

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2015, 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, November 10th, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. Members present: Cody Hempel, Darryl Tveitbakk, Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, and Oliver “Skip” Swanson. Members absent: None.

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

Meeting with the County Board was Kent Hudson, Manager of Les’s Sanitation. Mr. Hudson informed the County Board that Les’s Sanitation would increase the recycling container tip fee to \$75/ton effective January 1st, 2016 to cover the continuing need to sort the waste from the recyclable materials. Mr. Hudson also stated that the tipping fees would increase \$5/ton for waste delivered to the facility to cover the \$5/ton increase by Markit Landfill.

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

County Program Aid Resolution

Affirming Pennington County’s endorsement of the revised County Program Aid formula developed by the Association of Minnesota Counties’ County Program Aid Work Group.

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s counties are mandated by the state to provide essential services in many program areas including human services, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, counties depend on County Program Aid (“CPA”) for the financial sustainability of these state-mandated, county-administered services; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of the CPA formula, pursuant MS Chapter 447A.0124, creates considerable volatility in the fund’s distribution, interfering with counties’ abilities to accurately budget for essential services; and

WHEREAS, the current formula’s inadequacies have also resulted in the dramatic reduction of funding for one-third of counties, that have lost at least 50 percent of their funding since 2005; and

WHEREAS, despite fluctuations over the past ten years, the state appropriation to the 2015 CPA is equal to the 2005 appropriation making it greatly depressed in terms of inflation; and

WHEREAS, a revised CPA formula in conjunction with additional funding will enable counties to continue to provide quality services that may also translate into reductions in county levies, decreasing the tax burden of Minnesota residents; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the CPA Work Group including leadership from twenty counties and representatives from the Metropolitan Inter-County Association and the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus to analyze and develop a CPA formula that reflects the pressing needs of Minnesota's counties; and

WHEREAS, the CPA Work Group unanimously approved a revised CPA formula that benefits all Minnesota counties by reducing volatility and ensuring a fair distribution of CPA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support the proposed CPA formula revisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Pennington County endorses the following revisions to the Minnesota County Program Aid formula:

- A funding increase of \$40 million;
- The creation of a funding floor that guarantees each county \$350,000 in tax base equalization aid ("TBEA");
- Adjustments to the TBEA formula factors to slow down counties' loss of TBEA funding, including: an increase of the per capita factor to \$190 and a decrease of the county adjusted net tax capacity (ANTC) factor to 9 percent;
- The elimination of special funds and transition aid; and
- The creation of a 5% cap on annual CPA losses; ensuring no county will lose more than 5% of its funding each year.

The County Board then discussed filling the County Educator position currently split 50% Marshall County and 50% Pennington County.

At 10:15 A.M., Chairman Tveitbakk announced that the County Board would meet in closed session pursuant to MN Statute § 13D.05 for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Boards' authority.

The meeting was re-opened to regular session at 10:55 P.M.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan then met with the County Board.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Swanson to appoint Commissioner Jensen and Commissioner Peterson to a committee to review and recommend ditch levies for 2016. Motion unanimously carried.

A meeting to discuss ditch levies was set for Tuesday, December 22nd, 2015 at 8:00 A.M.

The County Engineer asked to install a wireless router in the County Highway Department offices. The cost for the router installation by Insight Technologies is \$765.00. Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve installation of a wireless router in the County Highway Department office. Motion unanimously carried.

The ½ cent Transportation Sales and Use Tax hearing is set for Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at the Joint Use Facility meeting room.

County Engineer Flaagan discussed taking a look at the equipment rental rates for townships and individuals. This was referred to the Highway Committee.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia and Emergency Manager Erik Beitel met with the County Board regarding the LETG software being proposed for the Law Enforcement Center and Jail. One grant has been applied for and looks to be approved that would provide \$30,000 to the County and \$30,000 to the city of Thief River Falls toward purchase of the LETG software. A second grant is being applied for through the Emergency Manager and the Sheriff that would also provide funds toward the purchase of this software. A resolution of support for applying for these funds was requested.

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that Pennington County enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for traffic safety projects during the period of November 2015 through September 30, 2016. The Pennington County Sheriff is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Pennington County Board of Commissioners and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia informed the County Board that the jail is currently full as are most of the facilities near us. We will need to house inmates at other facilities in the near future.

Travis Fuechtmann and Pete Filippi, Contegrity Group, Inc. presented their proposal to provide construction management services for the development and future construction of the proposed Jail/LEC addition and proposed Justice Center addition. It was noted that if the value of the project goes down the fees would be reduced.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the contract with Contegrity Group, Inc. upon the County Attorney's review and to authorize work through the Design Development Phase. Motion unanimously carried.

County Assessor Adeline Olson presented two abatements through the Local Options for Disaster rule.

Motioned by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve an abatement of value for taxes payable 2016 for Jeff Martinson, Parcel # 19.01509205, to reflect the value of the property for the 273 days before the fire that destroyed the mobile home on October 1st, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve an abatement of value for taxes payable 2016 for Merton Hutchinson, Parcel # 19.02915900, to reflect the value of the property for the 114 days before a fire that destroyed the storage building on April 25, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Minnesota House of Representatives Dan Fabian (District 1A) and Deb Keil (District 1B) met with the County Board to hear legislative concerns and give a legislative update. Items discussed include Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Care and Facilities, buffer strips, transportation funding, Tax Bill and the Twelve Hour Child Protection reporting requirement. The County Board urged the Representatives to include Pennington County's Justice Center in the House of Representatives bonding bill.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$104,871.46 and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion unanimously carried.

WARRANTS

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|----------------------|-------------|
| County Revenue | \$42,062.43 |
| Road & Bridge | \$40,368.30 |
| Solid Waste Facility | \$ 800.50 |
| Ditch Funds | \$ 500.00 |
| Capital Improvement | \$17,900.00 |

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,289.44 were also approved.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve the Board minutes of the October 27th, 2015 meeting as written. Motion unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel to adjourn to 5:00 P.M. November 24th, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners