

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
MAY 9TH, 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, May 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Dave Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: Roy Sourdif.

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 stated that E.M.D. Erik Beitel has been removed and Peter Nelson from the Pennington County SWCD has been added. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the changes presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board of minutes of April 25th, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Auditor and Manual warrants for April 2023 totaling \$1,137,185.20, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$125,270.44
Road & Bridge	\$ 17,893.51
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 374.99
Ditch Funds	\$ 900.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,101.74 were also approved.

Constituent Jim Geatz met with the Board regarding his property on Dewey Ave N. in TRF. Two years ago, the local elevator expanded, and another train rail line was put in, which he believes is on his property. To his knowledge a survey was not completed at the time, and no public meetings were held. He believes the 150' railroad right-of-way was measured from the wrong set of railroad tracks. After discussion, the Board suggested Mr. Geatz hire a surveyor regarding the issue since it is private property in question.

Peter Nelson - Pennington County SWCD District Manager, met with the Board regarding three appointments to the Board of Adjustment. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to appoint Arlene Novak, Darryl Tveitbakk, and Barry Newton to the Pennington County SWCD Board of Adjustments. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented the following items:

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the 2022 Pennington County Highway Department Annual Report as written. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan stated he is expecting a 3% increase in the cost of our next plow truck, so he will put in the order this fall with an expected delivery of fall, 2024.

County Sheriff Seth Vettleson presented the following items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the resignation of Brock Jacobson as Part-Time Corrections Officer effective May 19th, 2023. Motion carried.

Sheriff Vettleson noted that LETG, who we currently contract with for law enforcement software and applications, has been sold twice in recent years and soon the applications will not be supported. He presented a quote by ProPhoenix, who also provides Hosting, Computer Aided Dispatch, Wireless Digital Assistant, Records Management, and Corrections Management software applications. The Sheriff noted that some costs would be shared with the City of TRF with the remainder being paid via grants, 911 funding, and county funding. Total costs are estimated at \$329,790. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the quote by and enter into an agreement with ProPhoenix for new law enforcement software as discussed above. Discussion followed on the applications and funding. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Kayla Jore – Pennington/Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care Director presented an update to the Board. She said the winter of 2022/2023 was a bad one for influenza cases, but cases are subsiding now. Covid-19 cases are on the decline with no confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the last 6 months. Vaccine recommendations are changing and what vaccine will be available going forward. Much of the current vaccine that is on-hand now is expiring. Her office has not held any vaccination clinics since January and the vaccine demand is way down. She noted that the public health emergency ends this week. Covid-19 tests are currently available in their office for free. Ms. Jore commented that our community is doing good things for mental health awareness, and she is assisting with those efforts when she's able. She noted that a regional epidemiologist will be onsite June 1st to present an update on opioids, etc.

Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve issuance of a duplicate warrant to Jean Johnson in the amount of \$164.90 to replace lost

warrant #113637 dated April 21st, 2023, without issuance of an indemnifying bond.
Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a three-year equipment maintenance proposal by Cummins Sales & Service of Grand Forks, ND for generator maintenance and service at the Law Enforcement/Justice Center, and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Discussion followed with the Coordinator noting that the battery service will be done in year three, not year one as quoted, so a revised quote will be provided soon. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Coordinator Erickson presented a proposal by Climate Control Inc. in the amount of \$8,000 for replacement of six CO/NO₂ gas modules in the Justice Center parking garage. Following discussion, the issue was referred to the Building Committee.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a recommendation by County Recorder Julie Hansen to set a fee of \$20.00 for filing marriage credentials for officiants. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve sending letters to Representatives Davis Lislegard and Patrick McQuillan, and Senators Grant Hauschild and Mitch Berggren asking for support and advocacy for proposed legislation regarding distribution equity and increases to Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for MN counties. Discussion followed on the importance of PILT and that an approximate \$1.00/acre increase is being sought. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

The County Coordinator provided an update on the 3rd floor project. Architect firm SEH met onsite recently with the building committee, Schmitz Builders, and related sub-contractors to discuss the project and its progress. Plumbing has been roughed in and they have been able to largely avoid coring through 2nd floor ceilings, with the exception of access needed via the 2nd floor men's and women's bathroom ceilings. Sheetrock is being installed now and window replacement is near completion.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Lawrence reported on the Spring Clean-Up Day held on May 6th, 2023. Less garbage was taken in than prior years and some had to be turned away as it couldn't be accepted.

Commissioner Lawrence attending the recent annual township meeting. Good discussion was held and most comments by the townships were positive.

Commissioner Lawrence opened discussion on the proposed Juneteenth holiday, which following federal approval as a national holiday, has been declared a holiday by the state

legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Pennington County currently observes 11 federal holidays, and most MN state agencies are recognizing and observing the Juneteenth already. Following discussion, Commissioner Lawrence motioned, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to declare Juneteenth (June 19) a paid holiday for Pennington County employees effective June 19th, 2023. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to May 23rd, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners