

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2020, 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, June 9th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Donald Jensen, Bruce Lawrence and Neil Peterson. Absent: Cody Hempel.

Also present: Ken Olson, Mike Flaagan, Lou Tasa, Peter Nelson, and Seamus Duffy. Also Present, Via Zoom: Bryan Malone, April Scheinoha, Erik Beitel, Grant Nelson, and Kayla Jore.

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

County Engineer Mike Flaagan and District State Aid Engineer Lou Tasa met with the County Board. Mike Flaagan noted that work on projects have slowed down right now due to all the rain, but progress on the bridge project continues. The detour at the Challenger School intersection has been put in place.

Lou Tasa congratulated County Engineer Mike Flaagan for how he is handling all the construction projects and receiving three separate one million dollar grants for the bridge crossing project, which is nearly unheard of. Lou Tasa stated he will be retiring soon and appreciated the opportunities he has had coming to the County Board meetings and he stated he has always felt welcome. The County Board thanked Lou Tasa for all the help he has provided Pennington County and the District and wished him a happy retirement.

Peter Nelson, Water Plan Coordinator, presented a resolution in support of the Middle – Snake – Tamarac Rivers Watershed One Watershed One Plan Project. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

PENNINGTON COUNTY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, identified by number 44 as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pennington County recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pennington County welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pennington County supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and supports participation on the advisory committee to collaborate with stakeholders on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

Peter Nelson also discussed the County Ditch #96 Outlet Project. The estimated cost of improvements to outlet from Highway #32 to the Red Lake River is \$150,000. We need to come up with a local match of \$37,000.00 from the County Ditch #96 ditch systems or possibly from the Red River Water Management District to fund the project. The \$113,000.00 of grant funds need to be spent this year or it will be lost. HDR Engineering could design the project by July 3rd, 2020.

Commissioner Peterson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence to authorize HDR Engineering to design the County Ditch #96 Outlet Improvement Project and move forward with the improvement. Motion carried.

Erik Beitel, Emergency Management Director, stated that the number of positive cases of COVID-19 for Pennington County on the Minnesota Department of Health website is understated and that we are now at 48 positive cases and are considered a hotspot.

Kayla Joe, Inter County Nursing Service Director, noted that COVID-19 is not going away and we have become a hotspot. Contracting companies have had over 100 employees tested with 30 positive cases. All are quarantined and MDH is doing contact tracing on the individuals. Oakland Park Communities did a mass testing with zero positive cases. Kayle Jore would like the residents of Pennington County to stay vigilant and take the pandemic seriously.

County Auditor-Treasurer Ken Olson reported that Northwestern Homes has taken action to dispose of four abandoned manufactured homes and the Auditor-Treasurer requests that the taxes on these homes be cancelled so that a moving permit can be obtained to move these homes to the demolition pit. Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to cancel the taxes on the following manufactured homes upon receiving an Affidavit of Landlord stating they are abandoned and will be demolished by the landlord. Motion carried.

1974 Rollohome - Parcel # M 25.09145200
 1974 Schult - Parcel # M 25.09142901
 1970 Skyline - Parcel # M 25.09137100
 1977 Marshfield - Parcel # M 25.09137702

Moved by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the minutes of May 26th, 2020 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$ 80,597.22, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

WARRANTS

County Revenue	\$ 90,924.21
Road & Bridge	\$ 81,695.24
Ditch Funds	\$ 51,242.50

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2025.00 were also approved.

The County Board reviewed a County Coordinator job description. No action was taken.

Moved by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, the following elected official salaries and effective dates are approved. Motion unanimously carried.

County Attorney -	\$112,000.00	July 1 st , 2020
Interim County Auditor-Treasurer -	\$ 88,000.00	July 1 st , 2020
County Sheriff -	\$101,000.00	July 1 st , 2020
County Recorder -	\$ 70,000.00	July 1 st , 2020
County Commissioners -	\$ 21,500.00	January 1 st , 2021

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to adjourn the Board meeting to Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer
 Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
 Board of Commissioners