

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, 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, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members Absent: None.

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

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Sheriff Kuznia requested to be moved to 5:10 p.m. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board agenda with the change to the County Sheriff. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None present.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the County Board minutes of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$120,987.78, the Auditor and Manual warrants for April, 2021 totaling \$1,137,680.83 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$143,427.92
Road & Bridge	\$ 1,447.37

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$39.78 were also approved.

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for May 18, 2021 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the April 20, 2020 Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve the Guardian/Conservator Purchase of Service Agreement with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota as presented.  
B. To approve the Nessus Pro Scanning tool for 3 years to meet the IRS Office of Safeguards configuration requirement for the 2020 County Inspection Report.

SECTION B

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

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia met with the Board and recommended the hire of Cameron James Hillston White as Part-Time Corrections Officer with a 12-month probationary period and wages per the union

contract. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Cameron James Hillston White as Part-Time Corrections Officer as stated above. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan introduced Ms. Ivy Wiggs (appearing via Zoom) to the Board. Ms. Wiggs is a senior at Lincoln High School and has led a project called 'Teen TZD' (Towards Zero Deaths), which focuses on education of teen drivers. The group held a conference in 2019 and featured stories, multiple speakers, and a chance for students to ask questions. They have created a website and plans to add videos to their site to increase its impact, and they also plan to do a mock crash at the state conference in October. The Board thanked Ms. Wiggs for her presentation and thanked her and her group for their work in educating young drivers.

Mr. Flaagan discussed the radio tower and the property it resides on in Smiley Township. The radio tower is no longer being used by the County and potential buyers have reached out to him regarding the property. Following discussion, Commissioner Tveitbakk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to dispose of the radio tower and property it resides on in Smiley Township (parcel #R19.01106300). The County Engineer will advertise the property for sale by bids. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan stated that CSAH#8 (Mark Blvd) is being paved today and should be completed tomorrow.

Discussion was held on the roundabout near Challenger school as constituent and nearby resident Mike Lorensen has raised concerns about trash being left in the area. Mr. Flaagan stated that cleanup of the area will occur before the project is considered complete.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve a new contract between Pennington and Roseau Counties for County Engineer services to be provided by Pennington County at a monthly cost of \$10,000; such contract will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 or upon hire of a County Engineer by Roseau County (detailed contract on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's office). Motion carried.

Inter County Nursing Director Kayla Jore, appearing via Zoom, presented a COVID-19 update to the Board. There are currently 2 active cases in the county and the vaccination rate is estimated at 53% for ages 16 and up. ICN is scaling back on 1<sup>st</sup> vaccinations but will continue with 2<sup>nd</sup> doses until mid-June. Commissioner Tveitbakk questioned if all local pharmacies are administering vaccines, and to her knowledge they are. She recommended calling each location to see which vaccine is being administered there. Chairman Peterson questioned vaccinations for the 12+ age group. She said ICN recently held a clinic for youth and 40+ kids from ages 12-18 were vaccinated. They don't plan to hold more clinics and recommend that people call Sanford, their pharmacy, etc. to receive their vaccinations. She cited the website of 'mn.gov' as being a great vaccination resource.

Cody Hempel met with the Board and introduced to them Heidi McNary as the new Senior VP and General Manager of Arctic Cat. Ms. McNary reported that the industry is doing very well at this time and they could sell twice as many vehicles as they are able to produce right now. Like other area employers, they are realizing a shortage of workers and housing, and they are in support any new housing opportunities in the area. Commissioner Lawrence thanked them for their report and requested that Arctic Cat present a report to the Board at least on an annual basis if at all possible.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk gave an update on the American Rescue Plan and stated that the first half of funds have been received by the County, with the second half to be received in one year. Guidance for utilization of the funding is coming in slowly but nothing profound as of late.

Chairman Peterson commented on the Enbridge tax appeal, stating that we are still waiting to see if the Department of Revenue will appeal the court decision by the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deadline.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to accept the American Rescue Plan funding allocated to Pennington County in the amount of \$2,742,450 (\$1,371,225 in each of 2021 and 2022) and to utilize the funds appropriately and accordingly. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve membership by Pennington County in the Association of MN Counties (AMC) Human Resources Technical Assistance Program for the remainder of 2021 at a prorated cost of \$2,860.00. Motion carried. This program provides timely support for the complex needs of county administration and human resources.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None

County Coordinator Items: None

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy recommended the hire of Ashlee Miramontes as Part-Time Legal Secretary. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Ashley Miramontes as Part-Time Legal Secretary effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Motion carried.

Mr. Duffy updated the Board on face covering requirements as issued by Justice Lorie Gildea. Until June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 face coverings will still be required on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Justice Center and in all court areas. Following this date, it will be recommended that county policy be followed in those areas. However, in the courtrooms face coverings will be required through September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 but no social distancing will be required.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners