

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 23, 2020

Location: Voyagaire Lodge, Crane Lake, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Olson

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #8, Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and St. Louis County [20-236] was removed from the agenda for separate consideration. The motion passed. (6-0, Olson absent)

- Minutes of June 9, 2020
- Acceptance of HUD Planning Grant Funding for the St. Louis County Continuum of Care and
- Permission to Enter Into Contracts with Partners [20-229]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way - Replacement of County Bridge #138 over Prairie River (Prairie Lake Township) [20-230]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [20-231]
- Reschedule Location of July 14, 2020 Board Meeting [20-232]
- Application and Acceptance of 2020 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant [20-233]
- Landfill Leachate Research and Treatment Study [20-234]
- Application for St. Louis County Class "B" Land Exchange by Deena and William Congdon [20-235]
- Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and St. Louis County [20-236]
- Online Auction of State Tax Forfeited Properties [20-237]

Public Works & Transportation Committee

McDonald/Jewell moved that the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve advanced for financing approved County State Aid Highway Projects of St. Louis County in an amount up to \$5,710,000 in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subp. 9. St. Louis County hereby authorizes repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular State Aid Construction Account of St. Louis County with repayment from the 2022 year allocation until fully repaid. [20-238]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said that the advance would help fill a gap of approximately 15% less funding for 2020. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Olson absent)

Finance and Budget Committee

Nelson/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board certifies to the Commissioner of Revenue that it will spend the aid distributions from the Coronavirus Relief Federal Fund consistent with the requirements of the federal CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), and that the County Administrator is

directed to develop or expand programs, consistent with federal and state guidance and regulations as they become available, to address community needs that may be funded from CARES Act process for the Board's consideration. [20-239]. St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director Matthew Johnson commented that the county could receive up to \$24 million in funding and the county will work to identify where previous economic strategies have not met needs. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Olson absent)

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Musolf/Jewell moved to authorize a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota to implement a cooperative wildlife habitat program, coordinate wildlife projects, and maintain and improve public access and recreation on lands owned or administered by the County for the purpose of natural resource management. [20-236]. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the item was removed from the agenda and sent to Administration for review.

Musolf/Jugovich moved to remove from the table an application for repurchase of state tax forfeited land by James Donahue (tabled from June 9, 2020). The motion passed (6-0). After further discussion, Musolf/Jugovich moved to withdraw their motion (made on June 9, 2020); the item was removed from the agenda and sent to Administration for review.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

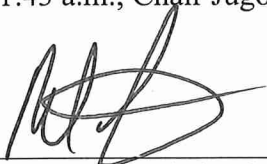
Chair Jugovich wished Administrator Kevin Gray a Happy Birthday and commented that it feels good to have people in attendance at a normal meeting.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he will be running for office again in 2023. Commissioner Nelson shared a story about racism that happened while he owned a convenience store. Commissioner Nelson commented on concerns he had regarding the timeliness and level of service the county is providing to citizens while county buildings are closed. In addition, Commissioner Nelson shared concerns regarding the county website and the routing of communications to Commissioners.

Commissioner Jewell expressed concerns he had regarding the meeting format and the fact that people in attendance were not wearing masks. Commissioner Jewell commented that he felt the staff was doing yeoman's work during the pandemic.

Commissioner Boyle commented that he felt county staff has done an admirable job during the pandemic and felt the county has been doing what they can to keep employees and constituents safe.

At 11:43 a.m., Chair Jugovich adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting.



Mike Jugovich, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board