

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2011, 10:00 A.M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Pennington County Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, February 8th, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Cody Hempel, Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, Oliver “Skip” Swanson, and Darryl Tveitbakk. Members absent: none.

Red Lake Watershed Representatives gave an update on the County Ditch #1 project, which has been divided into two projects: a Water Management Project which will consist of all the benefitted landowners north of CSAH #8, and a County Ditch #1 Improvement Project which will consist of the ditch’s benefitted area. The Water Management Project is estimated to cost \$2 million and includes placing culverts with storm sewer connections in the city limits of the City of Thief River Falls. Funding of \$700,000 will come from the State of Minnesota Flood reduction funds and \$700,000 from the Watershed District. The remaining \$600,000 would come from the benefitted owners in the Water Management Project area. The County Ditch #1 Improvement Project will consist of diverting all water from CD#1 south of CSAH #8 west to the Challenger Ditch and then to the Red Lake River. The estimated cost of the project is \$1 million and will be paid from the benefitted land owners in County Ditch #1.

A Hearing will be held on March 10th, 2011 to amend the ten-year plan of the Red Lake Watershed allowing for the establishment of a Water Management District. The Board thanked Myron Jesme for the report.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan and MnDOT District State Aid Engineer Lou Tasa then met with the County Board. Mr. Tasa introduced himself to Commissioners Hempel and Peterson and then reviewed the Proposed 2011 Construction Program MnDOT District 2 and explained the MN Highway Users Tax Distribution Fund. Pennington County’s share of the Tax Distribution Fund is an estimated \$2,600,000 of which 60% is construction funds and 40% maintenance funds. These funds are only used on roads designated as County State Aid Highways.

Engineer Flaagan asked that a policy be made regarding steaming culverts open in the spring. In the past it was only done if a road or house was in danger. The County Board asked the Engineer to put a draft policy together that they could review.

Mike Flaagan discussed the culvert in CD#38 branch 4 that was proposed to be removed out of the Township Road. He has researched the Ditch laws and there seems to be two options but both require re-determining of ditch benefits. The County Engineer will contact the Star Township Officials and discuss the matter with them.

The City of St. Hilaire has proposed to trade the maintenance of a City street with a County Road in the City limits. No action was taken.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to authorize the County Engineer and County Auditor to advertise for bids for SAP 57-607-13 with bids to be opened April 12th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to authorize the County Auditor and County Auditor to advertise for bids for SAP 57-606-05 with bids to be opened April 12th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to hold a Public Hearing on the Five-Year Road and Bridge Construction Plan on April 12th, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

County Assessor Adeline Olson presented an Abatement request under the Local Option to Disaster for Jack and Cheryl Srnsky. Their home was destroyed by fire on January 4th, 2011 and the abatement will reduce the value of the property taxes payable 2012 to reflect the three days before the fire. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Local Option for Disaster abatement for Jack and Cheryl Srnsky for taxes payable 2012 on parcel #R01.01004600 as recommended by the County Assessor. Motion unanimously carried.

The County Board reviewed the County Veterans Service Officer Enhancement Grant Award. The grant of \$25,000 is to continue the existing program of providing transportation for Veterans for VA appointments in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bemidji, and Grafton. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by Pennington County that the County enter into the attached Grant Contract with the Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs(MDVA) to conduct the following program: County Veterans Service Officer Enhancement Grant Program. This grant must be used to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service under Minnesota Statute §197.608 Subd. 4(a) and should not be used to supplement or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by Pennington County that Stephen Stone, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

County Auditor Kenneth Olson presented the Ratification Statement for maintenance and support for the ACS Finance & General Government Contract and IFS Contract with Tri-Min. Both have been approved by the MN Counties Computer Coop. and require ratification from participating Counties. Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Ratification Statement for Maintenance and Support of the ACS Finance and General Government Contract and IFS Contract as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign the same on behalf of Pennington County. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$114,755.60 and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion unanimously carried.

WARRANTS

County Revenue	\$93,586.38
Road & Bridge	\$28,226.92
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 556.00
Ditch Funds	\$ 9,822.19

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$1,817.27 were also approved.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the minutes of January 25th, 2011 with changes made by the County Auditor. Motion unanimously carried.

The Law Enforcement Committee has been asked to meet with City of Thief River Falls officials to discuss the Law Enforcement Center lease for 2011.

The Board discussed changing the time of the March 22nd, 2011 County Board meeting to the morning to allow for travel time to the Legislative Conference.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented Amendment No. 2 to the Food Service Management Agreement between Pennington County and A’Viands, LLC. Effective January 1st, 2011, the meal pricing will be a flat rate of \$79.48 and a per meal charge of \$1.445 for each inmate meal ordered. Motioned by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Food Service Management Agreement between Pennington County and A’Viands, LLC. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to approve and authorize the Chairman and County Sheriff to sign the MN Dept. of Public Safety Datamaster DMT-G with Fuel Cell Option Evidential Breath Tester Instrument Agreement between Pennington County and the State of MN – Commissioner of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Forensic Science Laboratory. Motion unanimously carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia took the Emergency Manager Oath of Office. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Oath of Office of Ray Kuznia as Emergency Management Director/Coordinator for Pennington County. Motion unanimously carried.

Sheriff Kuznia state that Pennington County had received \$5,600 in grant funds to provide temporary communication with the State Highway Patrol by placing walkie-talkies in patrol cars that are compatible with our radio system. Two quotes were received:

D&J Radio	\$6,814.36
Stone’s Mobile Radio	\$4,066.75

We could also purchase chargers that are hardwired into the patrol cars up to the \$5,600 available. Motioned by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to purchase the four walkie-talkies from Stone's Mobile Radio, Inc. for \$4,066.75 and to authorize Sheriff Kuznia to purchase chargers if within the budget. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to adjourn the Board meeting to February 22nd, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor
Pennington County

Don Jensen, Chairman
Board of Commissioners