

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
JUNE 25, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

Pursuant to M.S. 375.07, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Justice Center Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: None.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, there was a motion by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of June 11, 2024, and the Board of Appeal & Equalization minutes of June 17, 2024, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$307,022.23, payment to Garden Valley Technologies totaling \$39,456.58 (key fob & camera systems in Gov't Center), and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$94,819.84
Road & Bridge	\$64,155.76
Insurance	\$ 1,167.62

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$428.06 were also approved.

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the June 18, 2024, Human Service Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for June 18, 2024 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the May 21, 2024, Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) Service Agreement between Goodridge Public Schools and Pennington County Human Services as presented.

SECTION B

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

Cole Bernier of CB Kustom & Collision met with the Board regarding the market value and taxes of his commercial property at 1200 Pennington Ave. S. He noted that an increase of 89% in his taxes for 2025 is not acceptable. The Board stated that tax court is the option now as the Board of Appeal & Equalization adjourned on June 17, 2024. They noted that the Assessor's office sets property values but multiple entities affect taxes, not just the county. Commissioner Peterson noted how the value of agricultural land has also increased in recent years, and Commissioner Lawrence stated that the State of MN monitors property sales and will adjust property values if the Assessor's office doesn't do so in accordance with law and sales ratios.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented the following items:

The following two proposals were received for engineering and design work for two street blocks in Goodridge (south and east side of the school), slated for 2026 and to coincide with the school remodeling/construction project.

HDR, Inc.	\$49,757.00
Houston Engineering	\$76,710.00

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the proposal by HDR, Inc. in the amount of \$49,757.00 for engineering and design of the streets project near the Goodridge school. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed the county's wetland bank site and stated that the MN DNR is requesting to put in a water level observation well at the site. Following discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve an agreement between Pennington County and the State of MN/DNR EWR division for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a water level observation well at the county wetland bank site in Highlanding Township; parcel # R07.03415002. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed a draft agreement from H2Over Viewers regarding the redetermination of benefits for CD#46 and CD#70. He noted that part of CD#70 was abandoned during the TRF westside drainage project and a redetermination of benefits would remove some land from CD#70 as a result of that project. The Engineer presented pictures of the county ditch systems and noted that all of the systems are full right now with the recent rainfall.

Engineer Flaagan presented an update on the Kratka bridge project. The approach panels are complete and the contractor is currently working on the bridge rails. Grading to the bridge approaches is scheduled to start this week.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Scott Mekash informed the Board that \$15,000 had been budgeted for the transition to a new records management system for the LEC. However, they recently learned that permit-to-carry funds could be used for the project. Motioned by

Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve using permit-to-carry funds for the purchase and transition to Pro-Phoenix, a new records management system for the LEC. Motion carried.

Auditor-Treasurer Items (presented by the County Coordinator):

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve two, five-year contracts between Pennington County and the MN DNR; the first regarding the sale of game and fish licenses in the Auditor-Treasurer's office, the second regarding registration and titling of watercraft, snowmobiles, etc. in the DMV; both contracts to be effective once all party signatures are received. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve a one-year maintenance services and technical support agreement with Pro-West & Associates, Inc. for the period of May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, in the amount of \$3,503.50. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve issuance of duplicate warrants to Wells Fargo in the amount of \$790.51 to replace lost warrant 200025 dated May 31, 2024, and to Wells Fargo in the amount of \$175.04 to replace lost warrant 200024 dated May 31st, 2024, without issuance of indemnifying bonds. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the Personnel Committee to hire for the interim position of County Attorney prior to the next Board meeting. Motion carried.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

The Board noted that an open house for the new TRF Airport hangar is being held on-site tonight from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting July 9th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Seth Nelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners