

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 27, 2020

Location: Mt. Iron City Hall, Mt. Iron, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Jugovich called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Commissioners Patrick Boyle and Beth Olson participated telephonically.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nelson/McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda. Item #1, Authorization to Accept Cost Neutral Transfer Funds from the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Enter into Contracts [20-372] and Item #5, Authorization to Accept Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) Grant Award [20-376] was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of October 13, 2020
- Authorization to Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Health for COVID-19 Expenses through the Local Public Health Grant [20-373]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [20-374]
- Toward Zero Deaths Agreement with the City of Duluth [20-375]
- Special Sale to Minnesota Power in Gnesen Township [20-377]
- Authorization to Enter into the Arrowhead Trail Agreement [20-378]

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the reallocation of a vacant 1.0 FTE Engineering Technician position (Civil Service Basic Unit, \$3,499/mo. at Grade B16, Step 1, position code 0870-011) to an Engineering Technician Senior position (Civil Service Basic Unit, \$4,292/mo. at Grade B22, Step 1) in the Public Works Department. [20-379]. A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Environment & National Resources Committee

Musolf/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate County officials to execute a contract with PRT USA, Inc., for Sections 1-10 in the amount of \$179,014.32 for containerized tree seedlings for delivery in spring of 2022 and 2023, in accordance with the specifications of Bid No. 5639, payable from Fund 290, Agency 29001, subject to approval by the County Attorney. [20-380]. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Olson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Public Health and Human Services Department to accept funding from the Minnesota Department of Human services (DHS) through the Housing and Support Services Division through the cost neutral transfer in the amount up to \$1,760,218 for the period beginning with the contract execution date through June 30, 2021, and continuing each year with the amounts adjusted based on what is awarded from DHS. [20-372]. St Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that this funding will be dedicated to help housing and homelessness in St. Louis County. St. Louis County Behavioral Health Director Gena Bossert said that the funding will have a broad appeal to many organizations. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Olson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the acceptance of Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) grant funds in the amount of \$897,607 for the three-year period of October 1, 2020 through October 1, 2023 [20-376]. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Nelson encouraged people to get out and enjoy the sixth district and mentioned that you can see several working mines nearby.

Commissioner Jewell noted that we are seeing a serious COVID-19 surge in St. Louis County and discouraged large gatherings.

Commissioner McDonald thanked everyone for their support and encouraging comments while the McDonald family was dealing with the recent death of his father.

Commissioner Musolf recognized St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director Matt Johnson and his team for getting CARES Act funding to businesses.

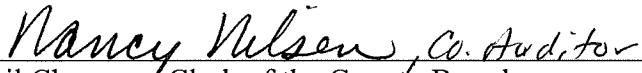
Commissioner Jugovich noted that it is breast cancer awareness month.

Commissioner Olson expressed concern that today's meetings were held at a location that did not allow people to participate virtually; the only means to participate in the meeting was to appear in person. Commissioner Olson encouraged Commissioners to consider moving future meetings to locations that allow virtual participation.

At 10:37 a.m., Jewell/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~~