

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met at the Joint Use Facility Meeting Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Don Jensen, Bruce Lawrence, Neil Peterson, and Cody Hempel. Members Absent: None.

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

County Engineer Mike Flaagan and Highway Accountant Lori Marquis presented the proposed 2021 Highway Department budget. The budget includes a 13.3% increase in health insurance, salaries, a signing truck, mower, and a new road grader lease (to replace an expiring lease), for a total levy increase of approximately \$50,000. The Board thanked them for their report and took the budget under advisement.

Engineer Flaagan presented updates on the following local projects:

- Highway 32 roundabout - curb and gutter is to be completed this week with paving to follow
- Mark Boulevard Bridge – approaches are being built this week and the bridge is expected to be completed in October, contingent on the weather
- Challenger roundabout – opened on September 4th, 2020; discussion was held on the traffic congestion this morning due to the school opener.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel presented a CARES grant update to the Board. The Committee met on September 2nd, 2020 and reviewed another 48 applications. Round 1A approved grants totaled \$279,786.55 and Round 1B applications total approximately \$300,000. Overall, the Committee has reviewed over 80 applications to date and more are being received daily. The Committee will meet again on September 9th, 2020 to discuss new and pending applications and to develop guidelines for Round 2 of the grants.

Inter-County Nursing Director Kayla Jore presented a Pennington County COVID-19 update to the Board, stating there has been a large uptick in cases in the past week. There are eight people in isolation, 7 hospitalizations to date, and many are currently under quarantine. She stated that flu season is approaching and getting vaccinated is very important. Practicing good hygiene and social distancing with anyone outside of a person's household is very critical. ICNS continues to work with the schools and the community on COVID-19.

County Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg presented various 2021 revenue dept. budgets to the Board, with most showing very little fluctuation from 2020. Some budgets are not yet complete and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to increase the 'other services' line item of the 2021 Coroner's budget by \$200 to cover additional costs resulting from an administrative staffing change. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2021 budget and costs for the Auditorium, which totals approximately \$24,000 per year.

Discussion was held regarding the Ag Services Coordinator position that is shared with Marshall County. Bill Craig currently holds the position but is retiring in October. Marshall County would like to continue sharing the position with Pennington County in 2021 and they will be advertising the position soon.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to hold a Special County Board meeting on September 29th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Justice Center Board room to discuss budgets and set the levy for 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the hire of Stacy Anderson for the non-union position of Deputy Auditor – Accounting/Payroll Manager at the Step 1 wage rate of \$23.70 per hour. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the County Board minutes of August 25th, 2020 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$290,545.82 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$74,076.70
Road & Bridge	\$67,139.96
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 1,514.90

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$850.00 were also approved.

Commissioner Jensen informed the Board that the Airport Authority has received a FFA grant in the amount of \$793,601 for a new firetruck at the airport.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Building and Grounds Committee will meet today regarding the DMV remodeling project and to evaluate any other COVID-19 safety needs in the building for which CARES Act funds could be used. The Committee will also discuss electronic needs in the new Board room. Commissioner Lawrence will contact Electronics Plus regarding a camera system for the Board room and AVI Systems, Inc. will be contacted also as they installed the original electronics in the room.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to adjourn the meeting to the Joint Use Facility Meeting Room on September 22nd, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners