

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
APRIL 11TH, 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, April 11th, 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. The County Coordinator noted that Kayla Jore has been removed from the agenda. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

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

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

County Revenue	\$93,191.01
Road & Bridge	\$34,643.63

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,348.67 were also approved.

Bryanna Grefthen, Pennington County SWCD Water Resource Specialist, presented the 2022 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report. There were 43 registered feedlots in 2022, down in part due to some no longer meeting the registration threshold of 50 animals. Five feedlots were inspected in 2022, which exceeded the 7% minimum requirement and helped in achieving 5.25 performance credits. A year-end review with the Regional Representative on February 6th, 2023, resulted in 100% of all requirements being met. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the 2022 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Motion carried. The Board thanked Ms. Grefthen for her good work on feedlots throughout the year and with the reporting.

County Sheriff Seth Vettleon presented the following items to the Board:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to accept a letter of resignation from Part-Time Corrections Officer Tara Pfeiffer effective March 30th, 2023. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the hire of Chesnie Wojciechowski as Part-Time Corrections Officer effective April 12th, 2023. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan discussed a detour agreement with MnDOT regarding the Trunk Highway #59 project set for 2023 (S.P. 5705-61) which includes a roundabout at the intersection with CSAH#3. The detour is expected to last three weeks and will be for east and west traffic. Road life consumption will be compensated by the State in the amount of \$3,283.07. Mike noted there will be a bypass constructed for north and south traffic. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the detour agreement between Pennington County and the State of MN, Dept. of Transportation as presented. Motion carried.

The following resolution was motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that Pennington County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1052423 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 3, County State Aid Highway No. 7, County State Aid Highway No. 8 and County State Aid Highway No. 17 as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 59 from 3055 feet north of County Road 61 / County State Aid Highway No. 8 to County Road No. 53 and on Trunk Highway No. 59 from 2590 feet north of County State Aid Highway No. 26 to Trunk Highway No. 92 under State Project No. 5705-61 (T.H. 59=174).

Mr. Flaagan stated that he will forward the 2022 Highway Department Report to the Board members soon and will present it at the next Board meeting.

Engineer Flaagan presented the following two quotes from Esri Inc. regarding annual subscriptions needed for the signing program:

ArcGIS Online Creator	\$494.00
ArcGIS Online Mobile Worker	\$345.00

Motioned by Bruce, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the two quotes by Esri Inc. for the highway department signing system as presented above. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed Joint Ditch #30 slope failures at the outlet and the last couple miles before the outlet. One Watershed One Plan funds could be used for the repairs and a quote has been received from Houston Engineering. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to schedule a Joint Ditch meeting on May 8th, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in Justice Center Board Room to discuss repairs needed to JD#30 and related quote from Houston Engineering. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan noted that the plow truck on order should be ready at the end of the month. He said lead times for new trucks are still over a year, so he would like to order a new truck now to be paid for in 2024. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to order a new plow truck and related equipment off the state bid in 2023 to be paid for with the 2024 budget. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed the two new tractors in the 2023 budget, stating they are now able to only get one tractor. He would like to use the remaining funds to purchase other assets in 2023, including a used semitruck, a couple pickups, a riding lawnmower, and a Schulte ditch mower. He received the following quotes regarding the purchase of a new pickup:

Thief River Ford	\$52,770.00
Northern Motors	\$56,990.00
Westside Motors	\$56,330.00

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the \$52,770 quote of Thief River Ford for the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-250, crew cab pickup for the Highway Dept. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to schedule a County Board spring tour of local roads and projects on May 2nd, 2023, at 8:00 a.m., with the tour leaving from the Highway Department. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned the highway department's fuel costs year-to-date. Engineer Flaagan stated was unsure of that number and would have to do some research. He noted that while January and February were slower months, the storms in March resulted in a lot of snow, overtime, and more fuel consumption.

County Auditor Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson presented a quote by Lee Plumbing and Heating of Thief River Falls in the amount of \$11,500 to install approximately 600 gallons of glycol in the boiler system at the Justice Center. While no other quotes were obtained at this time, a prior estimate by another company was approximately \$30,000. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a quote by Lee Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$11,500 to install glycol in the boiler system at the Justice Center. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a quote by Merle's Air Duct & Furnace Cleaning Specialists in the amount of \$5,825.00 to clean the air ducts on the first and second floors of the Government Center. Discussion followed with Coordinator Erickson noting that the 3rd floor vents are under construction and currently are not tied into the venting for the other two floors of the building. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve a letter of support regarding a MnDOT application to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2023 Low-or-No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses Notice of Funding Opportunity and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Discussion followed with the Coordinator noting that if approved, the public transit buses of Heartland Express/Tri-Valley Opportunity Council would be replaced with low-emission options, such as propane. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

The County Coordinator provided an update on Gov't Center 3rd floor remodel project, stating that ACCT, Inc. will be on site soon to cut back the ceiling in the center stairwell to allow installation of a required smoke/fire door. The general contractor has stated that the project is going well but they are seeing manufacturer delays with door frames, which appears to be an industry-wide problem.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports: None.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan requested approval to bid local bridge projects, which must be advertised for three weeks, followed by a 10-day waiting period prior to bid opening. Long's, River Valley, Highland, and Smiley bridges all need slope repair and asphalt repair at the bridge approaches. He noted that the TRF Golf Course bridge is a FEMA project and will consist of slope repair as well as milling and overlay. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for the above-mentioned 2023 bridge projects. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel provided an update on spring flooding. He noted that frost levels were not deep this winter so he's hopeful that spring moisture is able to sink in, which would reduce flooding. He noted that Red Lake will be opening their dam for four days, but the increase in water will be small and will have little effect to our area. He noted that they are working to restock the sandbag reserves by the end of the week.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to adjourn the Board meeting to April 25th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners