

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2015, 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, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. Members present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, and Oliver “Skip” Swanson (6:00 P.M.). Members absent: Cody Hempel.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Commissioner Tveitbakk and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ken Yutzenka, Human Services Director, presented the consent agenda from the July 21, 2015 Human Service Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Peterson, and seconded by Commissioner Jensen, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for July 21, 2015 are hereby adopted. Motion unanimously carried.

SECTION A

- I. To approve the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Human Service Committee meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency’s personnel items as presented.

SECTION B

- I. To approve payment of the agency’s bills

Kristi Hanson, Northwest Regional Library, reviewed the budget request for 2016. They are asking for a 3% increase which amounts to an additional \$3,150 for 2016. Kristi Hanson also gave a brief overview of the usage through the Northwest Regional Library. The County Board took the request under advisement referring it to the budget.

County Engineer, Mike Flaagan, presented a petition to clean County Ditch #70 and County Ditch #35.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the petition to clean County Ditch #70 along Sections 7 and 18 of North Township as petitioned. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to accept and approve the petition to clean County Ditch #35 along Section 11 of Smiley Township as laid out in the petition. Motion unanimously carried.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Jensen, duly seconded by Commissioner Peterson and upon vote was carried.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, State Aid Project No. 57-598-052 has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the Pennington County Highway Department and authorize final payment as specified here in. The total project cost is \$58,651.

Mike Flaagan noted that 95% of the construction projects have been completed for this year.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$108,541.05, and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion unanimously carried.

**WARRANTS**

County Revenue	\$53,788.65
Road & Bridge	\$ 42,211.55
Ditch Funds	\$ 27,437.50
Capital Improvement	\$ 3,339.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,371.54 were also approved.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Board minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting as written. Motion unanimously carried.

The following correspondence was reviewed: Red Lake Watershed District – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 hearing on amended permit and drainage rules; Middle-Snake-Tamarac River Watershed – July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Advisory Board meeting to review the Buffer Strip Legislation; and Polk County Board of Commissioner Resolution suggesting legislation reducing fiscal pressure caused by utility company tax appeals.

Motioned by the County Board Chairman Darryl Tveitbakk to recess the County Board meeting at 5:45 P.M.

At 6:00 P.M., County Board Chairman Darryl Tveitbakk called the Public Hearing on the tax abatement for the West River Falls Estates Housing Development to order.

The following County Commissioners were present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, and Oliver “Skip” Swanson. Members absent: Cody Hempel. Others present: Mark Borseth, Larry Kruse, Christine Anderson, Jeff Fagerstrom, Jerry Brown, Jim Efteland, Dean Philipp, Ken Olson, Don Sollom, Key Teeters, Scott DCamp and Leroy Lund.

County Auditor Treasurer Ken Olson noted that the hearing notice had stated that the amount of abatement requested from the County was an amount not to exceed \$505,000

with a present value of \$412,000 and that the abatement would be for a maximum of 8 years. The total abatement requested from the County, City of Thief River Falls and School District #564 was not to exceed \$800,000. Thief River Falls City Administrator Larry Kruse and Community Services Director Mark Borseth were asked to give a history of the requests and bring the County Board up to date. Larry Kruse stated that since the notice was published the City of Thief River Falls received an amendment to the Workforce Housing Grant making \$400,000 of state funds available for municipal improvements serving the project. As a result the County is now being asked to consider a not to exceed four year abatement for \$243,000 with a present value of \$205,000.

Mark Borseth noted that the developer would be constructing two 52 unit apartments and is asking for a total not to exceed \$400,000 in abatements over the four years.

Thief River Falls Councilman Don Sollom said the apartments will pay tax and will be refunded the County, City of Thief River Falls and School District's share for four years.

Dean Philipp asked who will pay for the services while these abatements go on. He discussed the need for more law enforcement with growth in population and questioned if the city utilities are big enough to handle the population growth.

Leroy Lund stated that other landlords are concerned about bringing more housing in using tax abatement but said they didn't feel their concerns would matter.

Hearing no other comments, the hearing was closed at 6:15 P.M. and the County Board brought back into session.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to table any action on the Tax Abatement request until August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

The County Board is holding the Public Hearing on the revised Tax Abatement Program for new homes on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to adjourn to 10:00 A.M. August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners