

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 22nd, 2021, 5:00 P.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, June 22nd, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Seth Nelson, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members Present via Zoom: Bruce Lawrence. 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. County Coordinator Kevin Erickson stated that Chief Deputy Sheriff Seth Vettleson will not in attendance at the meeting. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the change requested. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the County Board minutes of June 8th, 2021 and the County Board of Appeal and Equalization minutes of June 14th, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Auditor and Manual warrants for May totaling \$3,497,061.74 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$116,433.18
Road & Bridge	\$ 19,976.79
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 1,835.78
Ditch Funds	\$ 12,788.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$49.83 were also approved.

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand met with the Board and presented the Consent Agenda from the June 15th, 2021 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Sorenson and seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Service Committee for June 15th, 2021 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the May 18, 2021, Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve the Policy Based Encryption with ReadITech solutions.

SECTION B

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

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve a temporary employment agreement with Melissa Lundeen effective June 28th, 2021. Ms. Lundeen will perform the duties of Human Services Fiscal Supervisor for a duration of 66 workdays or less and will be

compensated at the rate of \$34.00 per hour (detailed agreement on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's office). Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

County constituent Dennis Seaverson met with the Board regarding several issues and complaints. Mr. Seaverson spoke of misconduct claims brought against him in the past and said that he has been slandered and harassed and he wants the U.S. Marshall's office called to investigate what he believes to be judicial misconduct and corruption in Pennington County. He spoke of past allegations by an ex-spouse and his beliefs on corruption with current and former City / County Attorneys. He stated that no one will listen to him, including the County Sheriff and County Attorney, but there is court documentation to prove all his statements. Lastly, Mr. Seaverson stated that he believes the County Sheriff and his brother have had unconditional usage of a county mower and trailer, and he believes another county employee was mowing for them on county time.

Pennington County SWCD District Manager Peter Nelson met with the Board regarding the Wetland permit application and replacement plan for the TRF Airport hangar project. The Technical Evaluation Panel has approved the application as well as the purchase of .1698 acres of wetland credits. Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the wetland replacement plan and purchase of .1698 acres of wetland credits. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson introduced new SWCD District Technician Larissa Fitzgerald to the County Board. Ms. Fitzgerald will be working mainly with the septic program, tree program, WCA, and RIM.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan stated that the annual contract with Greenview, Inc. for cleaning services at the Joint Use Facility is expiring soon and recommended its renewal. The only change to the renewal contract is an increase of \$.30 per hour, for a total rate of \$17.80 per hour. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve renewal of the annual contract with Greenview, Inc. for cleaning services at the Joint Use Facility. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan gave an update on local projects:

- Paving of the Lincoln High School parking lot is being worked on at this time and striping will be done upon completion of the paving.
- Agreement with the SWCD to monitor wells in CD#96 in preparation for a slope stability project that will take place in 2022
- A portion of CSAH#12 is currently closed for paving following installation of a box culvert

Commissioner Peterson questioned when paving of the new roundabout at the intersection of Highways #59 and #1 will be completed. Mr. Flaagan stated it should be done sometime next week.

Mr. Flaagan noted that he plans to meet with the City of TRF to discuss the loss of the 6th street access off of Highway 59. The access was lost with the install of the new lanes and medians on Highway 59. He stated that there are LPP (Local Partnership Program) funds that could be used to fund such a project.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to hold a Public Hearing on July 27th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. regarding a petition to remove a parcel from the CD#96 system. Upon roll

call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Ian Hutton effective June 29th, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the resignation of Full-Time Corrections Officer Blayke Sundahl effective July 2nd, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Cassidy J. Vandehoven as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Tyler S. Ellefson as Part-Time Corrections Officer. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve a quote of \$20,541.45 by Morris Electronics for the purchase of three new Cisco electronic switches for the law enforcement center, along with the related hardware and service agreements. It was noted that the project was budgeted for 2021 for \$23,000. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve a quote by ReadITech Solutions in the amount of \$6,430.00 for the purchase and install of 5 new HP Desktop personal computers for the law enforcement center. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Committee reports / Commissioner updates:

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted that Enbridge is holding an open house on June 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that the County Personnel Committee met last week and discussed Pennington County elected official salaries.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the following salary increases for Pennington County elected officials. Discussion was held with Commissioner Tveitbakk explaining that the adjustments closely reflect the 2021 non-union COLA: 2.25% and \$.25/hour. The Auditor-Treasurer and Recorder salaries are being adjusted accordingly to keep them on schedule for their 2023 change to appointed positions. It was noted that Commissioner salary increases take effect January 1st, 2022 and all other elected salary increases would take effect July 1st, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

County Attorney	\$119,000
County Sheriff	\$103,800
Auditor-Treasurer	\$ 93,300

County Recorder	\$ 73,300
County Commissioners	\$ 22,500

Commissioner Nelson presented an update on the used oil and oil filter recycling in the County. He recommended a vendor change to Safety-Kleen as they will pick up used oil as requested and at no charge. He noted that they do not recycle used oil filters, so he is checking into other vendors for those. Discussion following with the Board requesting that the County Coordinator contact the current recycling vendor, Rainy Lake Oil, to see if there is an agreement or contract on file for these services.

Commissioner Lawrence discussed the need for a shed for the used oil tank at the County shop in Goodridge. He noted that the tank is overflowing with oil and rain can enter the barrel since it isn't covered. The area needs to be cleaned up and the STS crew should be able to help with that and can also build a shed over the tank.

Commissioner Lawrence presented an update on the radio tower and land in Smiley township. A local amateur radio group reached out to him later after the last Board meeting and stated they would like to keep the tower for their use. Mr. Lawrence stated that perhaps the County could lease the tower and land to the radio group instead of selling it. He noted that he will arrange a meeting with Jim Hulteen of the amateur radio group to tour the site and discuss a possible lease and terms.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to rescind the Board motion, second, and approval made on May 25th, 2021, to sell on bids the county radio tower and associated property located in Smiley Township. Following discussion there was a roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, and upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye, was unanimously carried. The Board requested the full resolution be printed in The Times paper.

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE OF THE PENNINGTON COUNTY STAFF DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, County employees serve as the cornerstone of their communities, dedicating their time, skills, and expertise for the benefit of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the work of Pennington County employees is essential and often in person, whether that's a newborn well-check by a public health nurse, a tab renewal at a license center, or processing voter registrations and ballots; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted County service delivery and program administration, creating uncertainty for employees and citizens on accessing essential services; and

WHEREAS, showing exemplary leadership by taking personal risks, assuming new duties and responsibilities, or innovating new modes of service delivery, Pennington County employees continued providing vital community services in 2020; and

WHEREAS, through their dedication to county work and commitment to public service, Pennington County employees kept the County open and the communities safer, healthier, and productive; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners recognize the commitment and dedication to public service excellence of County staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Waylon Tarvestad as Custodian I effective July 12th, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tveitbakk discussed the need for the County to hire a Custodian II with a boiler license. The Personnel Committee has discussed the issue and recommends advertising for the position. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve advertising for one Full-Time Custodian II position. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the hire of Ashley Benson as Full-Time Deputy Assessor-Appraiser effective July 12th, 2021. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the issuance of a duplicate warrant to Verizon in the amount of \$653.69 to replace lost warrant #110193 dated December 4th, 2020, without issuance of an indemnifying bond. Upon roll call vote: Nelson – Aye, Lawrence – Aye, Peterson – Aye, Sorenson – Aye, Tveitbakk – Aye. Motion carried.

County Auditor-Treasurer items: None

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy presented an update from Justice Gildea regarding face coverings in the Justice Center and courtrooms. As of July 6th, 2021, face coverings will no longer be required in the courtrooms. In-person court will be held only for contested cases, hearings, etc. He noted that Judge Yon does have a plan if someone on a jury does need or want to wear a mask.

Commissioner Tveitbakk stated that he has been in communication with Representative John Burkel regarding the Enbridge state-pays solution, which is in the legislative bills. The Board is hopeful that the bill will continue to be supported and be approved.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting to 10:00 a.m. on July 13, 2021. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners