

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 9, 2024

Location: St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, Minnesota

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of April 2, 2024
- Advance Construction Agreement (1056611) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for CP 0115-439125, SP 069-715-009 [24-158]
- Master Bridge Replacement Priority List [24-159]
- Authorization to Apply to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program for the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) Corridor Project– CP 0004-490685 [24-160]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way for Reconstruction of CSAH 156 (Harvey St.) from CSAH 21 (Central Ave.) to 9th Ave. E. in the City of Ely; CP 0156-299087, SAP 069-756-001 [24-161]
- Abatement List for Board Approval [24-162]
- Camp Esquagama – New Laundry and Bath Building Additional Design Services [24-174]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Hoffman (Non-Homestead) [24-163]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Jacobson (Homestead) [24-164]
- Reclassification of State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Conservation [24-165]

Time Specific Presentation

At 10:39 a.m., St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services Director Linna Mirsch and St. Louis County Organizational Development Specialist Ryan Bauers provided the Board with an overview of the 2023 Community Impact report. Director Mirsch commented that this is the 7th annual report, and the department has moved from paper to an online format.

Establishment of Public Hearing

Harala/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board establish a public hearing on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10:05 a.m. at the Duluth Courthouse, County Board Room, 100 N. 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN, regarding the application for an Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for MN Stores L.L.C. dba Snak Atak Liquor #6, New Independence Township. [24-166]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Boyle/Harala moved to award a bid to Northland Constructors of Duluth, a Division of Mathy Construction Company, Duluth, MN, in the amount of \$2,062,000 for project (CP 0009-689681), Clearing and Grubbing, Storm Water Utility Improvements, Pond Grading, Excavation, and Restoration located in Hartley Park in the City of Duluth. [24-167]. Commissioner Musolf noted that there is over \$2 million in grant funding from the US Army Corp. of Engineers and the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). The motion passed. (7-0)

Musolf/Jugovich moved to award a bid to Century Traffic, LLC, of Pewaukee, WI, in the amount of \$684,521.90 for project ((CP 0000- 590669, SP 069-070-062, SP 069-070-065, HSIP 6924(240)), 6" Wet Reflective Edgeline in a Groove located on various County State Aid Highways in St. Louis County. [24-168]. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Musolf moved that St. Louis County Board authorizes contract award, and for the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement, and approve any amendments authorized by the County Attorney, with EnviroTech Services, Inc. of Greeley, CO, to provide delivery and application of Calcium Chloride Liquid Surface Treatment services for a price not to exceed \$1,781,000.00 plus \$100,000 for alternates, for a total cost of \$1,881,000.00, payable from Fund 200, Agency 207001, Object 653400; and further, authorizes appropriate county officials to include contract extension language to allow the Public Works Department the opportunity to negotiate future year pricing for up to four (4) seasonal terms provided that the Contractor has satisfactorily performed the services herein described as determined solely by the contracting agency. Failure to agree on payment shall prevent renewal of this Contract. [24-169]. Commissioner Nelson commented that that the calcium chloride liquid treatment is an investment to preserve the gravel roads. The motion passed. (7-0)

McDonald/Nelson moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the new Engineering Aide job class, assigned to Pay Grade B14 in the Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan. [24-170]. St. Louis County Director of Human Resources and Administration Jim Gottschald said the pool of candidates is getting smaller; the change will allow the county to expand employment opportunities. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the use of up to \$400,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Broadband Infrastructure Grant program revenue loss funding for the Normanna Township broadband public infrastructure construction project; that if Mediacom, LLC's application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Border to Border Grant Program is not approved by August 31, 2024, or if Normanna Township declines St. Louis County Broadband Infrastructure funding, the resolution is automatically rescinded, and the funds may be reappropriated to other projects; and further, authorizes appropriate County officials to enter into and execute any funding agreement(s) and associated documents to administer the program, comply with the American Rescue Plan Act as necessary, and fund projects, payable from Fund 239, Object 239054 Revenue Loss Funding or its designated fund. Normanna Township, in partnership with Mediacom, LLC, 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. [24-171]. Commissioner Harala noted that Normanna Township Supervisor Dennis Gunsolus spoke in favor of the project during this morning's Commissioner listening session. St. Louis County Planning Manager Brad Gustafson said the project is a

direct extension of the Lakewood Township project and will bring broadband to 138 homes and businesses. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Nelson/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate County officials to enter into an agreement with Gardner Builders, LLC to provide all services related to the installation and integration of new chiller equipment at the Duluth Courthouse and Duluth Government Services Center for the lump sum of \$774,217. [24-172]. St. Louis County Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger said the threshold for cost-savings is 7-8 years. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections

Grimm/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the new Emergency Management Specialist job class, assigned to Pay Grade B20 in the Civil Service Basic Unit Pay Plan. No further Board action is required for the reallocation of position 0847-006, payable from 100-132001-610100, as both the former Planner I and proposed Emergency Management Specialist classes are allocated to the same pay grade and bargaining unit. [24-173]. Director Gottschald commented that this position replaces a Planner I position with comparable pay, but different job duties. The motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

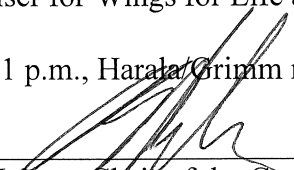
Commissioner McDonald said that during the summer Board meeting in Ely, the Board will be touring various projects the Monday prior to the Board meeting and reminded Commissioners to use the link in the email if they are planning on staying at the Grand Ely Lodge Monday night.

Commissioner Harala thanked Public Health and Human Services staff for last week's tour of Room 104 in the Duluth Government Services Center. Commissioner Harala said she has been meeting with regional folks regarding the need for housing. In addition, Commissioner Harala commented that she attended the MN Film Festival last weekend and thanked leaders at Zeitgeist Arts and the Minnesota Discovery Center. Commissioner Harala also commented on the lack of artwork in the County Boardroom. Deputy Administrator Fritsinger commented that county administration is working with the Historical Society to review options and considerations to protect the investments.

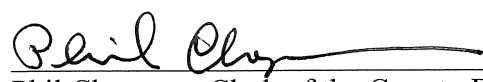
Commissioner Grimm relayed a thank you from the 23rd Veteran for funding.

Commissioner Musolf noted that last weekend's Amsoil Snocross National had a record attendance for racers and was well attended by the public. Commissioner Musolf said Levi Lavallee will be hosting a fund raiser for Wings for Life at Giants Ridge in Biwabik this weekend.

At 12:11 p.m., Harala/Grimm moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Keith Nelson, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board