

## Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee

Saint Paul School District #625  
651-767-8152

City of Saint Paul  
651-266-8510

County of Ramsey  
651-266-8008

### AGENDA

Monday, June 26, 2023

8:30-10am

360 Colborne Street, St. Paul, MN  
Room 5A

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chair Jim Vue, Saint Paul Public Schools.

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

Members present included Jim Vue, Ryan O'Connor, Rebecca Noecker, Mitra Jalali, Halla Henderson, Tom Sager (in place of Superintendent Joe Gothard), Amy Brendmoen, Stevenson Morgan (in place of Commissioner Rena Moran).

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Vue moved to approve the order of the main agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Noecker. It passed by acclaim.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting

Chair Vue moved to approve the Minutes of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Council Meeting of January 23, 2023. It was seconded by County Manager O'Connor. It passed by acclaim

#### 5. 2023 Legislative Reviews (a concise summary of legislative objectives; lessons learned moving forward)

- City
- County
- School District

Eric Petersen, City of Saint Paul; Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County; and Jim Grathwol, Saint Paul Public Schools then presented overviews of the 2023 Legislative session and the impacts on the City, County and School District.

Within the City of Saint Paul presentation, County Manager O'Connor thanked Mr. Petersen for his work, and requested clarification on the one question vs. two questions for the City's referendum on the ballot. It was noted this is based on law – for a question for each project. There was an added clause that allows for the City to instead ask one question, which will be for street and bridge improvements and parks and recreation improvement. The Council has the ability to ask one question.

Within the Ramsey County presentation, Councilmember Brendmoen requested information on the provision for municipally owned cannabis stores, and County Manager O'Connor responded that they can be municipally-owned, and there is a public provision piece.

County Manager O'Connor also noted that there are seven action teams across the County, in areas such as policy, financial implications, climate, transportation, cannabis, service/support/treatment centers, early childhood, housing/homelessness, and funding formulas. The County receives the second-most aid, with Dakota County receiving the most, with Ramsey County at 200,000 more residents – that is one area for the funding formula. There are different issues that overlap as well.

Councilmember Noecker requested further information on the \$6.5M allocation to Rivers Edge. County Manager O'Connor noted the process, including the final sign-off from the Railroad, and there will be further work to complete regarding the final construction.

Councilmember Brendmoen noted that in talking about property tax refunds, that has been a topic with this group for years, and it will allow those who need it the most to be able to access those funds. There are \$190M allocated for the projected claims through the program, and we last heard it was \$25M for Ramsey County and Saint Paul. She thanked the team for their work, and there is a relief from the pressure on this – it feels like a partnership.

County Manager O'Connor also noted the partnership regarding school lunch, and that will help to support families in this community and a huge win overall.

He went on to note the \$6M as a buy-down on the property tax levy, and the line items within the budget for the property tax reduction on the levy because of legislation for additional money to program aid. Human services were a big push through our sessions, and with funding to local government aid, it is a benefit to taxpayers, and there is a straight correlation to that support.

Within the School District presentation, Mr. Morgan requested information on the restrictions on Medical Assistance and Preventative Care. Mr. Grathwol then provided more details on the state plan for billing services in clinics and schools, and schools are more in-line with clinics in terms of services offered. More details were also provided on diagnostic assessments, and the licensure holders able to provide that service. Federal dollars are very important, and with a state plan approved by the federal Medicaid agency, there can be trauma prevention, trauma counseling, and pre-diagnostic assessments.

## 6. Discussion: MN Somaliweek in July and Opportunities for Intergovernmental Collaboration

Jackie Turner, Chief of Administration and Operations for SPPS, then opened this discussion for intergovernmental collaboration, especially regarding large cultural gatherings, events, and festivities within the city and county and the use of permits and City, County, and School District facilities and space. She noted the suggestion of a task force to participate in and help to support community organizations, especially with the funding allocated to each community for events.

Councilmember Noecker noted the standardized approach for event planning, and education with community liaisons on the timelines, and discussion of a standard protocol for each jurisdiction. Mr. Grebner also noted a contact at the Mayor's Office to help support this work.

County Manager O'Connor also noted staff at the County working with community engagement and racial equity and their knowledge of upcoming events, and to plan for events, instead of being reactive when the requests are sent for permits.

Councilmember Brendmoen also noted a standard set of policies for all festivities, including the maximum size depending on space. She also noted established protocols and timelines, and the ability for all jurisdictions to stand together and to know of events in advance, and the ability to look at the right-size space for events and a collective response. Councilmember Jalali also noted the J4 Freedom Festival, and their successful events and pre-planning in place and collaborative efforts. Mr. Petersen also noted the pre-planning for annual events, and a list of community organizations and their events that happen each year in order to plan for them well before the event dates.

7. Discussion and review of upcoming meeting dates (tentative – the County will chair)
  - a. September 25, 2023
  - b. January 22, 2024
  - c. March 25, 2024
  - d. June 24, 2024

Councilmember Noecker noted it would be helpful to hear reports on the legislative session as budgets are being created, as opposed to afterwards as an idea to utilize this advisory council moving forward. She also noted there may be different meeting dates that would be more strategic.

County Manager O'Connor noted that the County will begin chairing this meeting in September, which is a pre-set meeting for preliminary budget planning and property tax implications, as well as action on the joint resolution. He noted further discussion on the January, March, and June dates at the September meeting.

Councilmember Brendmoen encouraged the use of the term "levy limit" as opposed to "maximum".

County Manager O'Connor also noted the importance of Truth in Taxation Hearing dates to ensure they are not on the same day, and further coordination on those.

Councilmember Noecker noted that the next meeting, currently scheduled for September 25 is Yom Kippur, and further discussion for the potential re-scheduling of the meeting.

8. Adjourn

Chair Vue motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Director Henderson. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.