

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, 10:00 A.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, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Neil Peterson, David Sorenson. Members Absent: None.

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

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Tveitbakk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Board agenda as written. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens - No citizens were present.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$131,130.49 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$122,177.40
Road & Bridge	\$ 28,334.84

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$1,883.96 were also approved.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan and Assistant County Engineer Alex Bladow met with the Board and gave a presentation on the operations and duties of the highway department. Mr. Flaagan stated they are responsible for 1115.82 miles of roads and 430 miles of legal ditches in the county. He explained the highway users tax distribution fund and what monies go into it, which includes the fuel tax and DMV license fees, and then how those funds are distributed out to the DOT, counties, and townships. Commissioner Nelson questioned the \$10 wheelage tax, with Mike replying that those funds stay in the county and amount to about \$130k annually. Mr. Flaagan then gave an overview of his staff, which consists of his Assistant Engineer, an Accountant, two Technicians, and multiple Highway Equipment Operators. The total number of staff on hand can fluctuate depending on seasonal hires, etc.

Mr. Flaagan informed the Board that two bids were received for the 48' x 66' addition to the cold storage building:

- 1) Klopp Construction – base bid of \$187,394.00 with secondary bids of \$11,200 for electrical and \$15,500 for wall sheeting.
- 2) Hanson Construction – base bid of \$261,300.00 with secondary bids of \$8,700 for electrical and \$31,732.50 for wall sheeting.

Mike stated he will review both bids in detail and will bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting.

Engineer Flaagan stated that the highway department currently has two mowers with one in need of replacement. The following two quotes were received for the budgeted purchase of a new mower and flex arm:

Nelson Equipment - \$25,300.00 (mower); \$17,900.00 (flex arm)

Titan Machinery - \$28,573.48 (mower); \$20,023.08 (flex arm)

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the purchase of a mower and flex arm from Nelson Equipment at a total cost of \$43,200. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan stated that the lease on a John Deere 772 motor grader is expiring soon. R.D.O. Equipment has provided a quote on another all-wheel drive John Deere 772 at an annual lease cost of \$46,943.99, which includes warranty for the entire 6-year lease. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize the lease of a new John Deere 772 all-wheel drive motor grader from R.D.O. Equipment at annual lease cost of \$46,943.99. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed the current GPS system used for surveying. He would like to upgrade to a 4G system, which is a budgeted item for 2021. Assistant Engineer Alex Bladow described the advantages of a 4G system and examples of its use in the field. Mike stated that he received a quote of \$33,270.65 from Frontier Precision for a Trimble data collector and a keypad. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the purchase of a data collector and keypad from Frontier Precision to upgrade the GPS survey system to 4G at the quoted price of \$33,270.65. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed a petition received for a partial abandonment of Judicial Ditch #25-3 and said a public hearing must be held prior to the Board taking any action on the petition. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to hold a Public Hearing on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Justice Center Board Room regarding a petition to abandon a portion of J.D.#25-3. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed an Administrative Penalty Order (A.P.O.) for Dennis McCullough regarding the buffer law. Mr. McCullough has asked the County Board for an extension and also requested an exemption from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. It was noted that the B.W.S.R. has denied the exemption request, so the County must either approve an extension or impose a penalty. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve an extension to the buffer law deadline to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for Dennis McCullough. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia met with the County Board and discussed the following personnel items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the hire of Julie Bolduc as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the transfer of Alexander Yorba from Part-Time Corrections Officer to Full-Time Corrections Officer effective February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the hire of Alex Peterson as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia discussed a quote by ReadITech IT Solutions for a new HP ZBook mobile workstation for Dispatch in the amount of \$2,405.00, which includes setup and prep. This is a budgeted replacement item for 2021. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to authorize

the purchase of a HP ZBook mobile workstation for Dispatch from ReadiTech at the quoted price of \$2,405.00. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia discussed a quote by Motorola for the purchase of three portable radios and related accessories for use in the Jail in the amount of \$7,606.59. This purchase is a budgeted item for the ARMER system. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the purchase of the three portable radios and accessories from Motorola at the quoted price of \$7,606.59. Motion carried.

Mr. Kuznia stated it has been 12-15 years since the Sheriff's department updated their handgun inventory, which consists of 11-12 guns. He is working on a quote with Hardware Hank to trade in their current handguns and is expecting a balance due of approximately \$2,500. In the past Hardware Hank has allowed the officers to personally buy their guns back at the trade-in value.

#### Committee Reports:

Chairman Peterson discussed the recent MN Rural Counties meeting he attended. The main discussion topics included broadband, electric vehicles, and California emissions laws.

#### County Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg discussed a letter from the MN Department of Revenue stating that they have settled the 2018 Enbridge Energy tax court settlement for taxes payable 2019. The tax value was reduced from \$1,457,000 to \$1,284,300, resulting in a refund to Enbridge Energy in the amount of \$5,800.

County Coordinator Items: None at this time.

#### County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy informed the Board that PT Legal Secretary Shirley Owens is retiring effective February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 after 46+ years of service. He will be meeting with the Personnel Committee soon to discuss the position, which is currently shared with another PT employee to create one FTE. Mr. Duffy said he will also discuss adding additional support staff as the needs of the office are increasing. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to authorize the Personnel Committee to review the staffing needs of the Attorney's office and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners