

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 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, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, and Darryl Tveitbakk. Members absent: Neil Peterson, Dave Sorenson.

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

Vice Chairman Lawrence asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. The County Coordinator noted that Sheriff Ray Kuznia can be removed from the agenda. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Board agenda with the change presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the County Board minutes of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$201,651.56 and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$44,144.79
Road & Bridge	\$62,705.34
Justice Ctr. Jail Bond Fund	\$ 950.00
Justice Ctr. Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 950.00
Ditch Funds	\$ 950.00

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Human Services Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Tveitbakk and seconded by Commissioner Nelson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Services Committee for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

**SECTION A**

- I. To approve the September 21, 2021, Human Service Committee Meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the Agency's personnel action as presented.
- III. A. To approve the CY 2022 Tri-Valley Transportation Business Contract between Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. and Pennington County Human Services, as presented.

**SECTION B**

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

County Engineer Mike Flaagan informed the Board that the roundabout project on Trunk Highway #32 (SAP#057-608-009) is in all things complete and final payment is requested to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. Final cost on the project is \$2,661,800.96. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Tveitbakk and seconded by Commissioner Nelson:

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, SAP#057-608-009 (T.H.#32 roundabout) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises;

**NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the Pennington County Highway Dept. and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Discussion followed with Mr. Flaagan stating that the railroad lights and signals west of the roundabout are yet to be installed; the county's share will be approximately \$90,000. Following discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated that the CSAH#8/Mark Boulevard bridge project (SAP 057-608-008) is in all things complete and final payment is requested to Robert Schroeder Construction. Final cost on the project is \$4,733,417.40. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk:

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, SAP 057-608-008 (CSAH#8 Bridge) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises;

**NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the Pennington County Highway Dept. and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Discussion followed with the Board commenting on how well the project turned out and Mr. Flaagan said that the bridge has been nominated for some awards. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was carried.

Engineer Flaagan stated that the highway department is switching over to their winter hours work schedule effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. He noted that last winter one Highway Equipment Operator worked an earlier schedule from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to monitor road and roundabout conditions and plow as needed. The I.U.O.E. Local #49 union is asking to renew the related M.O.A. for this seasonal work schedule and differential pay for the period of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The Board agreed to the M.O.A. but no formal action was needed as noted by the County Attorney.

Commissioner Tveitbakk questioned Engineer Flaagan about a fall tour of local roads and projects. Commissioner Lawrence stated he would like to see the Black River Impoundment project area and the related outlets and ditches. Mr. Flaagan noted that the watershed is planning to put additional gravel on the area roads that received extra travel during the Black River Impoundment project.

Inter-County Nursing Director Kayla Jore presented a COVID-19 update to the Board. She noted that booster shots will be starting this Friday and that vaccination approval for the 5-11 age group is expected by mid-November 2021. The overall county fully vaccinated rate is approximately 60% and continues to slowly rise. The 25-34 age group is seeing the most positive cases but there has been a spike in positive cases within the under-4 age group. The 12-17 age group is now eligible for a \$200 incentive and 5 chances to win a \$100,000 scholarship to a Minnesota college. Commissioner Tveitbakk questioned if ICNS will hold a vaccination clinic for the 5-11 age group when vaccinations are approved, to which she replied that will incorporate those into their normal clinics. She anticipates there will be vaccination clinics held in the schools but that will take some time to coordinate. The County

Coordinator questioned if testing supplies will be sufficient to handle the upcoming OSHA vaccine mandate. She said that testing supplies are and will continue to be an issue so the mandate and related testing will be a challenge. The Board thanked Ms. Jore for her report.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the resignation of Deputy Assessor-Appraiser Amy Momerak resignation effective 10/13/21. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve advertising for a full-time Deputy Assessor-Appraiser. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to publish a public notice seeking an individual to represent Pennington County on the Red Lake Watershed Board of Managers. Motion carried. Motion carried.

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

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Pennington County enter in a grant agreement with the MN Department of Public Safety for traffic safety projects during the period of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson noted that the change health claims administrator for 2022 has brought up the issue of insurance effective dates for new hires. He is recommending a change whereas the effective date for health insurance benefits for new hires would begin the first of the month following date of hire. The Board referred the issue to the Personnel Committee and County Attorney and will revisit the issue at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Erickson updated the Board on other insurance offerings for 2022, noting that there will be no general rate increases for any supplemental insurance, including dental, long-term disability, and life. It was noted that the life insurance benefit went out for bid this year as required by law. Two bids were received and 4 providers declined to quote. The current provider, Securian/MN Life, offered no rate increases for 5 years and multiple enhancements including a one-time guaranteed issue for active employees, a line-of-duty benefit for public safety officers, no age-reductions for the Basic Life benefit, and increased guaranteed issue for new employees.

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy noted that face coverings/masks are required on the entire second floor of the Justice Center, regardless of vaccination status. He noted that Court Administration has placed signs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the stairways and elevator leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Justice Center.

Mr. Duffy noted that the posting for P/T Legal Secretary has expired, and multiple applications were received. Interviews for the position will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Board meeting to November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Neil Peterson, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners