

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 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, November 9th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Darryl Tveitbakk, Neil Peterson, Dave Sorenson. 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. The County Coordinator noted that Kelsey Keimig can be removed from the agenda and Hoffman, Philipp & Martell, PLLC can be added to the agenda at 10:45 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the changes presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the County Board minutes of October 26th, 2021, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$29,981.45
Road & Bridge	\$43,632.16
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 943.85
Ditch Funds	\$47,191.16

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$3,230.61 were also approved.

Beltrami County Veteran's Service Officer Scott Allison and veteran Joe Venne met with the Board via Zoom to discuss the upcoming Veteran's Home in Beltrami County. He presented architectural drawings of the home and thanked Pennington County for their \$50,000 appropriation to the project, which is expected to be completed in August 2023. The Board thanked Mr. Campbell for his report and stated they are happy to be a part of the project. Pennington County V.S.O. Steve Stone noted that following completion of this home and two others in the state there will be a total of 8 veteran homes in MN. He expects the Beltrami County home to be full upon or soon after opening and noted that veterans must qualify for this housing based on financial needs, etc. Mr. Stone thanked the board for their support and financial assistance with the project.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan discussed a John Deere model 770G road grader lease for 2022, noting that prices are set to increase 10% in 2022 so he is recommending the county order the grader now in 2021. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve ordering a 2022 John Deere 770G motor grader in 2021 for a 6-year lease with annual payments of \$41,112.45. Following discussion on the lease, the motion was carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed a new truck budgeted for 2022. Lead time for a truck is about one year and if we order it now in 2021 the county will save approximately \$8,000. Equipment for the truck, including a box and snowplowing attachments, were quoted by Bert's Truck Equipment at \$116,272, however that pricing can't be locked in. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to

order a 2022 Freightliner truck chassis and related truck equipment in 2021 as recommended by the County Engineer and detailed above. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan discussed the sign and sign maintenance duties that were held by Joe Garry prior to his transfer to Highway Technician III. Mike would like to transfer the sign duties to a current employee, which would involve an internal posting and would not be a new hire. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve posting in-house for the duties of sign and sign maintenance. Motion carried.

The Road Committee will conduct a fall tour of roads and projects on November 16th, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Pennington County SWCD District Manager Peter Nelson discussed the 2022-2023 Natural Resources Block Grant agreement. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept and approve the 2022-2023 Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement between Pennington County and the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in the amount of \$116,970. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson provided an update on SWCD projects, noting that about 15 side water inlets are being installed for J.D.#25 and they are working with N.C.T.C. to survey 53 outlets in the district.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates: None.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg stated the ARP Committee met with Ehlers on 11/08/21 to discuss eligible uses of the funding. Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that the County calculated little to no revenue loss in 2020 due to state funds received for the CSAH #8 bridge project. He noted that the county needs to identify needs and potential uses for the ARP funds. Ms. Herzberg said the county can re-calculate revenue loss on an annual basis, and if loss can be determined then restrictions on the ARP funds is greatly reduced.

Commissioner Lawrence noted that Human Services will be adding new, budgeted video conferencing equipment in their building for ITV meetings.

County Coordinator Items:

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson continued discussion on health insurance effective dates for new hires, noting that the Personnel Committee has met since the last Board meeting to discuss the issue. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve changing the health insurance effective date for new hires to the first of the month following date of hire; effective January 1st, 2022. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that Steve Walberg was here recently on behalf of AVI Systems, Inc. to troubleshoot switches located at the County Board table. He recommended that the PC or computer and video/audio systems in the room all be turned on before a connection is made between the devices.

County Attorney Items: The County Attorney was not in attendance.

Marit Martell and Colleen Hoffman of Hoffman, Philipp, and Martell, PLLC met with the Board regarding the 2020 Pennington County Audit. Following introductions by Ms. Hoffman to the new Board members, she discussed the 2020 county audit, noting it went very well and that staff did a great job providing the audit documentation needed. CARES Act funding was included in this audit and that required more testing on their part. She noted they are working with state groups on the ARP funding administration to help guide the county and avoid findings in future audits. It was noted that the county's net worth for 2020 is \$72 million, up about \$3 million from 2019. They noted that the snapshot of 2020 is contained in the 'Management's Discussion and Analysis' section of the audit. The Board thanked them for their report on the 2020 Pennington County Audit.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to adjourn the Board meeting to November 23rd, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners