

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
MARCH 14TH, 2023 – 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, March 14th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, Dave Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: None.

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

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

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board of minutes of February 28th, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$153,901.13
Road & Bridge	\$ 31,974.11
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 1,180.66
Ditch Funds	\$ 5,475.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$3,056.10 were also approved.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented annual township agreements for signature by the Chairman. These agreements are for amounts billed to local townships for equipment and labor for county work done on behalf of the townships, such as road grading and plowing.

Engineer Flaagan noted that the software for sign inventory is nearly complete. He discussed a quote by Verizon for the purchase of an iPad Pro with a data plan, which would be used to collect field data on county signs. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the purchase of an iPad Pro and data plan from Verizon at cost of \$1,299.99. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to hold a Five-Year Road & Bridge Plan Hearing on April 25th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Justice Center Board Room. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan noted that bids for 2023 fuel, equipment rental, and culverts were opened today at 9:00 a.m. in the Justice Center Board Room as duly advertised.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the bid received from True North Steel for culvert supplies, from Northdale Oil and Farmers Union Oil for fuel, the following bids received for equipment rental, and to authorize the Engineer to select from these bidders. Motion carried.

Dyrdahl Construction Inc.	Thygeson Construction, Inc.
Triple D Construction & Leasing, Inc.	Olson (Jeff) Construction
Nelson Excavating	Beito Repair
Lunkes, Inc.	Hruby Road Service
Weleski Excavating, LLC	Jamie Nelson
Olson (Steve) Construction TRF Inc.	K&K Trucking, Inc.
Anderson Excavating	Danni Jarshaw

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand met with the Board and stated she has advertised for three Eligibility Workers and two applicants have completed background checks at this time and she is recommending their hire. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson to approve the hire of Jeremy Enright and Abigail Steffan for the positions of Full-Time Eligibility Worker. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel discussed local FEMA projects from 2022, noting that Phase 1 of repairs are complete at a cost of \$82,000. Phase 2 is the TRF Golf Course bridge repair project at an estimated cost of \$83,000, of which 90% will be advanced funding with the final 10% received upon project completion. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the FEMA grant agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the spring flooding forecast, with Mr. Beitel noting that we have some sandbags in possession and that preparations are being taken by the Highway Dept. and emergency management to prepare for predicted spring flooding.

County Auditor Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the following resolution regarding new opioid settlements. Discussion followed with Commissioner Lawrence noting that no opioid settlement funds have been spent to date. A committee consisting of the county, local schools, and Sanford Health is discussing use of the funds and is focusing on educating youth on opioids and other drugs. Following discussion, the motion carried.

Resolution Authorizing Pennington County Staff to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure Pennington County's Participation in the Multistate Settlements Relating to

Opioid Supply Chain Participants, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and numerous Minnesota cities and counties are engaged in nationwide civil litigation against opioid supply chain participants related to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Attorney General has signed on to multistate settlement agreements with several opioid supply chain participants, but those settlement agreements are still subject to sign-on by local governments and final agreement by the companies and approval by the courts; and

WHEREAS, there is a deadline of April, 18 2023, for a sufficient threshold of Minnesota cities and counties to sign on to the above-referenced multistate settlement agreements, and failure to timely sign on may diminish the amount of funds received by not only that city or county but by all Minnesota cities and counties from the settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Minnesota's local governments, the Office of the Attorney General, and the State of Minnesota have reached agreement on the intrastate allocation of these settlement funds between the State, and the counties and cities, as well as the permissible uses of these funds, which will be memorialized in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, as amended (the "State-Subdivision Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the State-Subdivision Agreement creates an opportunity for local governments and the State to work collaboratively on a unified vision to deliver a robust abatement and remediation plan to address the opioid crisis in Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Pennington County supports and agrees to the State-Subdivision Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pennington County supports and opts into all future multistate settlement agreements with opioid supply chain participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pennington County authorizes county staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure Pennington County's participation in the multistate settlement agreements, including the Participation Agreement and accompanying Release, and in the State-Subdivision Agreement.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that the Building Committee, Schmitz Builders, and SEH met on March 6, 2023, to walk through the Government Center 3rd floor project and discussed plan revisions needed to some bathrooms and the related plumbing.

Mr. Erickson noted that the appliances for the new 1st floor breakroom have been installed with the exception of the sink faucet, which will be completed soon.

Crime Victim Services Advocate Tamra Pautzke noted her current program grant expires September 30th, 2023, and she must reapply for the grant by April 12th, 2023. The proposed grant consists of \$85,000 in federal funds and \$2,000 in state funds. Discussion was held on the grant and the services she provides as Crime Victim Advocate. Commissioner Lawrence questioned any trends Ms. Pautzke has noticed relating to

crimes. She noted that burglaries appear to be on the rise, with many related to drugs and drug usage. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to authorize Ms. Pautzke to apply for the grant as discussed and to continue providing her CVA services. Motion carried.

Constituent Jared Schaefer met with the Board regarding a request to hunt county-owned land. Discussion followed with the Board and Engineer noting the hazards often associated with county land, which are often active gravel pits. The Board noted they will meet with the County Engineer, Attorney, MCIT, and other interested parties regarding the request and to discuss and possibly develop a county policy regarding public hunting on county-owned land.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports: None

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to adjourn the Board meeting to March 28th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners