

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 27TH, 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, July 27th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. 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. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson informed the Board that Sheriff Kuznia will not be in attendance and that M.A.K. Construction will be present via Zoom. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the changes requested. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the County Board minutes of July 13th, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Auditor and Manual warrants for June, 2021 totaling \$7,069,506.67 and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$32,440.53
Road & Bridge	\$ 4,488.07
Ditch Funds	\$ 6,129.72

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand met with the Board and presented the consent agenda from the July 20th, 2021 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Lawrence and seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for July 20th, 2021 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the June 15th, 2021 Human Service Committee meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the Agency's personnel action as presented.
- III.
 - A. To approve the Telecommute Policy.
 - B. To approve the Child Safety and Permanency and MFIP/SWP Self-Support Index Report.

SECTION B

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

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted a few typographical errors within the Telecommute Policy and suggested that the reference to a specific company for IT services be eliminated to allow for future change to IT policy and procedures. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the transfer and promotion of Stacy Anderson from Deputy Auditor-Accounting/Payroll Manager to Human Services Fiscal Supervisor at the Step 1 rate of \$28.10 effective August 9th, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a 2021 Purchase of Service Agreement between Pennington County Human Services and Thief River Falls ISD #564 for the transportation of children and youth in foster care placement. Motion carried.

Ms. Sjostrand noted that a Suicide and Mental Health Awareness event called 'Be The Voice' will be held at the Pennington County Fairgrounds on September 1st, 2021 and will feature keynote speakers, a 5k walk/run, bouncy houses for kids, and food trucks. She asked if the Board would be interested in sponsoring the event. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to sponsor the 'Be The Voice' suicide and mental health awareness event in the amount of \$4,000. Discussion was held with the Board stating that American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds will be used for the sponsorship. Motion carried.

Mark Kuhn and Corey Hanson of M.A.K. Construction met with the Board regarding the property they purchased property from Valley Home known as the 'The Angle'. They would like to build a facility consisting of 93 residential units, 9,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, and 10,000 sq. ft. for a daycare facility. They are not asking for a TIF but for a PILOT, or Payment In Lieu of Tax. Taxes for the first 5 years would remain based on current values, years 6-10 taxes would be based on 50% of market value, and after 10 years it would be fully taxable. They stated the City of TRF is considering the project and that without the PILOT the project doesn't make financial sense and will not be attractive to investors. Following discussion, the Board stated they would like to discuss the project further and meet with the officials from the City of TRF.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan met with the Board and said he received the following 4 quotes for the install of approximately 25 culverts and crossing replacements on CSAH #6 between the Kratka road and Highlanding in preparation of an overlay project in 2022. The county will supply the culverts and State Aid will be used for labor costs.

Jeff Olson Construction	\$28,172.00
Davidson Construction	\$35,516.00
Wright Construction	\$39,352.50
R.J. Zavoral & Sons	\$59,800.00

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the quote by Jeff Olson Construction in the amount of \$28,172.00 for the install of culverts and crossing replacements on CSAH#6 as detailed above. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed the Highway 32 roundabout issue where buses and tractor trailers can be stopped inside the roundabout when a train is crossing CSAH#16 west of the roundabout. MnDOT has recommended the install of crossing arms and signals at this location and MN Northern Railroad has provided an estimate of \$245,977.17 for the project. State Railroad Funds will cover \$50,000 of the project with the remainder of \$195,977.17 to be split between the State and Pennington County. Pennington County would be responsible for future maintenance of the signals.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve an agreement between Pennington County and MN Northern Railroad whereas Pennington County will pay for future

maintenance of the railroad crossing signals on CSAH#16 west of the Highway 32 roundabout. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve Amendment No. 2 to MnDOT Contract No. 1033591A02 with Pennington County to reflect and include the State of Minnesota's cost-share of the railroad crossing signal system and installation on CSAH#16 west of the Highway 32 roundabout. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Pennington County and the Pennington County SWCD for stabilization of the outlet of County Ditch #96 west of State Highway 32 to the 'Y'. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Chairman Peterson noted that he recently was present and met with Governor Walz at a farm near Crookston, MN. Discussion items included CRP and the drought situation.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson presented the following items to the Board for consideration:

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE COMMISSIONER TO THE NW MN MULTI-COUNTY HRA

WHEREAS, the term of Kermit Genereux expires effective October 10th, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Pennington County does appoint Kermit Genereux to serve as a Commissioner of the Northwest Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority for a period of 5 years, starting October 10th, 2021.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve a three-year agreement between the University of Minnesota and Pennington County to provide Extension programs locally and to employ an Extension educator. The agreement reflects inflationary adjustments of 2.25% for years 2022 and 2023 and 2.5% for 2024. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the County Auditor-Treasurer to pay for expenses related to the Enbridge Line 3 protest activity by Auditor warrant. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the possibility of a temporary 'no-wake' ordinance on the waterways within the County due to low water levels and related algae blooms. It was noted that a public hearing would need to be held before an ordinance can be put into place. The Board tabled the discussion.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve advertising for the position of full-time Accounting/Payroll Manager. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to readvertise for the vacant position of full-time Custodian I. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk questioned if the County has calculated revenue losses due to COVID-19 for the purposes of the ARP funding. County Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg said she is in the process of calculating the revenue losses and our audit firm will review the numbers when complete.

County Attorney items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy discussed the treatment court program and stated that graduates are normally treated to a get together or cookout in celebration, however the pandemic halted all such gatherings. Now that restrictions have lifted, they are planning an event for those that graduated during the pandemic and he asked if the Board would like to donate to the event. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to donate \$200.00 to the upcoming event for graduates of the treatment court program during the pandemic. Motion carried.

Mr. Duffy stated that he is working on a lease agreement for the radio tower and land located in Smiley Township. The draft should be ready for the August 10th, 2021 Board meeting.

Mr. Duffy stated that the agreement between Safety-Kleen and Pennington County should be ready for the August 10th, 2021 Board meeting.

Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that he attended an online meeting regarding the opioid drug lawsuit settlement. \$250 million will be available in Minnesota and the county will work with the Association of MN Counties as terms of the settlement distribution are developed. It was noted that the settlement will be paid out over a number of years.

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

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners