

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
DECEMBER 13TH, 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, December 13th, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Darryl Tveitbakk, and Neil Peterson. Members present via Zoom (non-participating): David Sorenson. Members absent: None.

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 County Sheriff Ray Kuznia can be removed from the agenda. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens:

Constituent David Rist met with the Board regarding Advance Thief River. He presented a handout of recent Facebook posts/comments by the organization in their response to the TRF City Council decision to not fund Advance TR in 2023. He believed their responses to be unprofessional and unacceptable. He asked that the Board reconsider their 2023 budgeted appropriation for Advance TR. The Board took his request under consideration.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Board of minutes of November 22nd, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Auditor and Manual warrants for November 2022 totaling \$2,078,792.79, and the following Commissioner warrants. Commissioner Nelson discussed the bill for MnCCC regarding the recycling of old election equipment. With no further discussion, the motion was carried.

County Revenue	\$186,306.04
Road & Bridge	\$ 95,054.94
Ditch Funds	\$ 4,856.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,763.84 were also approved.

Mitchell Berg – Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Director, met with the Board via Zoom. RSVP serves a 7-county area with 550+ volunteers and provides health and wellness programming for retired seniors to maintain an independent lifestyle. He noted that local resident Ruth Ostby serves as Chair of the Committee, and they are looking to

expand the program in this area. He will reach out to our Human Services Director to assess our county's needs. The Board thanked Mr. Berg for his report and update.

County Assessor Carl Bruzek presented an Application for Abatement/Local Option to Disaster by Sheila Tharaldson, etal. for Parcel Number R25.00623600. A fire on July 27th, 2022, resulted in over 50% damage to a duplex on the property and the owners intend to demolish it. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve an Application for Abatement/Local Option to Disaster for Parcel R25.00623600 for taxes levied 2022/payable 2023 to abate the tax to reflect the 207 days before the fire. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented the following Highway Dept. items.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to accept the resignation of Signman Corey Johnson effective December 9th, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to authorize the County Engineer to post internally for the position of Signman. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for one Full-Time Signman, contingent upon no internal applications for the position Motion carried.

The Chairman noted the time and called for agenda items listed after the Budget Hearing to be presented now until the Hearing is called to order.

Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve issuance of the following licenses for 2023. Motion carried.

Farmers Union Oil	Cigarette & Tobacco
Northdale Oil Inc.	Cigarette & Tobacco

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the following licenses for 2023:

TRF Golf Club	On-Sale Liquor & Sunday Sales
Falls Stay and Play	3.2 On-Sale Liquor

County Coordinator Items:

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

Endorsing the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urging the legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

WHEREAS, community supervision is a fundamental part of the criminal justice system in Minnesota and funding sufficient to ensure effective services is vital to public safety in all communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, community supervision includes services such as probation, supervised release, and intensive supervised release; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties provide essential community supervision services both as mandated by M.S. Chapter 244.19 and also as delegated by the Department of Corrections under M.S. Chapter 401; and

WHEREAS, when the Legislature decided that community supervision was best delivered through a state-county partnership, it stated a clear intent that the state would provide significant funding to the counties for the operation of local programs; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Minnesota has become the state with the lowest level of corrections funding in the nation because the Legislature has not upheld its promise to provide adequate state resources to support community supervision; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature's failure to adequately fund community supervision has increased local property taxes on residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, a revised community supervision funding formula is necessary to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have enough state funding to provide a consistent standard for effective, evidence-based community supervision services, regardless of local capacity to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the Community Supervision Work Group including county leaders and experts in community supervision from all three supervision delivery systems to study the needs of community supervision departments statewide and develop a single funding formula that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Supervision Workgroup has taken up its charge to convene stakeholders across the three probation delivery systems to oversee a study to create a unified recommendation for an equitable and adequate funding formula and appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support a new funding formula that provides counties with the resources needed to keep communities safe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners endorses the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the reappointment of Cindy Dallmann and Joeanna Larson to the Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care Board for a two-year term beginning on January 1st, 2023. Motion carried.

The following two quotes were received for asbestos abatement on the 3rd floor of the Government Center in preparation of the Human Services remodel:

ACCT, Inc.	\$ 88,500.00
Hummingbird Environmental	\$152,000.00

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the quote of ACCT, Inc. in the amount of \$88,500.00 for asbestos abatement on the 3rd floor of the Pennington County Government Center. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a quote by the Northwest Service Cooperative in the amount of \$15,575.00 for on-site air monitoring and project management services during asbestos abatement on the 3rd floor of the Pennington County Government Center. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to accept the resignation of Deputy Auditor-Accounting/Payroll Manager Jessica Dybedahl effective December 16th, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to authorize the County Auditor-Treasurer to advertise for the position of Deputy Auditor-Accounting/Payroll Manager. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a quote by sComm in the amount of \$3,805.00 for an 'UbiDuo 3' wireless communication device for the Pennington County Jail/LEC. Discussion followed with the device described as a two-screen, two-keyboard, face-to-face communicator that is ADA/PREA compliant and enables deaf, hard-of-hearing, and non-verbal people to communicate without any barriers. It was noted that a grant will cover the cost of the device. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

The County Coordinator provided an update on the remodel of the 3rd floor of the Government Center, noting that a bid opening was held at 9:00 a.m. this morning in the Justice Center Board Room, as duly advertised. Three bids were received but they have yet to be qualified by SEH, Inc. The bids will be discussed further at the December 29th, 2022, Board meeting.

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy noted that two applications were received for the position of Assistant County Attorney and interviews were held. Scott Collins has been selected by the interview committee and has successfully completed the background check. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Scott Collins as Assistant County Attorney with a tentative start date of January 4th, 2023. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Mr. Duffy noted that the sentencing hearing for Eric Reinbold has been rescheduled to the afternoon of Wednesday, December 21st, 2022.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

The Chairman requested that Board members and staff that attended the December AMC Conference provide a brief update: Commissioner Nelson – Health & Human Services; Commissioner Peterson – Environment & Natural Resources; Auditor-Treasurer Herzberg – workforce & staffing, Commissioner Lawrence – Public Safety; Commissioner Tveitbakk – General Government; Coordinator Erickson – workforce & staffing.

County Attorney Seamus Duffy noted he attended a recent County Attorney conference where new legislation was discussed pertaining to the mentally ill that commit crimes but can't stand trial and can't be committed based on current laws.

At 6:01 p.m. the County Board Chairman recessed the County Board meeting and called the 2023 Truth-In-Taxation Budget Hearing to order.

Present at the meeting: Carl Bruzek – County Assessor, Julie Sjostrand – Human Services Director, Jennifer Herzberg – County Auditor-Treasurer, Mike Flaagan – County Engineer, Seamus Duffy – County Attorney, Kevin Erickson – County Coordinator, April Scheinoha – Thief River Falls Times, and the following Constituents: Roy Sourdif, Dave Rist, Michael Lorenson, Melissa Lorenson.

County Constituent Michael Lorenson discussed the property taxes on his home, noting they are very high and never seem to go down. He wants to ensure that Pennington County property taxes are evaluated fairly across the county.

Jennifer Herzberg was then called upon to review the summary budget and levy comparison provided to those in attendance. She noted that the budget has not changed since the levy was approved, and then reviewed the budgeted revenues and expenses for 2023. The proposed levy increase is 4.5042% for 2023.

Hearing no further comments, questions, or discussion, the Chairman closed the Truth-In-Taxation Budget Hearing at 6:10 p.m. and called the County Board meeting back to order.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the department budgets for 2023 at several County Board meetings and at this time finds no further changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budgets for 2023 are approved.

FUND	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	+/-
RESERVE			
General Revenue	\$ 10,515,421	\$ 12,379,688	\$-1,864,267
Road & Bridge	\$ 7,408,323	\$ 7,408,323	\$ 0
Welfare	\$ 5,519,935	\$ 5,519,935	\$ 0
Debt Service	\$ 1,140,782	\$ 1,074,006	\$ 66,776
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 98,115	\$ 125,600	\$ -27,485
Ditch Maintenance	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 0
Tax Forfeiture	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 0

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the proposed levy for 2023 and the proposed Real Estate Tax Statements have been sent as required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the that final property tax levies for 2023 is approved as follows:

FUND	LEVY BEFORE CPA*	CPA	LEVY AFTER CPA
General Revenue	\$7,266,785	\$569,443	\$ 6,697,342
Road & Bridge	\$1,623,813	\$127,279	\$ 1,496,534
Welfare	\$2,531,366	\$198,348	\$ 2,333,018
Bonded Debt Fund	\$1,135,582	\$ 0	\$ 1,135,582
Total Levy	\$		\$11,662,476

*CPA = County Program Aid

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to December 29th, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman
Board of Commissioners