

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 5, 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 10:39 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of February 27, 2024
- Microsoft SharePoint Intranet Design, Development, and Implementation [24-100]
- Renewal of ESRI Enterprise Software Licensing [24-101]
- Toivola Township Playground Equipment Upgrade Project, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [24-102]
- Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Treatment of Security Information at St. Louis County Jail/Lockup (Jails) [24-103]
- Class I Demolition Waste Haulage Contract Amendment [24-104]

Establishment of Public Hearings

Harala/McDonald moved that the St. Louis County Board will convene a public hearing for Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10:05 a.m., Duluth Courthouse, Duluth, MN, for the purpose of obtaining public comment to further amend the 2023 Fee Schedule. [24-105]. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Jugovich/McDonald moved to award a bid to TNT Construction Group, LLC, Grand Rapids, MN, in the amount of \$493,100 for project CP 0000-798459 (2024 North Crushing), aggregate crushing for various pits in northern St. Louis County. [24-106]. County Administrator Kevin Gray commented that the crushing agreement includes a partnership with the City of Chisholm and the Town of White. The motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board adopts the following amendments to the St. Louis County Purchasing Rules and Regulations:

- Section II. Purchasing Definitions:

Direct Negotiation – “Direct Negotiation” means a direct solicitation with a specific

~~vendor or individual without requesting or obtaining additional quotes.~~ *means obtaining two or more quotations for a purchase or sale when possible, and without advertising for bids otherwise complying with the requirements of competitive bidding.*

Open Market - ~~“Open Market” means obtaining two or more quotations for a purchase or sale when possible, and without advertising for bids otherwise complying with the requirements of competitive bidding.~~ *means an individual solicitation with a specific vendor or individual without requesting or obtaining additional quotes.*

- Section III. Bidding and Purchasing Requirements

A.4.a. If the contract is made upon ~~Direct Negotiation~~ **Open Market**, it shall be based, so far as practicable, on at least two quotations which shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after their receipt.

A.4.b. ~~“Open Market Direct Negotiation”~~ means an individual ~~direct~~ solicitation with a specific vendor or individual without requesting or obtaining additional quotes.

B.6.g. Whether bidder is in default with any other contracts with the *County*T.

E.4. Authority to Debar or Suspend. The ~~Purchasing~~ *Purchasing* Director is delegated authority to debar or suspend a party from participating in County contracts.

- Section VI. Purchase Orders and Year End Encumbrances

Under A. 2. No purchase order is required for the following purchases:
Add *“h. Election Infrastructure. Defined as goods and services required to process elections mandated by the state.”*

All subsequent list items are renumbered appropriately.

- Section VII. Other Procedures

B.3. All property leases for one or more years are subject to the ~~Property Acquisition/Leases Policy review and approval and must be approved by~~ *approval of the Auditor’s Office and Property Management, prior to the approval of the County Board.* Lease renewals need only be approved by the Department Head and the Property Manager. Leases may be renewed for the length of the original contract only once. Copies of all leases shall be maintained by Property Management.

- APPENDIX A. St. Louis County Board Resolutions

Add Resolution 23-515, Adopted October 10, 2023, to Appendix A as Paragraph **L**.

Further, that amendments will be effective upon adoption of this resolution. [24-107]. Purchasing Director Donna Viskoe provided the Board with a brief overview of the amendments and said the department is planning on reviewing purchasing rules annually in March. The motion passed. (7-0)

Public Safety & Corrections Committee

Grimm/Jugovich moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the purchase of 10 fleet vehicles and equipment from North Country GM, of Hibbing, MN; Ford of Hibbing, Hibbing MN; and Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc., of Hermantown, MN, in accordance with State of Minnesota Contract Pricing in the amount of \$757,286.04. [24-108]. The motion passed. (7-0)

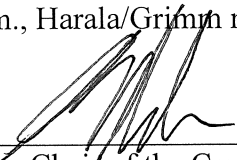
COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Grimm thanked Commissioners for signing a letter in support of efforts to unionize by the Advanced Practice Providers (APP) of Essentia Health. In addition, Commissioner Grimm commented that there are ongoing talks with AFSCME to support the 911 dispatch employees.

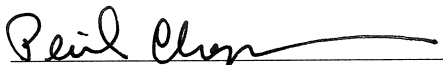
Commissioner Boyle commended the work of Deputy Administrator Brian Fritsinger who announced he will be retiring.

Commissioner Nelson noted that Commissioners will be heading to the State Capital for Duluth & St. Louis County Days and commented about the loss of jobs from the closure of Northern Foundry in Hibbing. Commissioner Nelson said progress is being made on the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project; Bob Manzoline, Executive Director of the St. Louis & Lake Counties Railroad Authority, met with Governor Walz yesterday and is meeting with the MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) today.

At 10:56 a.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

