

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2020, 5:00 P.M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Pennington County Justice Center Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Don Jensen, Bruce Lawrence, Neil Peterson. Members present via Zoom: Cody Hempel. Members Absent: None.

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

Human Services Fiscal Supervisor Charles Lundgren met with the Board and presented the consent agenda from the November 17th, 2020 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Peterson, and seconded by Commissioner Jensen, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for November 17th, 2020 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

SECTION A

- I. To approve the October 20th, 2020 Human Service Committee meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the Agency's personnel action as presented.
- III.
 - A. To approve the CY 2021 Rural Transportation Collaborative access transportation service contract with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. as presented.
 - B. To approve the CY 2021 Children's Mental Health Screening State of Minnesota Department of Human Services County Grant Contract.
 - C. To approve the CY 2021 MFIP/DWP Employment Services Purchase of Service Agreement with the Career Force Center.

SECTION B

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

TRF Airport Manager Joe Hedrick met with the Board and informed them that Nancy Tofte has tendered her resignation from the TRF Airport Authority and has recommended Scott Waldal as her successor. Mr. Waldal, the current Rocksbury Township Chairman, was present and stated he is excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Airport Authority and would accept the appointment. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to appoint Scott Waldal to the Airport Authority Board for a three-year term effective January 1st, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Hedrick then presented an update on the airport. He stated that cargo traffic continues to grow and larger planes are being used as a result. \$5.5 million in state bonding has been awarded for construction of a new hangar, which will be able to handle up to three of the new cargo plans. The airport's 20-year Master Plan is being updated to determine future needs, which may include a longer runway to accommodate larger planes. A \$793,000 grant has been received for the purchase of a new firetruck

and a MN company offered the lowest bid, however the truck is a custom order and it will be about one year before it's received. Denver Air is offering 12 passenger flights per week to Minneapolis and are close to 100% reliability, only canceling a few flights due to inclement weather. The Board thanked Mr. Hedrick for his report.

Pennington County SWCD District Manager Bryan Malone presented a Contract Amendment on the cost share for the CD#96 project. The original cost share has been modified to include an additional \$89,246.50 to cover 75% of the project cost. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve the cost share amendment as stated above. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried. Bryan stated that the project looks great and weather has been perfect for completion. A clean water fund grant has been applied for to stabilize the ditch, but it will be January 2021 before we know if approved or not. Final payment on the project will be made in the spring.

Mr. Malone notified the Board that he has accepted a position with the Becker County, MN SWCD and he will begin work there on November 30th, 2020. He will continue to assist in the office here until his replacement is found. He expressed his appreciation to the Board and has enjoyed working with them for the past 22 years. The Board thanked him for all his work throughout the years and wished him well in his new position.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan met with the Board and stated that the County Engineers from Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, and Red Lake counties recently met with Enbridge regarding the Line 3 replacement. Enbridge stated they plan to start construction in Pennington County shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday, and they expect most work in this county to be done in December and January.

Engineer Flaagan stated that our contract with Roseau County to provide them Engineer services is up at the end of November 2020 and they are still in search of a new County Engineer. The Roseau County Board has approved a two-month contract extension for December and January at the same terms. Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve extending the contract between Pennington and Roseau County for providing Engineer services for the months of December 2020 and January 2021. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed a ditch petition received for CD#73 in Section 4 of Hickory Township and Section 33 of Star Township, affecting roughly 1.5 miles of the ditch. There is approximately \$2,600 in that ditch system and the cleaning is estimated to cost \$9,000. Water levels in the ditch are very high and the work cannot be completed at this time. Marvin Bakken is the affected landowner and his signature on the petition has been received. Mr. Flaagan does recommend the petition be approved. Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the petition to clean CD#73 as discussed above when weather and water conditions permit. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel stated that he has been working with the Sheriff and some county residents to remedy recent flooding in the County due to high river levels.

Mr. Beitel reported that the CARES committee met last week regarding the grant funds and any balance remaining. He reviewed a CARES Act Fund revenue/expense summary, stating that over 100 local businesses received grants and if final expenses are approved the County will have achieved its goal of

spending all CARES funds. Commissioner Tveitbakk and Peterson expressed their gratitude to Erik Beitel and the CARES Grant Committee for all their work related to the CARES grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to allocate \$24,960.29 in CARES funds to the Goodridge school district #561. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Beitel presented an update on COVID-19 in Pennington County, stating there were 27 new cases today and over 100 people are currently in isolation. The Sheriff’s department is currently assisting five county residents with quarantine issues who cannot otherwise provide for themselves. Local businesses have also made donations to assist these residents. Pennington County is a high-risk county right now and on par with most of the state for cases and isolation.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia expanded on the flooding issue discussed by Mr. Beitel, stating that Red Lake was releasing water at higher levels than normal and due to miscommunication that flow continued longer than necessary. Levels have since been lowered but the effects will take 3-4 days to notice.

Sheriff Kuznia presented a resignation by Full-Time Corrections Officer Christopher Berg. Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Christopher Berg effective November 27th, 2020. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve the issuance of duplicate warrants to replace the following warrants that were lost in transit and dated July 24th, 2020, without issuance of an indemnifying bond.

#109714	DHS-Moose Lake RTC	\$ 2,475.00
#109715	DHS-MSOP-462	\$10,611.00
#109716	DHS-Anoka Metro RTC-412	\$65,891.20

Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Board minutes of November 10th, 2020 with the addition of language regarding the 2021 first half of SCORE fund distribution. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$114,069.99 and the following Commissioner warrants. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$ 73,298.86
Road & Bridge	\$436,627.71
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 147.49
Ditch Funds	\$ 21,050.00

County Attorney Seamus Duffy discussed a proposed change to the County Auditor-Treasurer and County Recorder positions from elected to appointed, citing MN Statutes which allows such change following proper public notification, a public comment period, a public hearing, and Board passage of a

resolution. Chairman Tveitbakk stated that a majority of Minnesota counties already have these positions as appointed and it is for the benefit of the county and its residents to have them as non-elected. Mr. Duffy then presented for consideration related employment agreements for the two positions, which if approved would take effect after the current elected term of both positions expire on December 31st, 2022. These agreements are contingent upon Board approval of a resolution at a regular meeting in December 2020 declaring the positions as appointed effective January 1st, 2023.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the employment agreement for the County Auditor-Treasurer effective January 1st, 2023 as presented. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve the employment agreement with the County Recorder effective January 1st, 2023 as presented. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve publishing the proposed resolution and public comment period regarding the proposed change to the County Auditor-Treasurer and County Recorder positions in The Times on December 2nd, 2020 and December 9th, 2020. Public comments will be taken by County Coordinator Kevin Erickson until December 29th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to change the date of the December 22nd, 2020 Board meeting to December 29th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to adjourn the Board meeting to December 8th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Upon roll call vote: Lawrence – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, Peterson – Aye, and Hempel – Aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners