganized Township 56-16) [20-325]
- Utility Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Cooperative Light & Power (Ault Township 55-12) [20-326]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax Forfeited Land to Roy Marlow and Stephen G. Kucera (Meadowlands Township 53-19) [20-327]

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## Establishment of Public Hearings

McDonald/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes public meetings to gather comment on the proposed property tax levy and operating budget for year 2021 on Monday, November 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m., St. Louis County Courthouse, Virginia, MN, and Monday, November 30, 2020, 7:00 p.m., St. Louis County Government Services Center, Duluth, MN. [20-328]. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0).

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorize an agreement with LHB, Inc., for design engineering services for a Bridge Bundling Project. The total cost of these services is \$1,538,690.00. [20-329]. St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray noted there was a replacement resolution due to a change in fund designation. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0).

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board, acting on behalf of unorganized townships for the purpose of road and bridge maintenance and construction, adopts and certifies a maximum levy of \$1,605,413.60 for the year 2021 to be levied only in such unorganized townships. [20-330]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the gap in funding is filled by using Transportation Sales Tax (TST) funds, Gravel Road Improvement Program (GRIP) funds, and local levy funds. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0). Commissioner Boyle temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 10:59 a.m. to 11:01 a.m.

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### **Finance & Budget Committee**

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) maximum property tax levy for 2021 in the amount of \$220,593. [20-332]. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Jugovich/Musolf/Olson moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies the maximum property tax levy for 2021 in the amount of \$147,721,853.62. [20-331]. Administrator Gray gave the Committee a presentation regarding the 2021 Preliminary Maximum Levy Proposal. Administrator Gray noted that the 5% tax growth capacity offsets the proposed 1.48% increase; most property tax payers will see a decrease in the county portion of their property taxes. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Environmental & Natural Resources Committee**

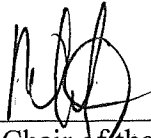
Musolf/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the application to repurchase state tax forfeited land by James Donahue and Jamie Donahue of Breckenridge, MI, subject to payments including: maintenance costs for personal property removal of \$10,400, total taxes and assessments of \$3,397.20, deed tax of \$11.21, deed fee of \$25, recording fee of \$46, and maintenance fee of \$81.90, for a total of \$14,461.31 to be deposited into Fund 240 (Forfeited Tax Fund); plus a service fee of \$500 to be deposited into Fund 100 (General Fund). The repurchase application by James Donahue and Jamie Donahue shall be subject to execution of a contract for deed to ensure site remediation actions and resolution of any state, county or municipal code violations are completed within 60 days. [20-333]. Deputy Land and Minerals Director Julie Marinucci said that the county worked directly with the Mayor of Winton to establish tight deadlines to bring the building up to code. If the deadlines are not met, the contract can be canceled. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Jugovich noted that school has started and urged people to be conscientious and keep an eye out for kids. In addition, Commissioner Jugovich urged people to be safe with the hunting season fast approaching.

At 12:00 p.m., Boyle/Musolf moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. A roll call vote was taken, 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