

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
OCTOBER 11th, 2022 – 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, October 11th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Darryl Tveitbakk, and Neil Peterson. Members present via Zoom: Dave Sorenson (non-voting).

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

Chairman Lawrence asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. The County Coordinator noted that Kayla Jore will join Sarah Lefebvre at 10:05 a.m. and thus will not present at 11:00 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Board of minutes of September 27th, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the following Commissioner warrants, to include per diems/meal reimbursements for Commissioner Neil Peterson totaling \$1,129.27. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$145,353.32
Road & Bridge	\$ 79,954.44
Ditch Funds	\$ 4,000.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$3,030.00 were also approved.

Sarah Lefebvre of Sanford Health and Kayla Jore of Pennington & Red Lake Public Health & Home Care, met with the Board regarding Community Strong, a coalition made up of members from the county, city, schools, etc. The vision statement is a community that strives, promotes, and seeks out mental and emotional well-being. They discussed the groups strategies, plans, and desired outcomes. Funding sources were discussed, including an application by Sanford Health for a 3-year grant in the amount of approximately \$100,000 per year. The programs estimated annual budget is \$100,000. Local events include ‘Safe-Talk’, a 4-hour training to be held at the Goodridge school to recognize symptoms of depression or suicide, and a mental health awareness event that will be held in conjunction with an upcoming Goodridge/TRF basketball game.

Ms. Jore also presented a Covid-19 update for Pennington County. Case numbers are ranging from 80-110 in the past three months. 56% of people eligible for vaccination

have had the two-shot series but only 4% are up to date with booster shots. A new Omicron booster is available this fall. Flu shots and other vaccinations are being highly recommended as well. Ms. Jore noted that R.S.V. cases are rising among children and this is common as the cold and flu season arrives. She is expecting the CDC to soon approve COVID-19 booster shots for the age 5+ group. Chairman Lawrence questioned how we stand with COVID cases in comparison to other counties. With only lab-proven positive tests to go off of, with no way of knowing home testing results, it's hard to compare our county with others. She noted that the Omicron booster is a Moderna product, but it can be taken by Pfizer vaccination recipients. Ms. Jore noted that their business name has now officially changed from Inter-County Nursing Service to 'Pennington & Red Lake Public Health & Home Care'. The Board thanked Ms. Jore for her report.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan discussed two pickup trucks budgeted for 2023. With no state bid available, he obtained local bids from Thief River Ford and Northern Motors (Westside Motors/Dodge was unable to quote) and is recommending we order one Chevrolet ½ ton pickup and one Chevrolet ¾ ton pickup now to secure the lower pricing. Running boards and a block heater would also be added to each vehicle at a cost of \$895.00 each. Mr. Flaagan noted that Sentence to Serve is in need of a crew cab truck, so when the new ½ ton truck arrives, the old truck will be sold to Sentence to Serve at its book value, along with a snowplow. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to order one Chevrolet ½ ton pickup and one ¾ ton pickup truck from Northern Motors at the quoted prices of \$47,020.00 and \$48,135.00, respectively. Discussion followed with Mr. Flaagan confirming that these purchases will be funded with the 2023 budget. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was carried.

Mr. Flaagan noted he is awaiting quotes on tractors budgeted for in 2023, and he hopes to have the quotes in time for the October 25th, 2022, County Board meeting.

Mr. Flaagan noted he is awaiting an update from I-State regarding the truck on order.

Engineer Flaagan noted he is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the I.U.O.E. Local #49 union regarding the winter, early shift for one Highway Equipment Operator, which will be similar to the M.O.U. from the winter of 2021/2022.

Commissioner Lawrence opened discussion on a GIS proposal by 95West Aerial Mapping. Pennington County and the City of TRF have met with 95West to discuss aerial mapping and possible lidar mapping of the county, to be held in conjunction with mapping that will be done for the City of TRF. Estimated costs to the county are \$35,000. The Chairman asked the Auditor-Treasurer to obtain a contract with 95West Aerial Mapping for future presentation to the Board.

Peter Nelson – Pennington County SWCD District Manager, discussed a WCA decision regarding the #18 fairway at the Thief River Golf Club. A conditional use permit is needed as over 3000 cubic yards will be needed to raise the #18 fairway. The permit application was submitted on September 13th, 2022, and a hydraulic analysis was

conducted. The fill to raise the fairway will be taken from an adjacent area and within the same floodplain.

The Board meeting was recessed at 10:39 a.m. and the Chairman opened the Public Hearing regarding a TR Golf Club Conditional Use Permit.

Hearing no comment on the plan from anyone present regarding the conditional use permit request as discussed earlier by Mr. Nelson, the Hearing was closed at 10:40 a.m. and the Board meeting was called back to order.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a conditional use permit application for the TR Golf Club regarding re-grading and improvement to the #18 fairway. Discussion followed with Mr. Nelson recommending the addition of native vegetation to the plan to help with erosion control. The Golf Club would like to start this project asap, but timing of the project is critical due to avoid seasonal flooding, etc. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Mr. Nelson noted that the Pennington County Floodplain Management Ordinance is being updated, and a Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on October 25th, 2022, in the County Board Room.

Bryanna Greffthen – Pennington County SWCD Water Resources Specialist, presented the 2022-2023 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) plan for Pennington County. \$20,475 will be received in 2023 to implement the plan, a slight increase over 2022. The SWCD will attend trainings and webinars regarding AIS and will publicize efforts to reduce the spreading of AIS. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Pennington County 2022/2023 AIS plan as presented. Motion carried.

Pennington County Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel presented the following updates:

- The emergency warning system upgrade and new siren project is nearly complete; all systems are running and functional. The work was done in conjunction with Stone's Mobile Radio and the new siren is located in County Estates mobile home park of Smiley Township.
- Mr. Beitel received notification that Pennington County is now designated a 'Storm-Ready' county.
- FEMA scoping meetings have all been conducted in the county. Pennington is about 90% complete with project repairs. Site inspections are scheduled, and some larger culverts delivered this fall and will be installed this year yet if weather allows. The bridge slope repair projects are being designed now and will be completed in 2023.
- Mr. Beitel and Grant Nelson will be attending F.A.A. lecture and training regarding drones; county departments continue to discuss drone equipment.

- The State of MN has been approved for mitigation funding, which is applicable to the riverside erosion in TRF. Pennington County will be applying for the mitigation funding, and other local entities are expected to apply as well.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented a letter of resignation by Deputy Sheriff Jordin Gunderson. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Deputy Sheriff Jordin Gunderson effective October 20th, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to authorize the County Sheriff to advertise for the soon-vacant position of Full-Time Deputy Sheriff. Motion carried.

Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to change the start time of the December 13th, 2022, County Board meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to schedule a Truth in Taxation meeting for December 13th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to change the date of the last, scheduled Board meeting of 2022 from December 27th, 2022, to December 29th, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve a quote by Budget Electronics in the amount of \$3,999.95 for appliances as part of the 1st floor breakroom remodel project in the Government Center. The quote includes two fridges, one range, one range hood, and one dishwasher. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to increase the county's annual contribution to full-time employee HSA or VEBA savings accounts for the \$5,000/\$10,000 HSA/VEBA deductible plans exclusively to \$3,150 for single contracts and \$3,800 for family contracts, effective January 1st, 2023. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve renewal of a contract with USI Consulting Group, Inc., commonly known as Hildi, Inc., for GASB 75 actuarial consulting services for the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024, at a cost of \$3,000 for year 2023 and \$600-\$900 for year 2024. Motion carried.

County Attorney Items:

The Reinbold vs. State of MN trial is now complete. The sentencing date is set for December 13th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Duffy noted that there will be expenses such as food, mileage, etc. and they are related to the trials.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to authorize the County Attorney to advertise for a new, Full-Time Assistant County Attorney. Motion carried.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that the TRF Regional Airport will soon have an opening for a maintenance employee due to a retirement.

Commissioner Tveitbakk announced that A.M.C. has a new business partnership with a company called Public Surplus. Government entities can partner with Public Surplus to sell surplus equipment online, including tax-forfeited property. Pennington County is exploring this option as there is no cost to the county for the service.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to October 25th, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman
Board of Commissioners