

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 4, 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 10:06 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of May 28, 2024
- Authorize Contract and Accept Funding for the Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers Grant [24-237]
- Acquisition of Right-of-Way - Replacement of County Bridge 611 over the West Two River in Cherry and Lavell Townships; CP 0016-556744 [24-238]
- Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to Complete Tree Clearing along US 53 and CSAH 142 (Park Ave/Progress Parkway) – CP 0142-769529, SP 069-070-081 [24-239]
- Voices for Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness Juneteenth Celebration, American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Loss Funding [24-240]
- Sponsorship of the Alborn Dirt Devils ATV Club [24-241]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Laakso (Non-Homestead) [24-242]
- Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Larson (Homestead) [24-243]
- Reclassification of State Tax-Forfeited Lands to Non-Conservation and Repurchase of State Tax-Forfeited Land – Hauck (Non-Homestead) [24-244]

Finance & Budget Committee

McDonald/Boyle moved that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the Information Technology Department to utilize the State of Minnesota Contract Release C-1046(5), contract #160321, via vendor Now Micro, Inc., for the scheduled standard equipment replacement order in the estimated amount of \$599,350 payable via funds budgeted within each departmental 2024 budget. [24-245]. Jeremy Craker, Information Technology Director, said the standard replacement schedule for computers is 4-5 years. Due to supply chain issues during the pandemic, the county fell behind on the replacement schedule and will be caught up after this purchasing cycle. Director Craker commented that the price of laptops have increased roughly 3% annually. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

Central Management & Intergovernmental Committee

McDonald/Harala moved that the St. Louis County Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the Assistant County Attorney Unit for Lateral Hires, effective June 11, 2024; and further, that the appropriate county officials are authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. No additional funds associated with this proposed Memorandum of Understanding are approved for 2024. [24-246]. Jim Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration, commented that the recruitment process for experienced Assistant County Attorneys has been impacted by the number of graduates interested in working in the public sector and salary considerations. The Memorandum of Understanding will give credit to new hires for service for prior job experience. After further discussion, the motion passed. (7-0)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

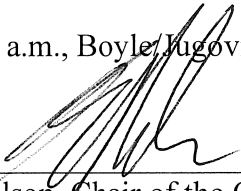
County Administrator Kevin Gray commented on the efforts of the Sheriff's Office and the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad in recovering the body of the second canoeist in the Boundary Waters. Administrator Gray said the recovery efforts were a huge challenge due to difficulty getting to the site.

Commissioner McDonald said the Timber Days festival in Cook will begin on Friday, June 7th and run through Sunday, June 9th.

Commissioner Grimm commented that she had the opportunity to meet Nancy Flynn in person. A couple of years ago, Ms. Flynn was unable to access property tax benefits after the passing of her spouse, who was a veteran, due to state statute. Commissioner Grimm thanked the Board for adding the item to their legislative priorities and for their work in getting the legislation changed.

Chair Nelson said the Liquor Licensing Committee is working very diligently on some proposals that will be brought to the Board soon.

At 10:27 a.m., Boyle/Jugovich moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. (7-0)



Keith Nelson, Chair of the County Board



Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board