

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
MARCH 10, 2026 – 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, March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, Dave Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: None.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sorenson 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 Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens:

Jack Nelson of the Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman’s Club discussed proposed State legislation which would prohibit the use of off-highway vehicles on state and state forest land unless designated otherwise. Mr. Nelson requested support from the Pennington County Board opposing the legislation. Following discussion, Commissioner Peterson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to oppose proposed legislation (House File No. 1012) regarding off-highway vehicle and snowmobile use on public lands, and direct the County Coordinator to send a letter of opposition to State legislators. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the County Board minutes of February 24, 2026, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Auditor-Manual warrants for February 2026 totaling \$1,623,179.34 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$55,479.09
Road & Bridge	\$29,761.51
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 5,720.00

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$2,800.00 were also approved.

**Mike Flaagan – County Engineer**

Engineer Flaagan discussed a public hearing held on 10/24/24 in Reiner Township regarding the potential revoking of 2.5 miles of County Road 97 in the township. No opposition was heard at the Hearing or to date. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

## RESOLUTION REVOKING COUNTY ROAD

**WHEREAS**, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners agrees to revoke two and one half (2 1/2) miles of Pennington County Roads that include County Road 97; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 163.11, Subd. 5a, a public hearing was held on October 24, 2024, at the Reiner Township Hall to discuss said revocation; and,

**WHEREAS**, Subd. 5b. Revoked highway; maintenance. A county highway that is revoked by a County Board to a town under this section shall be maintained by the county for a period of two years from the date of revocation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to State Statute 163.11, the Board of County Commissioners of Pennington County does hereby revoke the following portions of County Roads to Reiner Township, described as follows: (CR No. 97) Beginning at the intersection of Trunk Highway No. 1 North 2 ½ miles to County Road 64 (195<sup>th</sup> Street NE).

Engineer Flaagan discussed replacement of the County Road 52 bridge over the Black River. The following three proposals have been received for bridge design work:

Houston Engineering	\$29,708.08
Erickson Engineering	\$30,265.00
HDR, Inc.	\$78,600.00

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the bid of Houston Engineering in the amount of \$29,708.08 for design work regarding a bridge replacement project on County Road 52 over the Black River. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed readvertising for sale the county land and tower in Smiley township. Discussion was held on the past two advertisements, local interest in the property, and other potential methods of advertisement.

**County Auditor-Treasurer Items:** None.

**County Coordinator Items:**

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson presented for Board review an updated Pennington County Employment Application. The application has been reviewed and approved by the Personnel Committee and a department head group. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the updated Pennington County Employment Application as presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Jesse Osmondson as Full-Time Custodian I with an effective start date of March 12, 2026. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a quote by Harris Company in the amount of \$1,738.00 to repair a mixed air unit in the Justice Center garage area. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve a three-year renewal of a HVAC preventative maintenance agreement with G&R Controls, Inc. for the Government Center at an annual cost of \$5,880.00, effective June 1, 2026. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve a letter of support from the Pennington County Board regarding a \$20,000 grant application to T-Mobile by the TRF Athletic Association on behalf of the TRF Pickleball Association. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson discussed electronic licensing system contracts with the State of MN. The State's vendor contract expired February 2026 so new contracts are needed. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve two, five-year contracts with the State of MN - the first regarding game and fish license sales in the Auditor-Treasurer's office, the second regarding registration and titling of watercraft, snowmobiles, etc. in the DMV. Both contracts will be effective once fully executed. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve issuance of duplicate warrants to replace the following lost warrants without issuance of indemnifying bonds. Motion carried.

Jessica Nelson	#116700	08/15/25	\$847.31
James Goroski	#116839	09/22/25	\$185.00
James Johnson	#116157	03/21/25	\$179.16
James Johnson	#116271	04/18/25	\$179.16
James Johnson	#116377	05/19/25	\$179.16
James Johnson	#116482	06/18/25	\$179.16
James Johnson	#116581	07/18/25	\$179.16
James Johnson	#116694	08/15/25	\$179.16

**County Attorney Items:** None.

**Committee Reports/Commissioner Updates:**

Commissioner Peterson reviewed the AMC Legislative Conference he recently attended with Commissioner Sourdif. They were able to meet and talk with multiple legislators including Senator Mark Johnson and Representative John Burkel. MN Rural Counties (MRC) is focused on three issues: Social Services Information System (SSIS) updates, mental health, and solid waste. Northern Counties was able to meet with a dozen or so legislators regarding issues such as lakeshore PILT, trails, and permitting. The Association of MN Counties focus is the same as MRC to include transportation. Mr.

Peterson noted that the fall 2026 AMC Fall Policy Conference will be held in Bemidji. Commissioner Peterson also noted that the county's townships are holding their annual meetings at various times today and this evening.

Commissioner Nelson attended a traffic advisory meeting on March 9, 2026, where Polk County presented an update on the U.S. Highway 75 roundabout.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to March 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

David Sorenson, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners