

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2021, 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 9th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Neil Peterson, David Sorenson. Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel requested to be added to the agenda. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Board agenda with the additional of EMD Erik Beitel. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None present

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the County Board minutes of February 23rd, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$198,107.52, and the following Commissioner warrants, which includes the 2021 appropriation of \$1,000 to the Goodridge Area Historical Society. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$87,395.53
Road & Bridge	\$21,256.31
Ditch Funds	\$ 6,136.50

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,129.50 were also approved.

Bryanna Grefthen, Pennington County Feedlot Officer, presented the 2020 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report. She stated that 44 feedlots are required to register in the county and 5 were inspected in 2020, which is above the 7% minimum required. All 2020 inspection goals were met and two mailings were sent out to feedlot owners during the year. 2021 will be a re-registration year for county feedlots, and there were 41 active at the end of 2020. Ms. Grefthen also discussed the 4.25 performance credits gained during the year. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the 2020 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report and authorize the Chairman to sign the same. Discussion followed with Commissioner Lawrence questioning Ms. Grefthen about the performance credits and any additional funding that may bring in. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel presented an updated from the CARES Grant/COVID-19 grant committee, stating they met many times in February to review and approve grants. \$276,221 was approved for local businesses with grants ranging from \$5,000-\$25,000+. Bars, restaurants and gyms were the major focus for this round of grants, along with a few non-profits that were unable to fundraise.

Mr. Beitel stated that 'Phase 1B' of the COVID-19 vaccinations will start soon.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan reviewed the bids received for the 2021 supply of culverts, fuel, and bids for equipment rental. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the bid for culvert supplies for 2021 as submitted by True North Steel and also the following bids received for equipment rental for the year 2021 and authorize the County Engineer to select from these bidders. Motion carried.

Anderson Services	Beito Repair
Hruby Road Service	Danni Jarshaw
Lunkes, Inc.	Nelson Excavating
Jeff Olson Construction	Olson Construction TRF Inc. (Steve)
Thygeson Construction Inc.	Triple D Construction
Weleski Excavating, LLC	Wright Construction Inc.

Two fuel bids were received with Northdale Oil bidding \$.15 below the posted price and Farmers Union Oil bidding \$.10 below the posted price. Engineer Flaagan stated that they will purchase fuel from both businesses during the year. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the bids for fuel supplies for 2021 submitted by Farmers Union Oil and Northdale Oil. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to schedule the Five-Year Road and Bridge Plan Hearing for April 27th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Justice Center Board Room. Motion carried.

Mr. Flaagan discussed an easement near the TRF Regional Airport that must be vacated in order to receive federal funding for construction of the new cargo hangar. A Public Hearing must be scheduled regarding the vacating of this easement. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the vacating of an easement near the TRF Regional Airport for April 13th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Justice Center Board Room. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated that Highway Department Annual report will be posted on the website soon and it will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Flaagan stated that Highway Equipment Operator Jared Voecks has been transferred to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mark Swanson at the end of February.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that technical issues still persist in the Board Room with the conferencing capabilities but they are making progress. The system can receive incoming calls but outgoing calls do not work at this time. He expects the issue to be resolved soon.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented the following personnel items:

Part-Time Corrections Officer Robert Haugen tendered his resignation effective March 1st, 2021 as he has accepted a Deputy Sheriff position in Polk County. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the resignation of Robert Haugen as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Recommendation to transfer Part-Time Corrections Officer Julie Bolduc to Full-Time Corrections Officer effective March 10th, 2021. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the transfer of Julie Bolduc to Full-Time Corrections Officer effective March 10th, 2021. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk questioned Mr. Kuznia if conflicts with Line 3 workers in the county has been a problem as some protest groups have said that hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent here on such conflicts. Sheriff Kuznia said the opposite is true - there have been very few conflicts with Line 3 workers and also that Enbridge Supervisors have asked to be contacted should any issues arise so they can be dealt with internally. Ray noted that the Line 3 seasonal shutdown will occur soon and only a small portion of line workers will remain in the area during that time. He said the majority of Line 3 installation in Pennington County has been completed.

Commissioner Lawrence opened discussion on the CACHE radio system, which is a mobile system housed here in the County, funded by the State, and mainly used by law enforcement in NW MN. It was noted that some of the radios need to be upgraded and that will be discussed in a future meeting.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None at this time.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a gambling permit for the Thief River Falls Takedown Club with the site to be located at Carpenter's Corner in Numedal Township. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that the township approved the gambling permit on 11/10/20. Motion carried.

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy recommended the transfer of employee Jill Kolstoe to the full-time position of Officer Manager in the Attorney's office effective March 1st, 2021. Ms. Kolstoe has been working FT between the Attorney and Sheriff offices for several years. She would remain at her current wage and upon successful completion of a 3-month probation period would move to step 3 of the Grade 13 wage scale effective June 1st, 2021. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the transfer of Jill Kolstoe to Full Time Office Manager – Attorney effective March 1st, 2021. Discussion was held with the Board questioning the proposed addition of a Part-Time Legal Secretary for the office. Mr. Duffy stated that is still being discussed by the Personnel Committee. Motion carried.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) Board will be meeting soon and the main topic will be the proposed Clean Cars standard. Several MN counties have voted to support MRC in their opposition to the standard, and he believes doing the same would send a strong, unified message to the State. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to support MRC's opposition language to the Clean Cars standard as follows: "MRC supports legislative review of any and all issues of consequence that would bring harm to the culture and/or economy of rural counties. Further, MRC opposes the attempt by the MPCA to adopt the MN Clean Car rule without consulting the legislature and encourages the Walz administration to withdraw the proposed rule and submit the issue to legislative review." Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to March 23rd, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners