

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2020, 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, October 27th, 2020 at 5:00 p.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.

U.S. Representative Collin Peterson presented to the County Board a U.S. Flag that was flown at the State Capitol, which is being given on behalf of the new Justice Center. Mr. Peterson then discussed ongoing issues and concerns including CARES Act funds held by the Governor, the struggles of hog producers due to the pandemic, over-spending, and what will be included in the next bill. Mr. Peterson then fielded questions from those present, which included the CARES funding that Governor Walz holds and the issue of taxation on U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands. The Board thanked Mr. Peterson for meeting with the Board and for the presentation of the U.S. Flag, which will be flown at the Justice Center.

Julie Sjostrand met with the Board and presented her consent agenda from the October 20th, 2020 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Hempel, and seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for October 20th, 2020 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted. Motion carried.

SECTION A

- I. To approve the September 15th, 2020 Human Service Committee meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the Agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve the CY 2021 Supervised Visitation and Visitation Exchange Purchase of Service Agreement between the Violence Intervention Project and Pennington County Human Services, as presented.
B. To approve the CY 2021 Tri-Valley Transportation Business Contract between Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., and Pennington County Human Services, as presented.

SECTION B

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

County Engineer Mike Flaagan presented an update on County projects.

- Mark Boulevard Bridge – the approaches to the bridge have been paved and they continue to grind and remove forms. Painting cannot be down until next year when the weather warms. Work continues with seeding and topsoil and the area around Brodin's is finished and should be seeded this week. Barricades have been put up to prevent people from crossing the bridge and putting workers at risk. Work should continue until about Nov 15th if weather allows, and the bridge is scheduled to open on November 6th, 2020.

- C.D. 96 (south of St. Hilaire) – Davidson Construction continues to repair the south slope of the ditch, with the project expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Erik Beitel – Emergency Mgmt. Director presented an update on behalf of the CARES Grant Committee. Round 1 totaled \$793,428.55 in grant distributions, with Round 2 making an additional \$434,000 available to business and non-profits. As of 10/23/20 the Committee received 44 grant applications for a total request of \$948,000. Including the allowable portions of the DMV and Auditor's office projects, County COVID-19 expenses are expected to be \$500,000. Commissioner Lawrence discussed the proposed technology updates to the Board room, including two cameras and an upgraded phone system to allow conference calls through the sound system. Mr. Beitel stating that North township has returned their CARES allocation to the County and Smiley Township is expected to return some as well.

Inter-County Nursing Director Kayla Jore presented a COVID-19 update. Pennington County has 12 new cases today and 29 active cases, both record numbers. The ICNS continues to work hard with contact tracing with other counties and MDH assisting as well. She stated that ICN is advertising for a 20 hour per week position to assist with the pandemic work. They assisted with the testing and tracing at Northern Pride and continue to work with the schools and other local businesses as well. Lately they have fielded multiple calls regarding businesses not following social distancing and mask mandates. Ms. Jore also discussed new saliva testing available to residents, which is free and offered as part of a 23-county pilot program through MDH. After registering online, applicants receive a free test kit the next day and reliable results in a couple of days. She is hopeful that the convenience and quick turnaround time results in more people tested and a slow in the spread of COVID-19. She noted that lately asymptomatic transmission has increased, which she believes is due to people being indoors more and gathering, and many people are also frustrated with the pandemic and have let their guard down.

Ms. Jore stated that the drive-through flu clinic was held on October 24th, 2020 and 47 flu shots were administered. Traffic flowed smoothly during the clinic and it was a good exercise in preparation for a future, mass COVID-19 vaccination.

Alecia Hunt and Mary Anne Lofberg of the TRF Area Food Shelf met with the Board and stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a large demand for their services. In the first 9 months of 2020 they have served 1713 households, distributed approximately 296,000 pounds of food, held mass food distributions to the public, and are serving 41 communities. They have maintained their inventory and costs with grants and donations, but funding is still an issue and they have been told they are ineligible for a CARES grant. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve a direct allocation of CARES Act funding to the TRF Area Food Shelf in the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner Jensen suggested increasing the allocation amount to \$20,000, which was agreed upon by Commissioners Peterson and Hempel. Upon vote the motion was unanimously carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to appoint Kevin Erickson as a voting delegate to MCIT with Commissioner Tveitbakk as Alternate. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve an agreement between Pennington County and USICG (HILDI, Inc.) for consulting and actuarial services for the period of January 1st, 2021 through December 31st, 2022 at a cost of \$3,300-\$3,600. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that the TRF Rifle Club has requested an extension to their lease with Pennington County for use of a section of the Old Arena. The current lease is for 5 years and expires on September 1st, 2021. After discussion, the issue was referred to the Building Committee.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to close the Board meeting at 6:16 p.m. pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05, subd (2) for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to Board authority.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to reopen the Board meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the termination of an employee subject to the Board of Commissioner's authority, identified in the attached confidential exhibit as Employee A. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented the following personnel items regarding the LEC.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Blayke Sundsahl for the position of Part-Time Corrections Officer effective October 28th, 2020. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia discussed the need to hire a FT Deputy Sheriff due to an internal transfer to the Drug Task Force. Also requested was permission to advertise for a Part-Time Deputy Sheriff (75% FTE) to cover transports, Justice center lobby security, etc. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to authorize the Sheriff to advertise for one Full-Time Deputy Sheriff and one Part-Time Deputy Sheriff as discussed above. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that representatives from Pennington and Marshall County interviewed four candidates for the position of Ag Services Director, a shared position that is employed by Marshall County and 50% funded by Pennington County. Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the selection of Kyle Jore as Ag Services Director for Pennington and Marshall County. Motion carried. The Marshall County Board will vote on the hire on November 5th, 2020.

Motioned by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Board minutes of October 13th, 2020 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, to approve payment of the Human Services warrants totaling \$306,325.67, the Auditor and Manual warrants for January-September, 2020 totaling \$25,509,282.12, and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$114,172.75
Road & Bridge	\$ 5,572.28

Ditch Funds \$ 4,480.50

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$822.25 were also approved.

County Attorney Seamus Duffy discussed case management software options for the Attorney's Office. It would allow the staff to work remotely and be paperless, and CARES Act funds could be utilized for the purchase. Prosecutor software from Karpel is his recommendation, based on his research with other counties and attorney offices. Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the quote of \$45,775 for Prosecutor case management software from Karpel, along with an annual maintenance agreement at a cost of \$6,375, utilizing CARES Act funds not to exceed \$50,000. Motion carried.

It was noted that the AMC District Meeting will be held virtually on 10/29/20 and the Chairman will broadcast the meeting in the County Board Room.

Commissioner Hempel discussed the new, proposed County website to ensure accuracy of the content, layout, etc. Chairman Tveitbakk demonstrated the new website and discussion was held regarding the layout, look, ease of navigation and ability to update content. Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the new layout of the County website. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Hempel, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to November 10th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners