



Board of Commissioners Minutes

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

October 5, 2021 - 9 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session via Zoom at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Chair Carter. Also present were Ryan O'Connor, County Manager, and Sam Clark, Civil Division Director, Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Agenda of October 5, 2021 is Presented for Approval. [2021-591](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the agenda of October 5, 2021.

Motion by McGuire, seconded by MatasCastillo. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

2. Minutes from September 28, 2021 are Presented for Approval [2021-590](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the September 28, 2021 Minutes.

Motion by McDonough, seconded by Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

PROCLAMATION

3. Proclamation: Hispanic Heritage Month [2021-547](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Presented by Commissioner Frethem. Present to represent the proclamation were: Maria Sarabia - Social Services, David Herrera - Social Services, Luis Rosario - County Assessor, Kari Umanzor - Public Health, and Emiro Sangiovanni - RCAO. Discussion can be found on archived video.

COVID UPDATE

Presented by County Manager Ryan O'Connor, Sara Hollie, Director - Public Health, Dr. Ogawa, Medical Director - Public Health, and Laura Andersen, Deputy Incident Commander - Public Health. Discussion can be found on archived video.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Chair Carter announced that Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.03 requires the board to vote to hold a closed meeting to discuss labor negotiations, and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add item # 8 - Hold a Closed Meeting: Strategy for Labor Negotiations. Motion by McDonough, second by MatasCastillo. Unanimously approved.

4. Grant Awards from the Metropolitan Council for Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund Projects [2021-519](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Metropolitan Council for Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment funding for regional park projects for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.
2. Accept grant awards from and approve grant agreements with the Metropolitan Council for Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund projects for the periods of July 1, 2021 through June 31, 2025 in the total amounts of \$1,827,856 for State Fiscal Year 2022 and \$1,656,274 for State Fiscal Year 2023.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreements.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and amendments to agreements and contracts, in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.
5. Authorize the County Manager to make temporary cash loans, as needed, from the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department to implement these projects until funds are received, with repayment to be made when funds are available.

Motion by McDonough, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Resolution: [B2021-212](#)

5. Access and Maintenance Agreement for Rice Creek Stormwater Treatment Ponds in the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor. [2021-520](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

1. Approve an Access and Maintenance Agreement with the city of Shoreview for the Rice Creek Stormwater Treatment Ponds in the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.

Motion by McDonough, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Resolution: [B2021-213](#)

8. Hold a Closed Meeting: Strategy for Labor Negotiations [2021-595](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Hold a closed meeting under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations - pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021, the meeting will take place via Zoom at 1:30 p.m.

Motion by McDonough, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Resolution: [B2021-214](#)

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6. Funding Commitment for the Development Phase of the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project [2021-400](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

Approve the Ramsey County portion of the Ramsey County and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority joint financial commitment of \$39,900,000 for the Project Development Phase of the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project as follows:

- a. Financial commitment is contingent upon the following conditions being met or occurring:
 - i. No expenditures for right-of-way acquisition may be incurred or obligated prior to the completion of any necessary state and federal environmental review and findings and publication of the Environmental Decision Document in the Federal Registrar.
 - ii. Any expenditure of Ramsey County Parties' (Ramsey County and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority) funds pursuant to a Letter of No Prejudice issued by the Federal Transit Administration or pre-award authority is subject to the prior approval of the Ramsey County Parties.
 - iii. Ramsey County Parties must review and approve the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project scope, cost estimate and schedule at the completion of 30% design, 60% design, 90% design and 100% design.
 - iv. The METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project contingency shall be managed in accordance with the procedures established by the Ramsey County Parties in the METRO Purple Line Capital Grant Agreement with the Metropolitan Council.
 - v. Funds may be only used for Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grants Program and federally eligible activities.
 - vi. In the event the Federal Transit Administration deems any METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project expenditure as ineligible to qualify as part of the local match for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project pursuant to a Full Funding Grant Agreement, the Metropolitan Council shall reimburse Ramsey County Parties for its proportional share of all ineligible expenditures.
 - vii. Fulfillment of the financial commitment for the Project Development Phase is subject to the availability and provision of sufficient funding from the process of taxes authorized by Minnesota Statutes Section 297A.993 and associated financing; payment of the funding commitment in any year is subject to appropriation by Ramsey County and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority; and execution and fulfillment of grant agreement(s) by the Metropolitan Council.

Discussion can be found on archived video.

Motion by Reinhardt, seconded by Ortega. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Resolution: [B2021-215](#)

7. Capital Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County for the Project Development Phase of the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project [2021-398](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

1. Approve the Capital Grant Agreement for the Project Development Phase by and among the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County and the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project.
2. Authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and execute

amendments to agreements and contracts, in accordance with procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of funding.

Motion by Reinhardt, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Resolution: B2021-216

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Presented by Commissioner McGuire. Discussion can be found on archived video.

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Presented by County Manager, Ryan O'Connor. Discussion can be found on archived video.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Discussion can be found on archived video.

BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Presented by Chair Carter. Discussion can be found on archived video.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Carter declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

CLOSED MEETING

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13D.03, (Labor Negotiations Strategy) the County Board met in a closed meeting, which was not open to the public.

Re: Labor Negotiations Strategy.

The Closed Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt and Chair Carter. Also present: Ryan O'Connor, County Manager; Sam Clark, Civil Division Director, Office of the Ramsey County Attorney. Also present: Sandi Blaeser, Deputy Director, Human Resources; Ann Feaman, Deputy Director; Human Resources; Allison Kelly, Labor Relations Manager, Human Resources; Alex Kotze, Chief Financial Officer, Finance; Susan Earle, Deputy Director, Finance; Renee Vought, Principal Financial Management Analyst, Finance; and Claire Heitman, Civil Division, Office of the Ramsey County Attorney.

The Ramsey County Board directed County Staff to proceed as discussed during the closed meeting.

The Closed Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.