

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 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, September 14th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Dave 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. No amendments were presented. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Board agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of August 24th, 2021, as written. Motion carried.

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

County Revenue	\$89,645.54
Road & Bridge	\$42,551.38
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 137.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,570.32 were also approved.

Myron Jesme and Dale Nelson of Red Lake Watershed District met with the Board to present the 2020 annual report and give an update on projects. Mr. Nelson stated that they have been busy with projects, most notable is the Black River Impoundment project. He informed the Board that Loren Sanderson retired from the district after 38 years of service.

Myron Jesme gave an overview of the watershed, noting that it was formed in 1969 and that they cover just shy of 6000 sq. miles. He spoke about the westside diversion project that continues south of TRF and drains into the Red Lake River. The Black River Impoundment project is about 85% complete right now and will be substantially complete this fall. This project will prevent downstream flooding and will aid drainage for farmers to the north. For the public's info Mr. Jesme noted that the land owned by Scott Sorvig is not open for public hunting, but otherwise the project area will be open for public hunting. He also spoke of the Oxbow area dredging project that is ongoing and noted that they are also replacing the outlet structure at Pine Lake. The Board thanked them for their report.

Janelle Wald-Kovar, Executive Director of the NW Private Industry Council, met with the Board to discuss the mission of the organization. They have a 7-county coverage area and focus on workforce development and economic development. They want to assist in any way possible with the workforce shortage and supply of qualified workers. They are going to offer training in March of 2022 and will host a speaker to discuss employee retention and attraction. She noted the NWPIC is a partner with Advance TRF and workforce development. The Board thanked her for the report.

Sheriff's Office Manager Misty Manderud met with the Board in place of Sheriff Kuznia and presented the LEC items.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Katy Christine Rolland as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Tara Eileen Pfeiffer as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to approve the transfer of Jordin Gunderson from Part-Time Deputy Sheriff to Full-Time Deputy Sheriff. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence discussed a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for the jail. This system would e-log the well-checks of inmates and would aid and track inmate medication delivery in real-time, reducing the liability of officers and time spent on manual entry. The Technology Committee is recommending its purchase using the Canteen Fund. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the purchase of the R.F.I.D. system from Guardian at a cost of \$19,993.90 along with an estimated \$2,879.96 needed for integration with the LETG system, bringing the total cost to approximately \$23,000. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan and Highway Accountant Lori Marquis met with the Board.

Mr. Flaagan discussed the grant agreement between the State of MN/Local Bridge Replacement Program and Pennington County for the box culvert (SAP 057-598-054) south of the airport on CR#75. The grant will provide \$129,577 with a local match of \$7,620. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the grant agreement as specified above. Motion carried.

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

**RESOLUTION
GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
SAP 057-598-054**

WHEREAS, Pennington County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 57J42; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$129,577 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pennington County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Discussion was held on the 2022 Road & Bridge budget. \$440,000 has been budgeted for equipment, which includes grader leases and a new plow truck. Mike stated that capital improvement funds are needed for a new roof at the Joint Use Facility. That project would be contracted by MnDOT and the

County's share is estimated at 25% or \$175,000. The Highway Committee will meet on September 20th at 8:00 a.m. to further discuss the 2022 Road & Bridge budget.

Committee Reports / Commissioner updates:

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the county is trying to come up with a new logo and discussed some options being considered.

Commissioner Tveitbakk recently attended an AMC Board retreat and the opioid drug settlement was a point of discussion. Pennington County will pursue its share of the settlement as it becomes available.

Chairman Peterson stated that he and Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg met with Enbridge recently and they are projecting substantial increases in tax revenue with the new Line 3. The new line 3 is expected to be in service in the 4th quarter of 2021.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg noted that the 2022 county levy is just under 4% levy at this point. Most of the levy is due to increases in health insurance, which averaged +4.8% for 2022, and employee wages. A few larger, department expenses are still being reviewed, and if we can cut \$80,000 in costs the county levy would be under 3%. Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that the departments have done a good job on managing their budgets for next year.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Jessica Dybedahl as Deputy Auditor-Accounting/Payroll Mgr. effective September 20th, 2021. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson noted that the NWRDC is seeking nominations for two minority and six At-Large Public Interest Representatives to serve two-year terms. Nominations are due by November 1st, 2021 and the appointments will be made in early December.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson presented an annual operational grant agreement between the MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Pennington County.

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by Pennington County Board of Commissioners that the county enter into the attached Grant Agreement with the MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in MN

Statutes 197.608 and MN Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subd. 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Pennington County Board that Stephen Stone – CVSO, and Neil Peterson – Chairman, be authorized to execute the FY2022 CVSO Grant Agreement for the above-mentioned program on behalf of the County.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to advertise for a Full-Time Custodian I until the position is filled. Motion carried. The Building Committee will meet to discuss the wages for said position given the areas prevailing wages.

County Attorney items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy stated that face coverings/masks are still required in the Courtrooms only.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to September 28th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners