

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 – 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Neil Peterson, and Darryl Tveitbakk. Members absent: Dave Sorenson.

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 Doug Franke will not be attending the meeting, however Emergency Mgmt. Director Erik Beitel will take the 10:05 appt. time. Hearing no further changes, Commissioner Peterson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens:

Amanda Hughes, Executive Director of ‘Visit Thief River Falls’, made introductions with the Board and gave a report on travel and what they have been working on to promote TRF and the area. She noted that fuel costs are going down and 80% of people plan to travel in the next 6 months, which is encouraging. The recent county fair, Riverfest, and all-school reunion resulted in great business for local hotels, restaurants, etc. Commissioner Tveitbakk suggested they promote air travel to TRF via Denver Air and provided her contact to the Airport Manager. The Board thanked for her report.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Board of minutes of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$105,440.29
Road & Bridge	\$105,460.70
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 149.00
Ditch Funds	\$ 2,815.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$1,050.00 were also approved.

Emergency Mgmt. Director Erik Beitel informed the Board that FEMA, MN Region 3 application briefings for disaster relief will begin on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at 1711 1<sup>st</sup> St. W., which is the TRF Electric Dept. The briefings will discuss who is eligible and what is eligible for reimbursement. He noted that city, county, township, and tribal entities are being invited. Following the briefings there is a 30-day period to input reimbursement information. While it’s doubtful we will meet individual requirements, he’s hopeful that

we will get reimbursements at the city/county level. He will be making a press release and will reach out to the entities he believes will be eligible.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan noted that the State recently conducted inspections of six local bridges with ‘snooper’ trucks, which can inspect the underside of bridges. He presented a picture slideshow taken during the inspections and by drones flying over the bridges. Discussion was held on using a drone to aid in bridge inspections, locating missing persons through thermal technology, etc. The Board asked the Engineer, EMD, and Ag Services/SW Coordinator to research the possibility and costs.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the transfer of Corey Johnson from Highway Equipment Operator to Signman effective August 15, 2022, at the Step 1 wage rate of \$22.57/hour. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for the position of Full-Time Highway Equipment Operator. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented the following LEC items:

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Brock Jacobson as Full-Time Corrections Officer effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the hire of Tammara Klein as Full-Time Corrections Officer effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, contingent on a successful background check. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the hire of Jackie Grindeland as Full-Time Corrections Officer effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, contingent on a successful background check. Discussion followed with the County Coordinator noting that Ms. Grindeland is transferring from the position of Full-Time Custodian I. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the purchase of 24 mattresses for the jail from Norix Group, Inc. at a total cost of \$4,483.38. Motion carried. It was noted that mattresses are ordered on an annual, rotational basis.

The Board discussed with the Sheriff the idea of acquiring a drone for the county, which could be used for LEC purposes as well. Mr. Kuznia noted drones are very useful and he would be interested in serving on a committee to discuss the idea.

Auditor-Treasurer Items:

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Pennington County enter in a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for traffic safety projects during the period of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the County of Pennington and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve two agreements between the State of MN and Pennington County, thereby designating the County Auditor-Treasurer as the Recount Official for 2022 Primary and General Elections and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to authorize advertising for the position of Full-Time Custodian I. Following discussion on the full-time need of the position, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the transfer of Danielle Miller from Full-Time Deputy Registrar-Prorate Assistant to Full-Time Deputy Auditor-Treasurer/Recorder, with tentative start date of August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Discussion followed with it being noted that there were 9 applicants for the position. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the appointment of Deputy Registrar Sam Omdahl to the position of Deputy Registrar-Prorate Assistant effective August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to authorize advertising for the position of Full-Time Deputy Registrar. Motion carried.

The County Coordinator provided an update on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Gov't Center remodel project. The asbestos flooring has been removed and we are awaiting quotes from local contractors.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports/Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that the AMC Policy Conference is being held in September, and if the Board has any policies for consideration, they should propose them to AMC as soon as possible.

Commissioner Tveitbakk proposed that the prior Board room technology system be declared as surplus and sold. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to declare the prior Board room technology equipment system as surplus and be put up for sale via an online auction site. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence noted that the City of TRF is updating their GIS mapping and the new system will be accurate within three inches. The City has questioned if the county would like to participate in the new mapping, noting it would cost less if done in conjunction with theirs in May, 2023. The Technology Committee will work with Engineer Flaagan on the amount of accuracy needed for the county GIS system.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to change the start time of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Board meeting to 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners