

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

April 30, 2024

Location: Bois Forte Tribal Government Center, Nett Lake, Minnesota  
Present: Commissioners Harala, Boyle, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Jugovich and Chair Nelson  
Absent: None  
Convened: Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of April 9, 2024
- Duluth Farm to School Program [24-175]
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to Construct a J-Turn on MNTH 61 at CSAH 42 (Homestead Rd) – CP 0042-533031, SP 069-070-059 [24-176]
- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Duluth and the Duluth Airport Authority to Provide Reimbursement for Professional Services for a Planning and Preliminary Engineering Process for the Intersection of Haines Rd (CSAH 91) and Airport Rd (MSAS 197)/Grinden Dr – CP 0091-860958 [24-177]
- Award of Bids: 6" Paint Edgelines Project (CP 0000-769515, SP 069-070-077, HSIP 6924(239)) [24-178]
- Award of Bids: Pavement Markings Project (CP 0000-475845, SAP 069-030-049; SAP 016-612-082; SAP 038-030-012) [24-179]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way for Replacement of County Bridge 529 over the Pike River in Pike Township and Unorganized Township 59-16; CP 0021-556743, SAP 069-621-040 [24-180]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way – Mill and Overlay Project on CSAH 110 (Kennedy Memorial Drive) in the City of Hoyt Lakes; CP 0110-642531, SP 069-710-027 [24-181]
- Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) Grant Agreement Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 069-598-069 [24-182]
- Inter-County Mail Courier Service [24-183]
- Rescind County Board Resolution No. 24-229 and Approve Broadband Infrastructure Grant – Normanna Township, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [24-184]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [24-185]
- Reschedule Location for May 14, 2024 County Board Meeting [24-186]
- Final Plat Approval of Superior Aero Estates, Section 6, Township 51N, Range 16W (Grand Lake) [24-187]
- Virginia Regional Landfill PFAS Treatment System – Construction Manager at Risk Contract for Service [24-188]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Tobolaski (Non-Homestead) [24-189]

- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Rolstone (Non-Homestead) [24-190]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – McClelland (Non-Homestead/Homestead) [24-191]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Doucette (Homestead) [24-192]
- State Tax-Forfeited Land Use Permit – Voyageur Country ATV (Leiding Township, 64-19) [24-193]
- State Tax-Forfeited Land Use Permit – City of Ely for Prospector Trail Alliance ATV (Eagles Nest Township, 62-14 and Morse Township, 62-13) [24-194]

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### **Health & Human Services Committee**

Boyle/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the reallocation of a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist I position (Position code 0413-006, Pay Grade B04 Step 1) to a 1.0 FTE Information Specialist II position (Pay Grade B10 Step 1) in the Public Health and Human Services Department, resulting in an annual increase of \$5,811, to be accounted for in Fund 230, Agency 230007, Object 610100. [24-195]. St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch commented that due to increases in workload, the reallocation will give the department the ability to cross-train staff to provide coverage for Information Specialist II positions. The motion passed. (7-0)

Boyle/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes PHHS to accept the Family First Prevention Services Act, Prevention Services Allocation for the calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$154,267 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services and accept the allocation annually thereafter; and further, authorizes the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Allocation Agency Plan to create a 1.0 FTE Social Worker position providing Intensive Family Based Services. PHHS will use at least 10% of the funds to directly support families and will use the remainder of the funds to enter into contracts with community providers for programming to support children remaining with their families. [24-196]. Director Mirsch said funds were allocated based on an established formula to help provide prevention and early intervention staffing to help prevent early entry into the child welfare system. Chair Nelson requested the motion be moved without recommendation because he had questions regarding the funding source and permanency of funding. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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### **Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Musolf/McDonald moved to award a bid to Century Traffic, LLC., Pewaukee, WI, in the amount of \$456,982.72 for project (CP 0000-769518, SP 069-070-078, HSIP 6924(238)), 6" Wet Reflective Edgeline on various County State Aid Highways in St. Louis County. [24-197]. The motion passed. (7-0)

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### **Finance & Budget Committee**

Commissioner Harala noted that Board Letter 24-199 was removed from the agenda.

Harala/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the 2023 fourth quarter budget changes. [24-198]. County Administrator Kevin Gray noted this is the process of closing the 2023 financial records for the county and provided the Board with an overview of the financial entries. Chair Nelson noted the growth of the Service Center and recognized Auditor Nilsen for her efforts to provide an efficient and well-run operation. After further discussion, the motion passed without recommendation. (7-0)

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## Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the County Auditor to advertise and accept applications through June 30, 2024, for six (6) vacant positions on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Board: Small Cities representative (one), Chisholm representative (one), Ely representative (one), Northern Townships representative (one), Hermantown representative (one), and At-Large representative (one) with terms to expire December 31, 2027. [24-200]. Chair Nelson commented on the impact that former Commissioner Liz Prebich had on getting the CDBG funding split in St. Louis County. Chair Nelson also noted that CDBG funding has decreased during his tenure and requested a historical summary of CDBG funding. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

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## Public Safety & Corrections

Grimm/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into an agreement and cooperative contract purchase with Motorola, based out of Schaumburg, Illinois, in the amount of \$291,733.00, payable from Fund 179, Agency 179001, Objects 640300, 634800, 634801, 634802, 629900, and 640400. [24-201]. Administrator Gray noted that the consoles will be placed at the Public Safety Building and the Emergency Operations Center. The motion passed. (7-0)

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## COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner McDonald reminded Commissioners to get their reservations into the Grand Ely Lodge for the summer Board meeting in Ely.

Commissioner Grimm said during a recent Stepping On Up meeting, that the Warming Center will be open through the end of May. After the center closes, there will be approximately 200 people that will be camping.

Commissioner Harala thanked the Assessor's Office for holding meetings to address the concerns of Park Point residents regarding recent property purchases by a billionaire. Commissioner Harala recognized St. Louis County Public Records and Property Valuation Director Mary Garness and St. Louis County Appraisal Supervisor Anne Sims for facilitating a healthy conversation. Commissioner Harala said she was proud of the recent Every Child Ready Duluth Family Fest event that was held at the Depot.

Commissioner Musolf thanked Chairwoman Chavers and folks at Bois Forte for hosting today's meeting.

Chair Nelson commented that this summer that the county will be dedicating Public Works garages and that the county needs to do a better job of promoting and taking credit for what they do. Commissioner Nelson said he is coordinating an open house at the Virginia Government Services Center to help show residents of St. Louis County what has been accomplished.

At 11:24 a.m., Boyle/McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



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Keith Nelson, Chair of the County Board



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Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board