

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
MARCH 24, 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 24, 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. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that Sheriff Seth Vettleson has been added to the agenda at 10:25 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the agenda with the addition presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the County Board minutes of March 10, 2026, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$287,551.28, and the following Commissioner warrants, including payment to Janet Wiskow in the amount of \$156.81 (wellness event food) and to Julie Stennes in the amount of \$511.21 (reimbursement for upcoming election training, lodging, and meals). Motion carried.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| County Revenue | \$158,291.44 |
| Road & Bridge  | \$ 29,074.57 |
| Ditch Funds    | \$ 769.50    |

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$17.93 were also approved.

**Julie Sjostrand – Human Services Director**

Ms. Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the March 17, 2026, Human Service Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for March 17, 2026 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve February 17, 2026, Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve and re-authorize the Pennington County Pre-Petition Screening Team and the list of screeners as presented.

B. To approve the CY 2026-2028 Clinical Supervision Purchase of Service Agreement between Jennifer Manning and Pennington County Human Services, as presented.

C. To approve the CY 2026-2027 Whole-of-State Service Agreement and Work Order Contract Between the State of Minnesota (MNIT) and Pennington County Human Services as presented.

### SECTION B

I. To approve payment of the Agency's bills.

#### **Mike Flaagan – County Engineer**

Mr. Flaagan discussed two quotes obtained for the purchase of a new mower in 2026:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Titan Machinery  | \$49,900.00 |
| Nelson Equipment | \$42,750.00 |

Mr. Flaagan recommended approval of the quote by Nelson Equipment and noted the expense was budgeted for 2026. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the quote by Nelson Equipment in the amount of \$42,750.00 for the purchase of a new mower for the County Highway Department. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan noted that bids for 2026 fuel, culverts, and rental equipment were opened this morning at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board room as duly advertised. He noted that no culvert bids were received but the county is able to utilize State bid pricing.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to accept the bids received from Northdale Oil (-\$.20/gal. bulk pricing; -.10/gal. station price) and Cenex/Farmers Union Oil (-\$.15/gal. bulk & station price) for 2026 fuel and authorize the Engineer to use either bidder as needed. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to accept the following bidders for 2026 equipment rental and authorize the Engineer to select from the bidders as needed. Motion carried.

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Davidson Construction     | Dyrdal Construction, Inc.           |
| Triple D Construction     | Hruby Road Service                  |
| Olson (Jeff) Construction | Olson (Steve) Construction TRF Inc. |
| Beito Repair              | K&K Trucking, Inc.                  |
| Nelson Excavating         | Knutson Brushing                    |
| Anderson Excavating       | Thygeson Construction, Inc.         |
| Weleski Excavating        |                                     |

Engineer Flaagan informed the Board that bids for CSAH 11 will be opened on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Joint Use Facility.

**Erik Beitel – Emergency Management Director**

Mr. Beitel requested Board approval to co-host a tabletop emergency exercise with the City of TRF on April 28, 2026, from 9:00-4:00 in the Ralph Engelstad Imperial Room. The exercise will be for complete electrical grid loss. The City and County would like to split the cost of meals and snacks for approximately 60 participants, a cost of \$500-\$750 per entity. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the combined training exercise and funding for food during the April 28, 2026, training as discussed above. Motion carried.

**Seth Vettleon – County Sheriff**

Sheriff Vettleon read aloud a resignation letter by Corrections Officer Adrien Verbout. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to accept the resignation of Part-Time Corrections Officer Adrien Verbout effective March 17, 2026. Motion carried.

Sheriff Vettleon noted that several of his staff are expected to graduate from law enforcement school this spring, so there may be other resignations forthcoming. He requested approval to advertise for the Part-Time Corrections Officer vacancy and others that may be forthcoming as discussed.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to authorize the County Sheriff to advertise for Correction Officers. Motion carried.

**County Auditor-Treasurer Items:**

The following resolution was motioned for approval by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS OPERATED BY THE GOODRIDGE TRAILBLAZERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB FOR THE 2026-2027 GROOMING SEASON**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the county of Pennington act as the legal sponsor for an application for funding to the State of Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources for maintenance for Wapiti, 4-G North, and 4-G River Road snowmobile trails managed by the Goodridge Trailblazers Snowmobile Club.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon approval of its application by the State, the County of Pennington may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairman and County Auditor-Treasurer are hereby authorized to serve as the fiscal agent for the above-referenced project.

The following resolution was motioned for approval by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP OF THE SNOMOBILE TRAIL OPERATED BY THE THIEF RIVER FALLS SNO-DRIFTERS FOR THE 2026-2027 GROOMING SEASON**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the county of Pennington act as the legal sponsor for an application for funding to the State of Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources for maintenance of snowmobile trails managed by the Thief River Falls Sno-Drifters.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon approval of its application by the state, the County of Pennington may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Jennifer Herzberg, County Auditor-Treasurer, is hereby authorized to serve as the fiscal agent for the above-referenced project.

Ms. Herzberg opened discussion on a service agreement for the county law library. Interim County Attorney Nathan Haase reviewed the two, tier options available from the MN State Law Library and recommended approval of the Tier 2 level of items and services. He is reviewing current law library materials and will consolidate what must be available and accessible both in print and online. Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a one-year agreement with the MN State Law Library for county law library services at the Tier 2 level, effective March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027. Motion carried.

**County Coordinator Items:**

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve issuance of a duplicate warrant to Tanya Kimball in the amount of \$164.90 to replace lost warrant 114146 issued August 17, 2023, without issuance of an indemnifying bond. Motion carried.

Mr. Erickson reminded the Board and county officials of the Joint City/County/School meeting that is scheduled on March 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Joint Use Facility Meeting Room.

Mr. Erickson discussed recent Board approval to oppose MN House File 1012 regarding Off-Highway Vehicle use on public lands and State Forests. The letter to legislators was reviewed and has been sent to Representative John Burkel, Senator Mark Johnson, and the Chairs/Co-Chairs of various MN Environment and Finance committees.

**County Attorney Items:**

Mr. Haase discussed a petition received to vacate Mark Boulevard south of CSAH #8.

Auditor-Treasurer Herzberg informed the Board that Gary Berard has petitioned for his property to be removed from the County Ditch 96 system. A recent redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 70 included his property in that benefit area. A public hearing is required with notice to be published and sent to landowners within the ditch system. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to hold a Public Hearing for County Ditch 96 on May 12, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the Pennington County Justice Center Board Room. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports/Commissioner Updates:** None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

David Sorenson, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners