

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 14, 2022

Location: Government Services Center, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

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### CONSENT AGENDA

Jewell/Jugovich moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Nelson commented that the favorable Minnesota State Auditor's 2022 Performance Measurement Program Report was the result of a lot of hard work by key people. Specifically, work done by the Auditor's Office is the reason the county's bond rating is AA+. The motion passed. (7-0)

- Minutes of June 7, 2022
- Agreement with the City of Duluth for CP 0056-493050, SAP 069-656-020 [22-272]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [22-273]
- Minnesota State Auditor's 2022 Performance Measurement Program Report [22-274]

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### Establishment of Public Hearings

Nelson/Musolf moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing at 9:40 a.m., on July 12, 2022, in the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Road, Kabetogama, MN, for the purpose of considering the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for The Lake Effect Restaurant, Inc. dba Lake Effect Restaurant & Bar, Gnesen Township. [22-275]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing at 9:45 a.m., on July 12, 2022, in the Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Road, Kabetogama, MN, for the purpose of considering the issuance of an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for KDRS LLC dba The Breeze Inn, Lakewood Township. [22-276]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Jewell/McDonald moved that pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 164.08, Subd. 2, a public hearing shall be held at 9:35 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at the Rice Lake City Hall, 4107 Beyer Rd., Rice Lake, MN 55803 to hear the cartway petition of Michael Clement to establish a cartway over the property of Roberta Bouley and Northland Constructors of Duluth, private owners, described as West 300 feet of the NW ¼ of NW ¼, Section 9, Township 56N, Range 16W ("Bouley property") and SW ¼ of NW ¼, Section 9, Township 56N, Range 16W and SE ¼ of NW 1/4, Section 9, Township 56N, Range 16W. All affected landowners are entitled to judicial review of damages and need for the cartway, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 164.08, Subd. 7, following a determination to establish the cartway. [22-277]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Musolf/Nelson moved to award a bid to KGM Contractors, Inc., Angora, MN, in the amount of \$676,771.71 for project CP 0101-235499, SP 069-701-007, Bridge Construction, County Bridge 500 on County State Aid Highway 101 between County Road 315 and County Road 955 in Mountain Iron. [22-278]. St. Louis County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi commented that since this is not a trout stream, the construction timeframe takes advantage of a natural lull in construction scheduling for bridge and box culvert contractors. Because of this, the county received multiple competitive bids. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the Broadband Infrastructure Grant program request in the amount up to \$101,250 to be used for a broadband public infrastructure construction project in the Ash Lake Area, and authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents as necessary to administer the program, comply with the American Rescue Plan Act and fund projects, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054 or its designated fund. Further, the applicant shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation, and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions required under the American Rescue Plan Act. [22-279]. County Administrator Kevin Gray noted that the \$101,000 grant request matches Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) funding and the broadband project will affect 60-70 homes in the Ash Lake area. The motion passed. (7-0)

A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 10:30 a.m. At 10:39 a.m., the Board reconvened with all members present.

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## **TIME SPECIFIC PRESENTATIONS:**

At 10:39 a.m., Matt Massman, Steve Novak and Nancy Silesky gave a presentation to the Committee relating to the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) End of Session Report. Director Massman said that the framework is in place for multiple agreements; however, not a lot of bills were passed into law during the last session. Director Massman also noted that there are ongoing discussions to hold a potential special session.

At 11:35 a.m., Paige Melius, Senior Planner, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC); Holly Kostrzewski, Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program Director, MnDOT/DPS; Michael Kalnbach, Project Manager, MnDOT; and Krysten Saatela Foster, District State Aid Engineer, MnDOT gave the Committee an update on transportation.

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## **Finance & Budget Committee**

Grimm/Jewell moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of \$108,534 of Economic Development/American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the YWCA Duluth (Spirit Valley Facility

Repairs Project) and further, that the YWCA Duluth shall comply and submit all necessary information, documentation and reporting materials required by the County, State or US Treasury to ensure that the project meets any and all conditions as required under the American Rescue Plan Act or by the County. The project will be payable from either Fund 239, American Rescue Plan Act or if more appropriate, Fund 178, Agency 178008. [22-280]. Chelsa Nelson-Preble, President of the YWCA Duluth Board, said that no updates have been made to the building since it was purchased in 2003. Multiple repairs are necessary including replacement of a leaky roof, broken windows, a new boiler, new sidewalks, updates to the HVAC system, and a new hot water heater. YWCA of Duluth has been working with The Jamar Company for bids on the projects and a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is in place. Miranda Walser, Child Care Program Coordinator, said that the program helps children of young mothers from 6 weeks to kindergarten age. Currently, they have 33 students enrolled; however, they are licensed for 60 students. Natasha Lancour, Program for Young Mothers Director, said that the YWCA provides transitional housing and assistance to young mothers between the ages of 16 to 22. Currently; only 4 of the 7 housing units are available because of needed repairs. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee**

Jewell/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board appoints Brittney Jacobson as a regular member of the Civil Service Commission for a three-year term ending June 28, 2025. [22-281]. St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald said that an extensive search for applicants started in mid-December and there are two candidates with extensive experience. Brittney Jacobson is recommended because she checks the box of county-wide representation. The motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Public Safety & Corrections Committee**

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the amended Rural Ambulance Run Reimbursement Policy including an emergency run rate of \$23.00 per run and \$0.22 mileage rate, rescinds Resolution No. 84-674, and authorizes the appropriate county officials to negotiate and execute ambulance-service contracts that are consistent with the amended policy pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 383C.201. [22-282R]. St. Louis County Supervising Deputy Sheriff Brandon Silgjord commented that there is no statutory requirement to fund this, and the recommendation is to increase the per run rate from \$16 to \$23 and for the mileage reimbursement rate to remain at \$0.22. With the changes, the budget would increase from \$100,000 to \$160,000. Commissioner Jewell temporarily exited the meeting from 12:29 p.m. to 12:31 p.m. Commissioner Nelson commented that the mileage rate is too low; the Board needs to address the reimbursement amounts. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

A Point of Personal Privilege was requested at 12:38 p.m. At 12:49 p.m., the Board reconvened with all members present except Commissioner Musolf. Commissioner Musolf returned to the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

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### **TIME SPECIFIC PRESENTATIONS (continued):**

At 12:49 p.m., St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger provided the Committee a handout regarding the 2023-2024 Baseline Budget Overview. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger said that administration is looking for Board feedback prior to starting budget discussions with county

departments on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger discussed the 2023-2024 budget status, cost drivers, budget considerations and principles, debt service and capital needs and legislative impacts. Due to time constraints, Chair McDonald asked that Commissioners review the handout and discussion be continued at the June 28, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting.

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

None

At 1:22 p.m., Jewell/Grimm moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. 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