

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 25TH, 2022 – 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, January 25th, 2022, at 5:00 p.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. Hearing none, Commissioner Peterson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Board agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the County Board minutes of January 4th, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the Human Services warrants totaling \$267,149.46, the Auditor & Manual warrants for November and December 2021 totaling \$5,363,260.88 and \$1,666,543.78 respectively, and the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$160,216.52
Road & Bridge	\$206,022.14

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$150.00 were also approved.

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented the consent agenda from the January 18th, 2022, Human Service Committee meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, the following recommendations of the Pennington County Human Services Committee for January 18th, 2022 (detailed minutes on record) are hereby adopted:

SECTION A

- I. To approve the December 21st, 2021, Human Service Committee meeting minutes.
- II. To approve the agency's personnel action as presented.
- III.
 - A. To approve the CY 2022-2023 Child Support Cooperative Agreement between the State of Minnesota, Pennington County Attorney's Office, Pennington County Sheriff's Office, and Pennington County Human Services as presented.
 - B. To approve the CY 2022 Child Welfare opiate allocation-agency Plan as presented.

SECTION B

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

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the transfer of a 3.2 off-sale liquor license from Petro Pumper, Inc. to Northdale Oil, Inc. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve issuance of a tobacco license for Northdale Oil, Inc. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Ray Kuznia presented a letter of resignation from Corrections Officer Denise Kilen. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the resignation of Corrections Officer Denise Kilen effective January 19th, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve advertising for the vacant Corrections Officer position. Discussion was held on position vacancies at the LEC. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan noted that the Mark Boulevard bridge project was recently featured in a State Aid newsletter, and it has also been awarded the MnDOT Project of the Year for 2021. Mr. Flaagan displayed the award plaque received and commended his staff for their hard work on the project. He also wished to recognize Marshall County for their bridge inspection work and certification. He noted that he plans to do traffic counts on the bridge in the spring.

Mr. Flaagan noted that the highway department has been moving a lot of snow this winter compared to last, but there have been no issues to date and things are going well.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items:

County Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg discussed applying for a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) operating grant from the MN Secretary of State for voting equipment. The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennington County Board of Commissioners are hereby authorizing the County Auditor-Treasurer, Jennifer Herzberg, to apply for the HAVA operating Grant on behalf of Pennington County.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve advertising for the vacant part-time position of Ag Services/Solid Waste Coordinator at the rate of 25 hours per week. Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Minnesota Statutes providing for the compensation of the various elected County Officials require that the minimum amount to be paid to any person elected to the following positions shall be established by the County Board for the year prior to the time that the filings open for the elected positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the minimum to be paid to Officials for the terms beginning January 2023 and the Statutes applying thereto is as follows: County Sheriff – MSA387.20 - \$50,000; County Attorney – MSA388.18 - \$50,000.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the resignation of Deputy Recorder/Auditor Ann Ulrich effective January 21st, 2022.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the resignation/retirement of Deputy Auditor-Treasurer Linda Brown effective March 4th, 2022. Motion carried. The County Board wishes to thank Ms. Brown for her years of service to Pennington County and wishes her well in retirement.

The County Coordinator discussed the position vacancies in the Auditor-Treasurer and Recorder Offices, and requested approval to advertise for one full-time, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer/Recorder to work between the offices; while keeping the option to fill the part-time, budgeted position should the need arise. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize advertising for one, full-time Deputy Auditor-Treasurer/Recorder. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson noted that the Supreme Court has issued a ‘stay’ on the OSHA ETS regarding COVID-19 vaccination/testing for large employers. He noted that many MN counties have chosen to either revoke their policies or are not implementing them following the SCOTUS decision. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to issue a ‘stay’ on the Pennington County COVID-19 vaccination/testing policy effective immediately. Discussion followed with County Attorney Seamus Duffy recommending revising the motion language to: “to issue a ‘stay’ on implementation of the Pennington County COVID-19 vaccination/testing policy effective immediately”. The motion maker and seconder agreed to the revised motion language. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

At 5:30 p.m. Chairman Lawrence recessed the County Board meeting and called the Hearing on Economic Development Tax Abatement Program to order as duly advertised.

County Auditor-Treasurer Jennifer Herzberg reviewed the Economic Development Tax Abatement Policy and submitted those parcels that the City of Thief River Falls has determined as qualifying parcels. There are six new parcels that are part of this hearing and 14 parcels from previous years. No comments were heard on the abatements.

Chairman Lawrence closed the Hearing and called the Board meeting back to order at 5:33 p.m.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the abatement of the County's portion of real estate tax as per the abatement policy and recommended by the City of Thief River Falls, and authorize the County Auditor-Treasurer to issue payment by Auditor's warrant. Motion carried.

Tax Abatement - 2021

Parcel No.	Property Owner	Address	Legal Description	2021 County Taxes
25.121.011.10	Christina Pribyl	2107 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-011 Block-001	\$ 953.64
25.111.009.20	Margaret Kaste	131 Eastwood Dr	South Eastwood Addition, Lot-001, Block-002	\$ 1,044.19
25.121.005.10	Jamie Englund	2017 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-005 Block-001	\$ 908.73
25.115.001.00	Suresh Sreedharan	100 Gabbi Ct	Useldinger 1st Addition Westerly Part of Lot 1	\$ 1,030.05
25.115.001.01	Steven Keogh	102 Gabbi Ct	Useldinger 1st Addition Easterly Part of Lot 1	\$ 1,070.31
25.121.004.10	Kellie Dagg	2015 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-004 Block-001	\$ 705.64
25.121.003.10	Tanner Nessen	2013 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-003 Block-001	\$ 874.84
25.121.009.10	Brandi Dorge	2103 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-009 Block-001	\$ 750.56
25.121.007.10	Mackenzie Swick	2021 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-007 Block-001	\$ 863.81
25.047.038.01	Jeremiah Nichols	1526 Cartway Dr	Rustad Addition S 125' of N 135' of Lots 58-59 less E 14' of Lot 59	\$ 1,201.06

			Parcel A	
25.022.017.00	Diana Donarski	1301 Labree Ave N	Fairfield Addition S 137.4' of Lot 16	\$ 926.52
25.121.008.10	Tanner Dicken	2101 Greenwood St E	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-008 Block-001	\$ 920.60
25.043.004.21	Wendall Wegge	108 Breezy Dr	Narverud's First Addition South 45.5 of North 116' of Lot 3 Blk 2	\$ 1,380.16
25.115.003.00	Marcia Sandahl	108 Gabbi Ct	Useldinger 1st Addition Lot -003 Southerly Part of Lot 3	\$ 1,182.93
25.003.332.90	Lester John Larson	219 Duluth Ave N	Original Townsite of Thief River Fall, Lots 9 & 10 Blk 39	\$ 786.14
25.062.053.00	Adrian Prestebak	212 Willow Rd	Noreen's First Addition SO 12' of Lot 22, Lot 23, Lot 24 Less SO 44' Blk 4	\$ 887.44
25.121.013.10	Bryce Gillie	2028 Nelson Dr	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-013 Block-001	\$ 1,071.16
25.121.025.10	Lori Alvarado	2004 Nelson Dr	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-025 Block-001	\$ 605.14
25.121.016.10	Shelby Erickson	2022 Nelson Dr	MMCDC's Greenwood Neighborhood Addition Lot-016 Block-001	\$ 689.41
25.043.004.22	Donita Stepan	110 Breezy Dr	Narverud's First Addition South 9' of Lot 3 and North 36' of Lot 4 Blk 2	\$ 1,371.88

Committee Reports / Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Tveitbakk noted to the Board members that the AMC legislative conference is being held on March 2-3, 2022. Commissioners Peterson, Tveitbakk, Nelson, and Sorenson noted they will be attending the conference.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the NW Juvenile Training Center Board will be in Pennington County on September 15th, 2022 and would like to make a presentation in the County Board room. The County Coordinator will make the room arrangements.

County Attorney Items:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy voiced recent concerns that the Chief Justice was going to order stricter COVID regulations for the Justice Center and court areas, but that did not

come to fruition. The face covering/mask requirements in the Court area and 2nd floor of the Justice Center remain as is until further notice.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to February 8th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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