

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 25, 2022

Location: Hermantown City Hall, Hermantown, Minnesota

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

Absent: Commissioner Jugovich

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Musolf moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

- Minutes of January 11, 2022
- Agreement with LHB Inc. for Construction Inspection and Administration Services for the Bridge Bundling Project [22-43]
- Acquisition of Right of Way - Replacement of County Bridge 177 over Sullivan Creek (Grand Lake Township) [22-44]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Intersection Improvement Project on Highway 53 Intersection and Extension of County State Aid Highway 142 (City of Eveleth) [22-45]
- Acquisition of Right of Way – Replacement of County Bridge 257 Over Unnamed Flowage to the Stoney Brook River (Arrowhead Township) [22-46]
- Agreement with City of Eveleth to Complete Utilities on CSAH 141 (Douglas Avenue and Temple Place) and CSAH 145 (Roosevelt Avenue) [22-47]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-48]
- Request for St. Louis County to Act as Fiscal Agent for Northeast Regional ATV Trail Joint Powers Board [22-49]
- Request for Sponsorship of Pathblazers Snowmobile Club Trail Grooming Equipment Purchase [22-50]
- FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant [22-51]

Health & Human Services Committee

Boyle/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes a transfer of \$362,797.00 from the Public Health Innovation fund balance account to fund community-based projects that address Public Health's strategic health priorities from the Community Needs Assessment and authorizes PHHS to enter into contracts with the following community partners for an additional year of services, not to exceed \$362,797.00 for all contracts combined:

| ORGANIZATION/PARTNERSHIP | AMOUNT | HEALTH PRIORITY /PRIORITIES | PRIMARY IMPACT AREA |
|--|---------------------|---|--|
| Stone Soup Partnership: Ecolibrium 3, Duluth Community Garden Program, Community Action Duluth, Duluth Children's Museum | \$90,000.00 | Food Insecurity/Mental Wellness | Morgan Park, West Duluth, Lincoln Park, and Hillside neighborhoods of Duluth |
| American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) | \$75,000.00 | Food Insecurity | Duluth & St. Louis County |
| Range Mental Health & Virginia Fire Department | \$85,451.00 | Mental Health/Youth Substance Abuse/Food Insecurity | Northern St. Louis County |
| Mesabi Range College - Addiction Studies Department | \$52,122.00 | Youth Substance Abuse | St. Louis County |
| Recovery Alliance Duluth | \$60,224.00 | Mental Wellness/ Mental Health Support/ Substance Abuse | Northern St. Louis County |
| TOTAL | \$362,797.00 | | |

[22-52]. Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch commented that the 2020 year-end fund balance was \$695,511. After further discussion, the motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

Boyle/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board authorize PHHS to contract with SISU Healthcare IT Solutions for the time period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, for up to \$450,000 in American Rescue Act Plan funding to support the increased capacity of skilled registered nurses to assist PHHS with the COVID-19 response efforts, to coordinate with regional facilities, evaluate and assess facilities for risk, provide training for the prevention and control of COVID-19, and provide direct clinical services to St. Louis County residents, to be paid from 239-239050-629900. [22-53]. Director Mirsch said that the first contract with SISU Healthcare IT Solutions was done under emergency powers in August of 2020 and extended by an addendum until the end of 2021. Director Mirsch commented that the contract sets hourly rates and are in line with traveling nurses. It is anticipated that the county will need to contract for the year 2023. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Nelson/Musolf moved to award a bid to Casper Construction, Inc., Grand Rapids, MN, in the amount of \$379,330.00 for project CP 0874-368350 (Bridge 142), Bridge Construction, Bridge 142 on County Road 874 between County Road 694 and State Highway 33 [22-54]. County Administrator Kevin Gray said that there were nine bids, all under the engineer's estimate. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc., Cloquet, MN, in the amount of \$689,921.00 for project CP 0098-538875, SAP 069-698-015, SP 6908-70, Left Turn Lanes, Trunk

Highway 2 at County State Aid Highway 98 (Canosia Road). [22-55]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to Allied Blacktop Company, Maple Grove, MN, in the amount of \$449,641.46 for project CP 0000-477572, 2022 Crack Sealing, Various County State Aid Highways and Local Roads within St. Louis County. [22-56R]. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

Jewell/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes an increase to the per diem rate for the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment members from \$75 to \$100 for each meeting attended and reimbursement for round-trip mileage at the applicable rate authorized by the County Board. [22-57]. Commissioner Jewell requested a listing of all county committees and how much they pay. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Grimm commented that she was going to read the Frontline Workers Appreciation Week proclamation; however, after reflecting on the proclamation and having conversations with staff, she only supports doing proclamations if the county is doing the supplementary work to push ourselves as a county. Commissioner Grimm said there are two things that she would like to see as ongoing projects; the County Board and leadership team need to embrace their role in leading efforts for employees and staff ideas and concerns must be taken seriously.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Boyle, moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed. (6-0, Jugovich absent)



Paul McDonald, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board