

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 23, 2024

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of January 9, 2024
- Appoint Members to Local Mental Health Advisory Council [24-34]
- Request for 2024 State Aid Advance [24-35]
- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Sponsorship and Cooperative Agreement for the City of Floodwood [24-36]
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the US 2 and CR 223 (Munger Shaw Road) Left-Turn Lane Project – CP 0223-674639, SAP 069-596-018 [24-37]
- Authorization to Apply to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the Rice Lake Road (CSAH 4) Corridor Project– CP 0004-490685 [24-38]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [24-39]
- County Debt Policy Update and Rescind Board Resolution No. 18-204 [24-40]
- Pandemic Relief to Congressionally Chartered Veteran Organizations, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [24-41]
- Transfer of Surface Leases L18230009 and L18230010 [24-42]
- 2024 Special Legislation for the Private Sale of State Tax-Forfeited Lands [24-43]
- Inclusion of Woody Biomass in the Renewable Energy Standard and Carbon Free Standard [24-44]

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of two (2) sign trucks from Custom Truck One Source, of St. Paul, Minnesota, for a total cost of \$868,618.00 inclusive of additional fees and taxes. [24-45]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Harala moved to award a bid to Veit & Company, Rogers, MN, in the amount of \$2,589,881.20 for project (CP 0006-725970, SAP 069-606-031 (Low)(Low Prime); CP 0012-730398, SAP 069-612-019 (Br 103)(Tied)), Pipe Culverts, Grade Correction, Bituminous Surfacing Patches, and Bridge 69L21 (County Bridge 103), various locations within St. Louis County. [24-46]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board allocates and directs County Administration to distribute 2024 mineral royalties scholarship program funds in the amount of \$150,000 from Fund 100, Agency 104015, Object 590500, and approves the disbursement of scholarship funds for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: Minnesota North College Mesabi Range Foundation: \$37,500; Minnesota North College Hibbing Foundation: \$37,500; Minnesota North College Vermilion Foundation: \$37,500; Lake Superior College Foundation: \$37,500. Further, the Board approves the annual allocation of remaining mineral royalty funds which have not been previously committed, for growing a fund for a future corpus. [24-47]. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, said this is the seventh year of the program and more than \$1 million has been distributed to recipients. Commissioner Musolf encouraged the county to work with legislators to change the law so that Building and Construction Trades members could be eligible for the scholarship. Chair Nelson commented that he and Commissioner Harala are working with the budget to have \$1 million a year placed in an endowment for the next three years. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Grimm/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board approves a onetime financial grant contribution to Center City Housing Corporation in the amount of up to \$300,000 for Wadena West Apartments construction costs; that if necessary, appropriate County officials are authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions and execute appropriate grant/funding agreement(s) for a 20-year deferred loan and its associated security with the Center City Housing Corporation; and further, that issuance of the agreement to Center City Housing Corporation will be conditional upon Center City Housing Corporation securing all development funding by December 31, 2024. Revenue and disbursements are to be made from the County's State Affordable Housing Aid. [24-48]. Darren Jablonsky, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director, said the project will include construction of 60 units; 30 units will be 1-bedroom apartments and 30 will be efficiency apartments. Nancy Cashman, Executive Director of City Center Housing Corp., said construction is expected to begin in August of 2024 and the facility is expected to open in August of 2025. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes a 1.0 FTE Maintenance Worker/Helper to provide maintenance services for the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (Depot), payable from Fund 155, Agency 155001. [24-49]. Mary Tennis, Extension and Depot Director, commented that community engagement for the Depot has been growing and the need for maintenance is increasing. Jerry Hall, Property Management Director, said that currently Depot maintenance is performed by other facilities' staff. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves and authorizes the appropriate county officials to sign the second amendment to the 2022-2024 Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Minnesota Extension creating an additional Extension Educator Agriculture & Natural Resources position and a short-term temporary program staff for 4-H afterschool programs in St. Louis County, totaling \$76,224 in 2024 (prorated for balance of 2024 based on employment dates), \$66,814 payable from Fund 100, Agency 104500, Object 629900, and \$9,410 payable from Fund 184, Agency 186010, Object 629900. [24-50]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Harala moved that the County Board appoints election judges for unorganized townships, for the 2024 election cycle at a rate of \$13.50 per hour where funding will be from Auditor/Elections: Fund 100, Agency 127001, Objects 635300; and further, that the County Auditor and/or Clerk of the County Board may make election judge appointments to fill vacancies should they occur. [24-51]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Grimm moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby appoints the following representatives to the Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission with terms expiring on December 31, 2024: Commissioner Grimm as Representative; Commissioner Boyle as Alternate. [24-52]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Harala/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of the Data Fund Integration fund to fund the vacant 1.0 FTE GIS Principal Position within the Public Records and Property Valuation Department. [24-53]. The motion passed. (7-0)

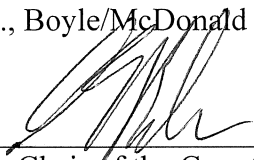
COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Harala welcomed Katie LaPlant to the Depot staff.

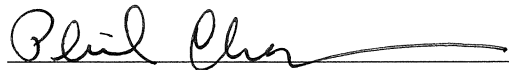
Commissioner McDonald commented that he will be attending the Bois Forte State of the Band meeting that will be held next Wednesday (January 31, 2024).

Chair Nelson commented that he would like county administration to add the appointment of a Native American Affairs Committee to the next agenda. Commissioner Nelson commented he would like the committee to be established as a standing committee rather than a Chair established committee.

At 11:42 a.m., Boyle/McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting.



Keith Nelson, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board