

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

October 4, 2022

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of September 27, 2022
- Emergency Slope Repair on CSAH 24 (CP 0024-710737) [22-433]
- Contract with TNT Timber for U.S. Forest Service Britt Area: Osborn Road Fuel Reduction Project [22-434]
- Acceptance of the 2022 COSSAP Grant [22-435]
- On-Site Wastewater Termination and Release of the 1963 Agreement [22-436]
- Right-of-Way Easement Across State Tax-Forfeited Land to Burntside Property Holdings, LLC; the Young Family Cabin Trust; Staton Island Cabin LLC (Morse Township NW 63-13) [22-437]
- Utility Easements Across State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Lake Country Power (City of Hibbing 56-20) [22-438]

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## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Musolf/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of the 12 x 8 precast concrete culvert for CP 0004-401087 from Rinker Materials of West Des Moines, IA, in the amount of \$282,044. [22-439]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the county is trying to stay on top of supply chain issues and there may be future requests to purchase additional culverts. The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the estimated purchase of untreated salt at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Morton Salt, Inc. of Chicago, IL, for a maximum delivered cost of \$1,415,765.68 and the estimated purchase of treated salt from Cargill, Inc. for the maximum delivered cost of \$134,897.40; and further, authorizes the estimated purchase of alternative deicers at the State of Minnesota Contract price from Envirotech Services, Inc., of Denver, CO, and K-Tech Specialty Coatings, Inc. of Ashley, IN, at the estimated delivered cost of \$200,000. [22-440]. Administrator Gray commented that the salt is formulated for cold weather application and the state contract is being utilized for the purchase. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## Finance & Budget Committee

Nelson/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes 2023 monthly premium rates for the self-insured employee and retiree health insurance plan featuring \$400 Single/\$800 Family Deductibles and \$1,200 Single/\$2,400 Family Out-of-Pocket Caps at Enhanced In-Network providers (Tier 1); \$800 Single/\$1,600 Family Deductibles and \$2,400 Single/\$4,800 Family Out-of-Pocket Caps at Standard In-Network providers (Tier 2); \$1,200 Single/\$2,400 Family Deductibles and \$6,000 Single/\$12,000 Family Out-of-Pocket Caps at Out-of-Network providers as follows: Single Coverage: \$ 982.25, Family Coverage: \$2,281.29; that the purchase of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota FlexAccess specialty pharmaceuticals coupon program and addition of a Specialty Rx copay of \$50 per fill in the self-insured health plan effective January 1, 2023, are approved; that the 2023 stop-loss rate payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota of \$15.88 per contract per month is approved; that a 2023 per contract per month administrative service fee of \$43.53 payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota is approved; that the 2023 monthly premium rate for the self-insured dental plan is approved, with a 2% increase, to the amount of \$42.19; that the 2023 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 – December 31, 2023. [22-441]. Commissioner Jewell temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 10:16 a.m. to 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Boyle temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 10:24 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Government, said the recommendation is no change to the health insurance premium amount; it is likely that the self-insured health fund will have a reserve balance sufficient to cover more than 7 months of current year medical claims payments. A 4-to-6-month reserve level is considered a healthy balance. Director Gottschald said approval of the resolution would adopt a \$50 Specialty Rx copay and will incentivize member participation in the FlexAccess Specialty Rx program. The changes could result in approximately \$700,000 in health plan savings. Commissioner Jugovich temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 10:26 a.m. to 10:29 a.m. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board hereby accepts the proposals from and awards the employee long-term disability and life insurance coverages to National Insurance Services; approves a contract for a new voluntary employee-paid short-term disability insurance coverage through National Insurance Services; and further, authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute contracts with National Insurance Services for short-term disability insurance, long-term disability insurance and life insurance coverages for plan years covering January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027. [22-442]. Commissioner Musolf temporarily stepped out of the meeting from 10:35 a.m. to 10:37 a.m. Director Gottschald commented that the agreement with National Insurance Services will save the county approximately \$7,800 in premiums. In addition, the reduction in life insurance premiums will save the county approximately \$21,778 annually. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Information Technology Department to utilize the State of Minnesota Contract Release C-1046(5) for the scheduled replacement order in the estimated amount of \$780,000 for computers, tablets and laptops, utilizing Fund 100, Agency 117051, Object 640400, with funds transferred from the Information Technology assigned fund balance, Fund 100, Object 311139, where funds will be recouped from each department via Intra-County Transfer at the time that the equipment is deployed. [22-443]. Jeremy Craker, Information Technology

Director, said the pandemic has created supply chain issues and the county is behind on replacing standard equipment. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Environment & Natural Resources Committee**

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to execute a contract with G Men Environmental Services, Inc., for the demolition of the structures on parcels 090-0010-03820 and 090-0010-03830 (203 and 205 Chestnut Street in Virginia, MN) at the bid price of \$197,997.00, in accordance with the specifications of Bid No. 5854 and addendums. [22-444]. Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger commented that the roof is collapsing, which is creating structural issues. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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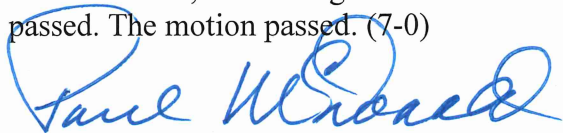
### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Jewell said that he is reading a book about Sointula, a Finnish Utopia, and commented on construction challenges they experienced due to the proximity to materials suppliers. Commissioner Jewell said that the Catalyst Film Festival held in Duluth last weekend was a huge success. Many people visiting the area for the first time requested tours for potential film locations.

Commissioner Nelson said he has given tours of the area to state-wide candidates for political office, and they do not understand how vast the area is. When giving tours, Commissioner Nelson always brings them to the Leonidas Overlook; you can see Hibbing and three mining companies from the overlook. Commissioner Nelson commented that the county needs to do a better job promoting the region.

Commissioner McDonald said the Northeast ATV Joint Powers Board will be conducting an ATV economic impact study.

At 11:04 a.m., Jewell/Jugovich moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. 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