

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 13TH, 2021, 10:00 A.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, July 13th, 2021 at 10:00 a.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. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that Chief Deputy Sheriff Seth Vettleson will be in attendance for Sheriff Kuznia and the County Engineer will not be in attendance. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Board agenda with the changes requested. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of June 22nd, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$174,274.82
Road & Bridge	\$173,795.14
Ditch Funds	\$ 200.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$4,006.96 were also approved.

Constituent Dennis Seaverson met with the Board and questioned if the Board had initiated any investigations into the issues he brought forth at the June 22nd, 2021 County Board meeting. Chairman Peterson stated they had not and noted that the County Board has no jurisdiction over the state court system. Mr. Seaverson disagreed and began to present a 2011 article from The Times regarding an incident where an individual was slandering him. County Attorney Seamus Duffy stated that Mr. Seaverson has no pending files in his office and that in regard to a past case only Mr. Seaverson can request a hearing in that matter. Mr. Seaverson argued that he had done so and the court refused to schedule a hearing. Mr. Seaverson then made claims that the county was protecting a pedophile and that a sex trafficker was working for the county but provided no substantiating information regarding either claim. Chief Deputy Seth Vettleson then informed Mr. Seaverson that his concerns have been noted by the Board and he was then escorted out of the meeting.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Seth Vettleson presented several personnel items for the Board's consideration:

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Julie Bolduc effective July 9th, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Theodore Rodridgo III effective July 2nd, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the transfer and promotion of Sarah Kalash from Part-Time Corrections Officer to Full-Time Corrections Sergeant effective July 14th, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the transfer of Tyler Scott Ellefson from Part-Time Corrections Officer to Full-Time Corrections Officer effective July 14th, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the transfer of Part-Time Corrections Officer Cassidy Jaz Vandehoven from Part-Time Corrections Officer to Full-Time Corrections Officer effective July 14th, 2021. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Vettleson wished to thank the public for their assistance and donations of items such as bug spray to aid in the search for murder suspect Eric Reinbold. Mr. Vettleson also wished to thank all of the outside agencies that have aided in the search for Mr. Reinbold.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Lawrence presented an update on behalf of the Solid Waste Committee regarding used oil and oil filter recycling in the County. There is no written contract or agreement with Rainy Lake Oil for the recycling services they have been providing, and Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the County contract with Safety-Kleen for used oil recycling for the three locations in the County. Safety-Kleen has stated they may be able to take used oil filters also but there would be a charge for that service. The County will continue to research recycling options for the used oil filters.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to no longer utilize the services of Rainy Lake Oil for the recycling of oil and oil filters at the three County locations. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to contract with Safety-Kleen for the recycling of used oil at all three locations in Pennington County. Discussion was held with Commissioner Tveitbakk questioning the financial implications of the change in services, and it was noted that Safety-Kleen will pick up the used oil at no charge. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was carried.

Commissioners Lawrence and Nelson stated that they toured the Goodridge oil and filter recycling location and they recommended that a canopy be installed over the oil tank to keep rain and other elements from entering the tank and the oil. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to authorize the installation of a canopy over the used oil container at the Goodridge recycling location. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence discussed administration of the County's website. Dispatch Supervisor Shadron Cooper created the current website but is unable to maintain and update the website due to his Dispatch duties. Mr. Lawrence stated that he has approached Ag Services/Solid Waste Coordinator Kyle Jore regarding website administration due to his IT experience, and Mr. Jore was willing to do so but would need additional work hours to do so. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to assign the duties of web administration to Ag Services / Solid Waste Coordinator Kyle Jore and to increase his scheduled hours from 25 to 29 per week. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that he recently represented Pennington County at the summer AMC virtual meeting. He noted that Mary Jo McGuire from Minnesota was elected to the National Association of Counties (NACO) Board as 2nd Vice President.

Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that AMC will be hosting a Zoom meeting with the MN Attorney General's office regarding a recent opioid drug settlement and he would like to attend to see if / what settlement funds might be available to Pennington County. The Board approved his attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Tveitbakk informed the Board that the TRF Regional Airport has requested \$7.5M in funding for the hangar project and the request is in the subcommittee report.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None

Chairman Peterson briefly discussed the State decision to fund the Enbridge tax settlement, noting that if the State had voted against such funding it would have resulted in a 10-12% increase to the Pennington County levy. It was noted there may be some shortfalls in the settlement due to interest calculations and so forth.

Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that he recently attended an AMC district meeting and discussion included the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. It was noted that a calculated loss in county revenue can possibly remove most or all restrictions on usage of the funds. He said it would be worthwhile to have our audit firm or another qualified entity calculate our county revenue loss.

Commissioner Lawrence informed the Board that the fall AMC district meeting will be hosted by Pennington County in October 2021.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the resignation of Sherri Melvie as Full-Time Deputy Assessor-Appraiser effective July 12th, 2021. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve advertising for the position of Full-Time Deputy Assessor-Appraiser. Motion carried.

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy presented an update on the changes to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law that were signed into law on May 6th, 2021 and how they affect the County Board meetings and Board member attendance.

Commissioner Lawrence noted that he met with a local amateur radio group regarding a lease of the radio tower and related property in Smiley Township. The Board requested that the County Attorney draft a lease agreement for the tower and property.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to July 27th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners