

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
OCTOBER 14, 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, October 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. 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. The County Coordinator noted that County Assessor Carl Bruzek was added to the agenda at 10:20 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the agenda with the addition presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of September 23, 2025, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Auditor & Manual warrants for September 2025 totaling \$1,996,766.83 and the following Commissioner warrants, to include a warrant to Sanford Health for \$57,000.00 for opiate programming fees and opiate addiction counselor fees. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$307,913.93
Road & Bridge	\$ 72,502.05
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 6,206.55
Ditch Funds	\$ 19,599.29

Meals and per diems in the amount of \$3,421.19 were also approved.

Julie Sjostrand – Human Services Director

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to accept the resignations of Office Support Specialists Erin Dicken effective October 17, 2025, and Kimberly Hiemstra effective October 22, 2025, and to thank each for their service to the County. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to authorize the Human Services Director to post, advertise, and hire for two positions of Office Support Specialist. Motion carried.

Mike Flaagan – County Engineer

Mr. Flaagan informed the Board that H2Over Viewers have sent out redetermination of benefit notices to affected landowners regarding County Ditch 46 and County Ditch 70. One landowner's concerns regarding past flooding issues have been referred to H2Over Viewers.

Mr. Flaagan discussed buffer law penalty notices regarding two parcels owned by Ms. Arlene Peterson. The department later found out she was unable to respond to the department's notices due to health issues. Mr. Flaagan and Peter Nelson from the Pennington County SWCD later verified that both parcels are in compliance with the buffer law. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to remove the buffer law penalties attached to two parcels of land owned by Ms. Arlene Peterson. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Engineer Flaagan informed the Board that buffer law non-compliance letters affecting approximately 60 parcels of land will be sent out soon. He noted that landowners have one year to bring such properties into compliance with the buffer law.

Carl Bruzek – County Assessor

Mr. Bruzek presented an Application for Abatement for Carol & Jeffrey Burkland in Rocksbury Township. A new mobile home was moved onto their parcel in 2024 but was not added to the Assessor's records in error. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the application for abatement regarding parcel R16.04301030 owned by Carol & Jeffrey Burkland to abate the tax to January 1, 2025, to reflect the value with the mobile home. Motion carried.

Mr. Bruzek presented an Application for Abatement / Local Option to Disaster for Myron & Sonia Iverson in Sanders Township. The house on the property was over 50% damaged by fire on May 16, 2025. He noted the abatement is for the 2025 assessment and taxes payable 2026. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Application for Abatement regarding parcel R17.02215000 owned by Myron & Sonia Iverson to abate the tax for the 7 months following the house fire. Motion carried.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to change the date of the Truth-In-Taxation meeting from December 16, 2025, to December 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to change the date of the December 16, 2025, County Board meeting to December 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Items:

Mr. Erickson reminded the Board of the City/County/School meeting being held on October 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena.

Mr. Erickson reminded the Board of insurance open enrollment meetings taking place on October 15, 2025, at the Highway Department and the Government Center. North Risk Partners and Integrity Employee Benefits will be on site to discuss plans, changes for 2026, and to answer employee questions. Discussion will also be held on the new MN Paid Family & Medical Leave law that takes effect on January 1, 2026.

Mr. Erickson notified the Board that the sale of the former Human Services property on Knight Ave. to Movement Evolution of TRF, LLC was completed on October 3, 2025.

County Attorney Items:

Mr. Haase spoke in regard to the sale of the County property on Knight Ave., noting that the financial transaction did occur on the October 3, 2025, closing date. The proceeds were placed into a trust fund and still must be transferred.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Peterson attended a recent MN Rural Counties meeting where their top three priorities were decided: SSIS modernization, solid waste issues/management, and mental health.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to October 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Roy Sourdif, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners