

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 2021, 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, February 23rd, 2021 at 5:00 p.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: None present

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of February 9th, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$109,189.71, the January 2021 Auditor and Manual warrants totaling \$1,640,489.83, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$69,163.64
Road & Bridge	\$66,133.89

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$105.93 were also approved.

Fiscal Supervisor Chuck Lundgren met with the County Board and presented the consent agenda from the February 16th, 2021 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Tveitbakk and seconded by Commissioner Nelson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for February 16th, 2021 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the January 19th, 2021 Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the Agency's personnel action as presented.

SECTION B

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

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the Human Services purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Equinox from Northern Motors of TRF at a final cost of \$20,992.89 after trade-in of a 2014 Chevrolet Impala. Motion carried.

Pennington County SWCD District Manager Peter Nelson met with the Board regarding an appeal to a floodway boundary along the Red Lake River near 11567 280th Ave NE, Thief River Falls, MN. The property contains a home built in 2010-2011 at an elevation higher than the surrounding area, and the

Floodplain Ordinance allows structures in the floodplain if they meet State and Local requirements. If the appeal is approved, it will shift the floodway boundary and remove the home from the floodway zone. Mr. Nelson reviewed the current floodplain map, the proposed change to it, and also supporting technical documentation from the DNR. Following discussion, Commissioner Tveitbakk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve an appeal to the floodway boundary near 11567 280th Ave NE, Thief River Falls, MN. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan met with the Board and stated that SAP 057-598-054, replacement of the County Road 75 bridge south of the Regional Airport, is ready to be bid. The bridge will be replaced with a box culvert. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for SAP 057-598-54. Motion carried. The bid opening will be held electronically on April 12th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Engineer Flaagan discussed the following two bids received for the 48'x66' addition to the cold storage building:

Klopp Construction	\$214,094.00
Hanson Construction	\$301,732.50

Mike stated that funding for the project will include approximately \$107,000 from State Aid, \$70,000 from the 2021 budget, and the balance from their capital improvement fund. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to award the bid for the cold storage building addition to Klopp Construction in the amount of \$214,094.00 as the lowest and best bid received. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated that Highway Equipment Operator Mark Swanson is retiring effective February 26th, 2021 after 26+ years of service. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the retirement of Mark Swanson effective February 26th, 2021. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence requested that the County Coordinator send a letter of appreciation to Mark Swanson for his many years of service to Pennington County.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for the soon-vacant position of Highway Equipment Operator; to be posted internally per the C.B.A. and externally after if no internal applications are received. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated he will send out proposed dates for the Road Committee to tour the Highway department shops, roads, and recent county projects.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia met with the Board and stated the jail's washer and dryer is in need of replacement. He has received a quote from BDS Laundry in the amount \$24,416.00 for two commercial-grade electric UniMac washers and one UniMac stack dryer, all with dual drums. If approved the purchase would be funded using \$5,000 from the Meals on Wheels account and the remainder from the Jail Canteen Fund. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the purchase of two UniMac Washers and one dryer from BDS Laundry at the quoted price of \$24,416.00, to be funded with the Canteen and Meals on Wheels funds. Discussion followed with Commissioner Tveitbakk requesting that the Sheriff Kuznia research the cost of gas-fired washers and dryers prior to the purchase as they might be more cost-efficient. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the transfer of Jordin Gunderson from Full-Time Corrections Officer to Part-Time Deputy Sheriff effective February 24th, 2021. Discussion followed with Sheriff Kuznia stating that this position will fill in for deputies on vacation, transport of inmates, and work security in the Justice Center during trials, etc. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia stated he has been working with Hardware Hank on the trade-in of 11 deputy handguns, which he estimates are nearly 20 years old. After trade-in the purchase was quoted at \$2,310.00. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the purchase of 11 new deputy handguns from Hardware Hank of TRF at the quoted price of \$2,310.00 after trade in. Commissioner Nelson questioned the availability of the guns, to which Ray responded they are working with the manufacturers and hope to get them soon. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia discussed the purchase of a new rifle, a Smith & Wesson M&P AR-15, for the department from Hardware Hank of TRF. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize the purchase of a Smith & Wesson M&P AR-15 rifle for the Sheriff's Department at a quoted price of \$828.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence opened discussion on the indoor shooting range at the LEC. Sheriff Kuznia estimates it will cost \$80,000-\$100,000 to bring the traps and ventilation up to code with OSHA, but he hopes get the project done in the next few years during his term as Sheriff. An attempt to update the range was made about 15 years ago but the ventilation continued to be a problem.

Sheriff Kuznia discussed the multitude of old department and case files stored in the Old Auditorium. The implementation of LETG has allowed for digital documentation, resulting in little to no paper documents in the last 5 years. ReadITech Solutions has quoted \$1,215.00 for the purchase and setup of a Fujitsu Document scanner that can scan and digitize the old paper records on file. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorensen, to authorize the purchase of a Fujitsu Document scanner from ReadITech Solutions at a total cost of \$1,215.00, which includes setup. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Commissioner Tveitbakk reported on upgrades to the Board room electronics. The system is working better but a few glitches still remain and will be fixed soon.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson questioned the Board when they would like to schedule training for the Microsoft Surfaces. ReadITech Solutions can provide training for up to 10 people at a time. The County Coordinator will get a list of potential dates and time and report back to the Board.

Mr. Erickson discussed the replacement of the roof on the Government Center. Northwest Roofing, Inc. provided a quote in early 2020 in the amount of \$152,086.98 and they will still honor that bid. TectaAmerica also provided a quote in May 2020 in the amount of \$172,560.00. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the quote by NW Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$152,086.98 for replacement of the roof at the Government Center, which is a budgeted expense for 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the issuance of duplicate warrants to replace lost warrant #188214 dated 02/14/20 in the amount of \$48.83 and

payable to Joseph Garry; also #189825 dated 09/25/20 in the amount of \$23.49 and payable to L&M Fleet Supply, Inc., without issuance of indemnifying bonds. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the hire of Kyle Jore as Ag Services/Solid Waste Coordinator effective February 24th, 2021 at the Step 2 rate of \$25.78/hour. Motion carried.

Chairman Peterson opened discussion on a proposed Clean Cars standard for MN and a related resolution opposing the standard. The standard would set a low-emission standard and a zero-emission standard, mandating automakers to supply more zero emission vehicles in MN. To date the standard has been adopted by 14 states and the District of Columbia. Following discussion by the Board, Commissioner Nelson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to table the issue until the next County Board meeting. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk discussed the statutory requirement that a County Engineer must be a resident of the state. Representative John Burkel would like to introduce legislation to have that requirement stricken from Statute. Kittson County has passed a letter of support of this legislation as they have struggled to hire an Engineer for over a year and the residency requirement has turned away candidates. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to draft a resolution in support of Representative John Burkel's desire to have the statutory requirement changed regarding the residency requirement for a County Engineer, and to have the Chairman sign the same the same upon County Attorney approval of the document. Motion carried.

County Attorney items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy read aloud the retirement letter received from Legal Secretary Shirley Owens effective February 28th, 2021. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the retirement of Shirley Owens effective February 28th, 2021 and thanked her for her 45+ years of service to Pennington County. Motion carried. The Board wishes Ms. Owens well in her retirement.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to adjourn the Board meeting to March 9th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners