

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 – 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, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Bruce Lawrence, David Sorenson, Darryl Tveitbakk, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: Seth Nelson.

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

Chairman Lawrence asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. The County Coordinator noted that Sheriff Kuznia can be removed from the agenda. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Board of Appeal and Equalization minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the County Board minutes of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$277,741.31, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$ 44,518.16
Road & Bridge	\$103,512.04
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 60.00
Justice Ctr. Jail Bond Fund	\$119,303.13
Justice Ctr. Cap. Improv.	\$ 60,950.01
Ditch Funds	\$ 8,687.50

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Tveitbakk and seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the May 17, 2022, Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve, as per resolution, Pennington County Human Services recommendations regarding the consideration of Blue Plus and UCare as

potential Managed Care Organizations providing managed health care services in Pennington County.

B. To approve the Local Collaborative Time Study contract between the State of Minnesota, Department of Human Services and Pennington County.

C. To approve the new agreement with Marco to lease a new Konica C550i Color Copier and to continue the current agreement to lease Canon 4045.

## SECTION B

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

Shannon Olson - Director, Oliver "Skip" Swanson - President, and along with various members of the Heritage Community Center, met with the Board to seek financial assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic took a financial toll on the Center, but they remained open and served seniors in the community. They receive assistance from the City of TRF and apply for grants as applicable but noted operating expenses of \$63,000 in 2021. They receive CARES Act funding and a \$10,000 grant, but also did not receive any Digi-Key Cares funding for a year due to the pandemic. Services they provide include senior meals in the City of TRF, Goodridge, and St. Hilaire on a weekly basis, as well as senior activities. They are seeking an annual financial commitment and suggested \$1.00/county resident/year, or approximately \$14,000. The Board took the request under advisement.

City of TRF Public Works Director Travis Giffen met with the Board regarding the property at 423 Davis Ave, Thief River Falls, which has become a public safety concern. If the County agrees to abate the taxes owing on the property, Trandem Enterprises will transfer the property to C.P. Rail and they will demo the buildings/clear the property at their expense. Mr. Giffen said the buildings would be removed within a few weeks and foundations would be removed this fall. The Board voiced concerns of no written agreement with C.P. Rail ensuring they will demo the property. County Assessor Carl Bruzek discussed the value and taxes on the land and buildings. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve an application for tax abatement regarding parcel P25.09002800 for tax assessment years 2015-2022, totaling approximately \$2,402.56. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented a quote by ESRI, Inc. for renewal of the ArcGIS system licenses. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve a quote by ESRI, Inc. for renewal of the ArcGIS system licensing for the period of 05/24/22 – 05/23/23 in the amount of \$839.00. Motion carried.

Chairman Lawrence requested that Engineer Flaagan schedule a meeting with Pro-West.

Engineer Flaagan presented an annual maintenance agreement with Greenview, Inc. for cleaning services at the Joint Use Facility, which includes a 3-4% increase in labor fees. He noted that MnDOT plans to hire full-time maintenance worker in the near future, and once in place the Greenview agreement will be canceled and we will share in the new

employee costs. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the maintenance agreement with Greenview, Inc for cleaning services at the Joint Use Facility for the period of 07/01/22 to 06/30/23 as presented. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed a proposed agreement between Pennington County and MnDOT regarding construction/maintenance of a 506-foot structural snow fence near the roundabout on Highway 32 S. MnDOT would be responsible for all installation and maintenance costs and is requesting an easement from the county for the project and future maintenance. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to grant an easement to MnDOT for and regarding the construction and maintenance of a snow fence northwest of the roundabout on Highway 32 S. of Thief River Falls. Motion carried.

Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

On behalf of the County Sheriff, County Coordinator Kevin Erickson informed the Board that the Pennington County Sheriff's Office passed a recent, MN Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training review of their training and department policies.

Coordinator Erickson opened discussion on the salaries of elected county officials. Commissioner Tveitbakk discussed proposed increases to the elected salaries, noting that the positions of County Auditor-Treasurer and County Recorder will become appointed positions effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the following Elected Official salaries effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (County Commissioner effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023). Discussion followed with Commissioner Tveitbakk noting a resolution approved on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, setting the 2023 minimum salaries for each the County Sheriff and County Attorney at \$50,000. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

County Attorney	\$125,000
County Sheriff	\$107,000
County Auditor-Treasurer	\$ 97,797
County Recorder	\$ 77,321
County Commissioner	\$ 23,358

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a fireworks permit for Premier Pyrotechnics/Red Lake Gaming for a July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, display east of the Seven Clans Casino in Wyandotte Township. Motion carried.

It was noted that Cody Underdahl is the new Department of Corrections - District Supervisor for Pennington and the surrounding counties. Mr. Underdahl will be present at the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board meeting for introductions and to discuss a continued relationship with the County.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a NW Workforce Service Area - Joint Powers Agreement between the counties of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau for the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Such agreement designates the members of the NWRDC Board of Directors as the Local Elected Officials for the NW Workforce Service Area (detailed agreement on file). Motion carried.

The County Coordinator informed the Board that Bug Tussel Wireless plans to install broadband service on an existing tower in North Township. They will be adding antennas at 325', a base outdoor cabinet, and a new service meter with Red Lake County Coop. No action is needed by the Board and no permitting is required by the County or North Township. The Board asked that the County Coordinator share the project information with the TRF Regional airport.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports/Commissioner Updates:

Chairman Lawrence notified the Board that he will not be present to award the Pennington County Fair Outstanding Senior Citizen recognition award on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Peterson stated he will be able to present the award for Commissioner Lawrence.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners