

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 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, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Members present: Neil Peterson, Cody Hempel, Oliver “Skip” Swanson, Darryl Tveitbakk, and Donald Jensen. Members absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Human Services Director Ken Yutzenka presented the consent agenda from the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Pennington County Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 are hereby adopted. Motion unanimously carried.

SECTION A

To approve the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Human Service Committee meeting minutes.

SECTION B

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

County Auditor-Treasurer Ken Olson reviewed a Notice of Hearing on Sale of State Land from the MN Department of Natural Resources. The Hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the DNR Area Office, Thief River Falls, MN. They will discuss the sale of 1.6 acres if the SE ¼ of Section 7, Polk Centre Township.

Lou Tasa - MnDOT District Engineer, Captain Mike Hanson – State Highway Patrol, and County Engineer Mike Flaagan discussed the Towards Zero Death (TZD) project. They have made road improvements, increased education, and engineering improvements. In the past 10 years we have cut the fatality rate on roadways half but vehicle crashes is still number one cause of fatalities for people ages 16 to 24. Seat belt use has increased in the region and is still the best way to reduce fatalities in automobile accidents.

Rob Blankenfeld, Thune Insurance Network, gave an update on the Affordable Care Act. Health plans provided by employers need to have certain essential benefits, must be a minimum value, and be affordable and available to those working 30 hours or more per week. Mr. Blankenfeld advised that we review our policy on pro-rating health insurance premiums with part-time employees and to be aware of the 40% excise tax that could be levied on so called ‘cadillac’ plans. The County Board thanked Mr. Blankenfeld for the update.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Board minutes of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as written. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve payment of the Human Service warrants totaling \$81,737.08, the Auditor and Manual warrants for August, 2014 totaling \$1,693,910.71, and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion unanimously carried.

**WARRANTS**

County Revenue	\$46,237.29
Road and Bridge	\$16,477.40
Ditch Funds	\$ 2,750.00
Capital Imp. Special Revenue	\$ 555.62

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$541.45 were also approved.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan reviewed the costs to acquire GPS units to be placed in vehicles. Purchase of 13 units at the Highway Department is \$315 per unit and \$40 for each antenna. Human Service would need 3 units at cost of \$225 per unit and \$40 per antenna. Maintenance would be \$20 per month per unit. Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve purchase of the GPS units and antennas. Motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Swanson left the Board meeting at 5:55 p.m. to attend the Northwest Regional Development Commission meeting.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Contract No. 1402 (bituminous paving) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

**NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we do hereby accept said completed projects for and on behalf of the Pennington County Highway Dept. and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Engineer Flaagan stated that CSAH #3 project should be completed tomorrow, the bridge project has been completed, and they will keep mowing until freeze up.

The County Board then took up a discussion on the proposed Tobacco Ordinance. A number of recommendations were received from the Tobacco Retailers and the County Board reviewed them and made recommendations to change the ordinance as they felt appropriate. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to table action on the Tobacco Ordinance until October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to allow County Attorney Alan Rogalla to make the changes as recommended by the County Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Colleen Hoffman of Hoffman, Dale & Swenson, PLLC gave an exit interview of the audited financial statements for 2013. We are currently in compliance with GASB Statement 65. HDS, PLLC found that the financial statement presents fairly, in all respects, the financial position of Pennington County.

The County Board then held discussion on the 2015 proposed levy taking into consideration the proposed 2015 budget. The following resolution was motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the 2015 budgets submitted by the various departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed levies have been reduced by the amount to be received from the State of Minnesota for the following: County Program Aid - \$718,691 (estimated)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the proposed budgets for 2015 are approved and that the following proposed levies be adopted:

	<b>Levy Before CPA</b>	<b>CPA*</b>	<b>Net Levy After CPA</b>
Revenue	\$4,619,303	\$398,417	\$4,220,886
Road and Bridge	\$1,295,603	\$111,746	\$1,183,857
Welfare	\$2,417,704	\$208,528	\$2,209,176
Highway Building Bond	\$156,410	0	\$156,410

\*County Program Aid

Commissioner Swanson rejoined the County Board meeting.

City of Thief River Falls representatives Jim Dagg – Mayor, Larry Kruse – Administrator, and Mark Borseth – Engineering met with the County Board to discuss the housing shortage, the Workforce Housing Grant Pilot Program, and the possible use of Property Tax Abatement for Economic Development to match State Grant Funds. Mark Borseth reviewed the West First Street Development Project. The development would be done in four phases starting with the City’s approval to purchase 7.1 acres that could facilitate apartments with up to 100 units.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to support the concept of using Property Tax Abatements for Economic Development to reimburse the City of Thief River Falls for providing matching funds for the Workforce Housing Grant from the State of Minnesota. Motion unanimously carried.

Christine Anderson - Pennington County Economic Development Director, and Emery Lee – Job’s Inc. Chairman, were also present for the Housing Shortage presentation.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to set December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as the date for the first County Board meeting in December, 2014, and set 6:00 p.m. as the time to discuss the final budget and levy for 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to adjourn the Board meeting to October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer

Neil Peterson, Chairman

Pennington County

Board of Commissioners