

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
AUGUST 12, 2025 – 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, August 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson (10:14 a.m.). Members absent: None.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, there was a motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the County Board minutes of July 22, 2025, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Auditor & Manual warrants for July totaling \$3,682,346.01 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$205,089.30
Road & Bridge	\$ 60,258.98
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 6,109.40
Ditch Funds	\$ 10,872.92

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$1,849.17 were also approved.

Julie Sjostrand & Stacy Anderson – Human Services

Human Services Fiscal Supervisor Stacy Anderson provided an update on the department’s proposed budget for 2026, which has been adjusted due to anticipated increases to health insurance premiums. Their approximate levy increase is \$225,000, but they plan to use reserves to cover the increase. Ms. Sjostrand noted that changes to MnChoices do not take effect until 2027, so that source of revenue will continue through 2026. They will continue to monitor the budget and report to the Board as necessary.

Seth Vettleson – County Sheriff

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept a letter of resignation by Part-Time Corrections Officer Rory Hinson effective July 26, 2025. Motion carried. The Sheriff noted that Mr. Hinson has accepted a job offer as Deputy Sheriff for Mille Lacs County, MN.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the hire of Kennett Roger Kezar for the position of Part-Time Corrections Officer, with final approval contingent on receipt of a successful BCA fingerprint records check. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Kehan Brad Nelson for the position of Part-Time Corrections Officer, with final approval contingent on receipt of a successful BCA fingerprint records check. Motion carried.

Sheriff Vettleson presented a JPA renewal regarding the county's participation in the MN Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve renewal of a five-year Joint Powers Agreement with the State of MN for participation in the MN Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Motion carried.

Mike Flaagan – County Engineer

Mr. Flaagan presented an update on the monumentation/section corner project for North, Rocksbury, and River Falls Townships. Within the month the surveying work should be complete and then information will be certified and recorded.

Mr. Flaagan presented pictures of the CSAH #26 project from this summer, where reclaimed milling was used in part for road graveling. It turned out very well in his opinion and he has received positive comments from area landowners. Mr. Flaagan will review the road condition again next spring.

Engineer Flaagan left the meeting temporarily and the Auditor-Treasurer and Coordinator presented until his return.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve a quote by Otis Elevator Company in the amount of \$1,500.00 to assist with the Government Center elevator/fire alarm system project. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a quote by Lee Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$9,400.00 to repair the two Aerco boilers in the Government Center. Motion carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan returned to the Board meeting.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to schedule a landowner informational meeting regarding the CD#46 and CD#70 projects on November 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Highway Department Conference Room. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to schedule a final hearing regarding the CD#46 and CD#70 projects on January 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board room. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated that the 2025 road striping project has been completed by Kamco, Inc. and he is recommending final payment in the amount of \$124,560.09. The following resolution was motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Contract No. 57-25-05 has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises,

**NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the Pennington County Highway Dept. and authorize final payment as specified herein.

The Engineer noted that one company is bidding most striping projects in MN, ND, and SD and is trying to buy out Kamco, Inc., other striping companies, and related suppliers. The potential for such a monopoly has counties concerned, especially with how it could affect future costs.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Lyle Tofstad as Highway Equipment Operator effective August 18, 2025, at the Step 2 union wage of \$25.81/hour. Discussion followed with Mr. Flaagan noting that Mr. Tofstad is currently a seasonal employee for his department. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson presented an update on the sale of the Knight Avenue property. Movement Evolution of TRF, LLC has changed financial institutions and are now awaiting a property appraisal. The buyer has expressed interest in some county assets in that building, such as desks, chairs, etc. All such items have been offered via public auction several times with no bids received. Interim County Attorney Nathan Haase noted that a list of the items will be drafted and attached to the Purchase Agreement.

County Attorney Items:

Mr. Haase noted that the latest Crime Victim Services grant has been approved and allows for a COLA for the Crime Victim Services Advocate. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a \$1.50/hour

increase for the Crime Victim Services Advocate effective October 1, 2025, to be paid from the CVS program grant. Discussion followed with Commissioner Lawrence questioning if the department desires to rehire a part-time assistant. Mr. Haase stated an assistant CVA isn't necessary and the expense wasn't included in the upcoming grant. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Mr. Haase introduced Assistant County Attorney Ashley Nelson to the Board. He also requested a meeting to discuss his 2026 budget. The Committee will meet with him on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Lawrence noted that a county employee summer cookout will be held from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center. He and Commissioner Nelson will be on hand to cook and grill.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to August 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Roy Sourdif, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners