

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014, 5:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to adjournment, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Pennington County Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 28th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Members present: Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, Cody Hempel, Oliver “Skip” Swanson, and Darryl Tveitbakk. Members absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ken Yutzenka, Human Services Director presented the consent agenda from the January 21, 2014 Human Service Committee meeting and recommends its adoption. On a motion by Commissioner Hempel and seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for January 21, 2014 are hereby adopted. Motion unanimously carried.

SECTION A

1. To approve the December 17, 2013 Human Service Committee meeting minutes as presented.

SECTION B

2. To approve payment of the Agency’s bills.

County Assessor Adeline Olson presented Abatement Applications for Helen Walseth, Wayne Fast, Anthony Rhode, Andrew & Megan Bourne and Clyde Christensen.

Moved by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the Special Homestead Classification for the Blind/Disabled for Helen (Hollie) Walseth parcel #25.00315520 for taxes payable years 2012, 2013 & 2014 resulting in an abatement of tax for these years. Motion unanimously carried.

Moved by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the abatement application of Wayne and Cynthia Fast parcel # 19.00905614 for the 2014 tax to reflect the value exclusion for veteran’s classification. Motion unanimously carried.

Moved by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to approve the abatement application for Anthony Rhode, Parcel # M19.09131600, to reduce the tax payable for 2013 due to a fire that destroyed the manufactured home on March 24th, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

Moved by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the abatement application of Andrew & Megan Bourne, parcel #16.04900310, for the 2014

tax amount to reflect the market value exclusion for veteran's classification. Motion unanimously carried.

Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Swanson to approve the application of abatement for the Clyde Christensen property, parcel #19.00401600, reducing the value of the parcel for taxes payable 2014 due to the grain storage bins destroyed by high wind on July 12th, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

The County Board discussed an open position on the Inter County Nursing Service Board. They will bring recommendations to a future meeting.

Commissioner Tveitbakk moved, seconded by Commissioner Hempel to issue a duplicate warrant to Scent Detection Services for \$250 to replace the lost warrant #170173 dated 11-27-2013 without issuing an indemnifying bond. Motion carried.

County Sheriff, Ray Kuznia met with the County Board to discuss items related to the Sheriff Office and the Law Enforcement Center. The Sheriff asked that the County Board review the Civil Process Fees currently charged for possible action on changing these fees at the next County Board meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to approve the purchase of two personal computers for the Sheriff's department as proposed by Insight Technologies. Motion unanimously carried.

Ray Kuznia then discussed problems with the Code Red weather warning system. He is discussing these problems with the company and expects some changes coming soon.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented the proposal from RTVision for the Work Central Software. This software was designed so that a record would be kept on the computer of when and what work was done in any area of the County. Commissioner Hempel moved, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the purchase of the Work Central Software from RTVision as proposed. Motion unanimously carried.

Joe Hedrick, Thief River Falls Regional Airport Manager gave a report on Great Lakes Airlines decision to suspend passenger service at the airport. The decision was made as a result of new FAA regulations for pilots. Mr. Hedrick pointed out that Thief River Falls is an essential air service market and that there is a mandate to provide passenger air service. Great Lakes may again provide passenger air service once they have reduced the number of seats available so that they would fall under different FAA regulations.

Commissioner Hempel moved, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve payment of the Human Service warrants totaling \$218,686.87, the Auditor and Manual warrants for December 2013 totaling \$836,196.35, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

WARRANTS

County Revenue	\$66,622.64
Road & Bridge	\$44,888.06
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 7,539.73
Ditch Funds	\$ 3,515.00

Commissioner Hempel moved, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to approve the minutes of January 7th, 2014 as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve the Funds Transfer Agreement and Authorization with Northern State Bank designating Kenneth Olson Pennington County Auditor-Treasurer as the authorized official to initiate wire transfers on behalf of Pennington County. Motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk moved, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to change the starting time of the February 25th, 2014 County Board meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to allow travel time for the Commissioners attending the Local Government Legislative Conference. Motion unanimously carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel to hold an Economic Development Tax Abatement Hearing at 11:00 a.m. on February 11th, 2014 on the following properties approved by the Thief River Falls City Council. Michael and Nicole Wiene parcel #25.06401620, Michael and Amanda Torma parcel #25.06402020 and Jason and Lacey Simoneau parcel #25.06401920. Motion unanimously carried.

The County Board then took time to prioritize legislative issues for the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to select the following three issues as priorities for MRCC in 2014. Motion carried.

- Transportation – Bonding Bill
- Transportation – Highway Funding
- Natural Resources – Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel and upon vote was unanimously carried.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ALLOWING COUNTIES TO DESIGNATE THEIR COUNTY WEBSITE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICES

WHEREAS, counties are currently required by law to publish public notices in a designated official newspaper for the county (Minn. Stat. § 331A); and

WHEREAS, counties are committed to providing information to citizens and increasing access to information about county operations and business; and

WHEREAS, citizens expect and demand information in an immediate format, and

WHEREAS, counties have limited resources and must utilize tax dollars in the most efficient way possible; and

WHEREAS, counties should have the authority to determine the best and most efficient method of communicating information to citizens based on citizen expectations; and

WHEREAS, counties are continuously improving and investing in technology to reach more citizens in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, utilizing county websites to publish public notices would eliminate the time and costly burden of publishing in newspapers; and

WHEREAS, county websites are increasingly the first place citizens look for information about their counties; and

WHEREAS, the ability of county websites to provide citizens with up-to-date, detailed information exceeds that of print media

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennington County Board of Commissioners supports HF 1286 and SF 1152, legislation now before the 2014 legislature that would allow counties to publish certain public notices on their websites instead of, or in addition to, in an official newspaper.

Moved by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to offer lease of gymnasium time to School District #564 at a rate of \$7.50/hour. Motion carried.

It was noted that the City of Thief River Falls requests a meeting with representatives of the County Board to discuss law enforcement, dispatch and emergency management with the goal to explore collaborations between the Police and Sheriff's departments. The Law Enforcement Committee members will attend the meetings.

The following hearings are scheduled:

Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Ordinance	6:30 p.m. January 28 th , 2014
Railroad Crossing Closing Hearing	11:00 a.m. February 6 th , 2014
County Ditch #36 Hearing	1:00 p.m. February 6 th , 2014

Commissioner Hempel moved, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk to adjourn to 10:00 a.m. February 11th, 2014. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners