

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 – 11:00 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, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Darryl Tveitbakk, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: None.

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. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson noted that the Proposal for Professional Services from S.E.H. Inc. has been added to the agenda at 11:05 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None present.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board minutes of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk opened discussion on a Proposal for Professional Services received from architectural firm S.E.H. regarding the Human Services Renovation Project in the Government Center. The proposal discusses the scope of services to be provided, services not included, time schedule, and project fees.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated if the Proposal is approved, the County will have to move forward with asbestos testing in the remodel area. The County will also begin clearing out the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in preparation of the remodel, utilizing the Sentence to Serve crew as much as possible to reduce costs. An online auction will likely be held to dispose of used county assets currently stored in the remodel areas and other county buildings.

Commissioner Tveitbakk discussed the costs for the design/architectural portion of project, which are listed in the proposal at \$76,000 (\$90,500 when combined with the original Agreement for Professional Services). Not included in the proposal are reimbursables, such as travel, permitting, and other fees directly related to the project. The project timeline calls for design work to be completed by mid-summer 2022 and construction likely to begin in the fall/winter of 2022.

Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Tveitbakk motioned, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Proposal for Professional Services by S.E.H. Inc.

for the Human Services Office Renovation Project in the Government Center as written and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk further discussed asbestos concerns on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Government Center, stating that the Northwest Service Cooperative will be contacted to test the remodel areas, as well as the Extension and Veteran Service office areas on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Should positive tests be received, the County will proceed with procuring quotes for asbestos abatement.

At 11:13 a.m. the Chairman recessed the County Board meeting.

At 11:15 a.m. the Chairman called the Public Hearing on County Redistricting to order. Present: Commissioners Nelson, Peterson, Lawrence, Sorenson, and Tveitbakk, County Attorney Seamus Duffy, Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg, County Coordinator Kevin Erickson, Deputy Auditor-Payroll Mgr. Jessica Dybedahl, TRF Times Reporter April Scheinoha.

County Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg discussed the proposed county redistricting plan and presented maps of the Commissioner Districts and TRF Wards. The 2020 U.S. Census showed that the county population increased by 62 people to 13,992. However, Wards 3 and 5 in the City of TRF had sizable population shifts and resulted in the City of TRF making boundary changes to their Wards. The proposed county redistricting plan takes in these changes and there are no proposed changes to township boundaries. If approved, the County Commissioners in Districts 2 and 5 will be required to run for re-election due to their population shifts exceeding the 5% threshold. Discussion was held on the proposed district lines and population shifts, boundary requirements, and election term options for the affected Commissioners.

Hearing no further comment or questions, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 11:33 a.m. and called the Board meeting back to order.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and upon vote was unanimously approved.

### **RESOLUTION FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER REDISTRICTING**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 375 establishes the procedure and requires a process for redistricting County Commissioner districts based on population figures from the Federal Census; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute Section 204B.135, subd. 2 requires that County Commissioner Districts be redistricted within 80 days of when the legislature has been redistricted or at least 15 weeks before the state Primary election, whichever comes first; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to these statutes the 2020 Federal Census population figures shall be used to redistrict the Pennington County Commissioner Districts by April

26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and that Commissioner Districts shall be bounded by town, municipal, ward, city district, or precinct lines; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners has considered the possibility or potential for maximizing minority representation on the Board of Commissioners; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pennington County published a three-week notice in the newspaper having the contract for publishing the Commissioner's proceedings for the County for 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pennington County conducted a public meeting on redistricting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennington County Board of Commissioners hereby redistricts the County of Pennington, following town, municipal, ward, city district, or precinct lines as re-established in April 2022, and re-establishes the length of terms as follows:

**Commissioner District No. 1** – Cloverleaf Township, Deer Park Township, Goodridge Township, City of Goodridge, Hickory Township, Kratka Township, Highlanding Township, Mayfield Township, North Township, Reiner Township, Silverton Township, Star Township, Wyandotte Township, and the City of Thief River Falls – Ward 1, Precinct 1A. (Continuation of current term, 2024 election)

**Commissioner District No. 2** – City of Thief River Falls – Ward 1, Precinct 1B, City of Thief River Falls – Ward 2. (2-year term, 2022 election)

**Commissioner District No. 3** – Black River Township, Bray Township, Norden Township, Numedal Township, Polk Centre Township, River Falls Township, Rocksbury Township – West, Sanders Township, City of St. Hilaire, and City of Thief River Falls – Ward 3, Precinct 3A. (4-year term, 2022 election)

**Commissioner District No. 4** – City of Thief River Falls – Ward 3, Precinct 3B, City of Thief River Falls – Ward 4. (4-year term, 2022 election)

**Commissioner District No. 5** – Rocksbury Township – East, Smiley Township, City of Thief River Falls – Ward 5. (2-year term, 2022 election)

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the redistricting plan be filed with the County Auditor by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, to be effective on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, for the 2022 Primary and General elections and publish in The Times.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the districts are, for illustrative purposes, identified in a map of the County attached hereto and marked Exhibit A and B, which by reference is hereby made a part of.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items: None.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports/Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk discussed the ongoing opioid settlement and stated that Julie Ring of the Association of MN Counties has been authorized to sign settlement agreements on behalf of the 87 counties. The House and Senate proposed bills vary and he recommended the Board members review and discuss them with MN Legislators. It was noted that Pennington County is expected to receive approximately \$800,000 over the life of the settlement, which is much higher than anticipated.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners