

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2020, 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, March 24th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Cody Hempel, Donald Jensen, Bruce Lawrence, and Neil Peterson. Absent: None.

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

Julie Sjostrand, Human Services Director, presented the consent agenda from the March 17th, 2020 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Lawrence, and seconded by Commissioner Jensen, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for March 17th, 2020 are hereby adopted. Motion carried.

SECTION A

- I. To approve the February 18, 2020 Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. Certificate of Appreciation to Social Worker from Minnesota Department of Human Services.

SECTION B

- I. To approve payment of the Agency's bills.

Julie Sjostrand stated that as part of the consent agenda it was Amy Nelson that received the Certificate of Appreciation from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan reviewed the bids received for the 2020 supply of culvert and fuel along with bids for equipment rental. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the following bids received for equipment rental for the year 2020 and authorize the County Engineer to select from these bidders. Motion carried.

Triple D Construction
Beito Repair
Davidson Construction
Jeremy Nelson Excavating
Lunke Inc.
Jeff Olson Construction
Weleski Excavating

Wright Construction
Ryan Anderson (Anderson Services)
Olson Construction (Steve Olson)
K&K Trucking
Novak Farms
Danny Jarshaw
Thygeson Construction

Moved by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve the bid for culvert supplies for 2020 submitted by True North Steel. Motion carried.

Both fuel bidders bid 10 cents off the pump price for fuel. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve the bid for fuel supplies for 2020 from Farmers Union Oil and Northdale Oil. Motion carried.

Mike Flaagan informed the County Board that the Red Lake Watershed District opened bid for the Westside Drainage project last Thursday, March 19th, 2020. Low bidder was R.J. Zavoral and Sons. The County is responsible for three culverts.

The County Engineer has received petitions for ditch cleaning in CD #44, CD#41, and J.D.#13.

The County Board suggested the dates of April 27th or 29th as possible dates for a J.D.#13 joint ditch meeting with Marshall County.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to hold the Five-Year Road & Bridge Plan meeting at 4:00 p.m., April 28th, 2020. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence introduced the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

PENNINGTON COUNTY

RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that Pennington County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1035889 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the costs of the grading, bituminous surfacing, ADA improvements, roundabout, and lighting construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 1 from 900 feet west of Trunk Highway No. 59/County State Aid Highway No. 16 to Kinney Avenue and on County State Aid Highway No. 16 from 690 feet south of Trunk Highway No. 1 to Trunk Highway No. 59 923 feet north of Trunk Highway No. 1 within the corporate limits of the City of Thief River Falls under state Project No. 057-070-019 and state Project No. 5701-31 (T.H. 1=033).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Darryl Tveitbakk, County Board Chairman and Mike Flaagan, County Engineer are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Mike Flaagan then gave an update on the bridge project. More concrete is being poured on the east pier. The pier cap is done on the west pier. They are hoping to set beams in April.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia recommends Scott Mekash for the position of Full-Time Investigator. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to hire Scott Mekash to fill the position of Full-Time Investigator effective April 20, 2020. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia requested to purchase the following equipment and service for a 2020 Ram pickup and 2020 Durango. Moved by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the following quotes.

2 – RSR 2X Radar Units and accessories – Stalker Radar – \$6,302.00

2 – 4RE Standard DVR in Car Cameras – Watch Guard – \$9,840.00

Sale & installation of warning and protection equipment 2020 Ram –

By Code 4 Services – \$15,879.08

Sale & installation of warning and protection equipment 2020 Durango –

By Code 4 Services – \$14,268.20

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia recommended Ian Hutton for the position of Full-Time Corrections Officer. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to transfer Ian Hutton from a Part-Time Corrections Officer position to a Full-Time Corrections Officer position effective March 25th, 2020. Motion carried.

Erik Beitel - Emergency Management Director, and Kayla Jore - Inter County Nursing Service Director, met with the County Board. Erik reviewed the Minnesota Statistics showing the number of persons tested for COVID – 19 and the number of confirmed cases to date in the State of Minnesota. Pennington County has no confirmed cases to date. Erik is looking at what the definition is for essential service in case the Governor orders a Stay at Home Order. Erik has ordered some mask and personal protection equipment. Applications for small business loans should be available Friday. It is expected that the order to close bars and restaurants for dine in services will be extended. Please check on your neighbors.

Kayla Jore stated the Minnesota Department of Health is holding weekly briefings with tribal organizations. The local Public Health Organizations are assisting with planning including plans for the homeless.

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to set the County Board Appeal and Equalization meeting for 6:00 p.m., June 15th, 2020 in Meeting Room A in the County Government Center. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Goodridge Historical Society. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee made a recommendation to move the Deputy Auditor – Financial Manager position from a grade 16 to a grade 18 position. Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to make the Deputy Auditor – Financial Manager position a grade 18 and adjust Jennifer Herzberg’s salary accordingly effective March 9th, 2020. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve the Pennington County Board minutes of March 10th, 2020 as written and the March 17th, 2020 Pennington County Emergency Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve payment of the Human Service Warrants in the amount of \$81,905.92 and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

WARRANTS

County Revenue	\$31,078.86
Road & Bridge	\$52,413.24

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$71.22 were also approved.

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

**PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Resolution in response to global COVID-19 pandemic**

Whereas, On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global health pandemic.

Whereas, On March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, On March 13, 2020, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, issued emergency executive order 20-01 declaring a peacetime state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, On March 17, 2020 the Pennington County Board of Commissioners declared a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and employees of Pennington County are of the utmost concern to the Pennington County Board.

Whereas, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 373.052 subd. 2 a County Board by resolution may authorize the closing of County offices if there is an emergency situation, public business is transacted at other reasonable times and places, and the public interest is served.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chair of the County Board of Pennington

1. That all Pennington County buildings and facilities are closed to the public effective March 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
2. While the buildings will be closed to the public, normal County services and operations will continue to be provided to the community on the same schedule, through both phone and email contact.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 373.052 subd. 2 there should be no liability or loss of rights to a person because of a delay caused by the closing of County offices.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to authorize the Pennington County Buildings and Facilities to remain closed to the public until April 13, 2020 subject to further development on the COVID – 19 crisis. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hempel moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to hold a County Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 2nd, 2020 with the County Department Heads invited to make reports. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to adjourn to 9:00 a.m., April 2nd, 2020. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners