

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM  
MARCH 8<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, March 8th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members present via Zoom: Darryl Tveitbakk. Members absent: None.

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

Chairman Lawrence informed those present that Commissioner Tveitbakk is attending the meeting via Zoom but will not be voting.

Chairman Lawrence asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Peterson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens – No citizens present.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the County Board minutes of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, with one change. Motion carried.

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

County Revenue	\$ 90,746.32
Road & Bridge	\$104,901.13
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 3,709.98

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,000 were also approved.

Enbridge Consultant Julie Huber provided a final report and presentation on the Line 3 project. The new line, since named Line 93, spans over 1,000 miles (330 miles in MN) and went into service in October 2021. The \$9 billion project was supported by 91% of people and eminent domain wasn't used to obtain property. 11,900 workers took part in the project and 20 permanent positions were created. She noted that Enbridge paid \$43 million in property taxes in 2020 and estimates the new, higher capacity line will bring an estimated \$35 million in additional tax revenue to MN. As a thank you to Pennington County for their support of the Line 3 project, she presented a commemorative plaque on behalf of Enbridge Energy. Commissioner Peterson thanked Enbridge for the plaque and for being steadfast through all regulation and protesting. He noted that the community and businesses greatly benefited from and appreciated Enbridge's presence, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Tveitbakk thanked Ms. Huber for her work and professionalism throughout the project. Sheriff Kuznia stated that Enbridge

staff commented to his deputies that they felt very supported by the community and appreciated that. Engineer Flaagan noted that Enbridge staff were great to work with and were respectful to his employees and greatly supported the local economy. Ms. Huber wished to thank the local businesses for their extended support to the Enbridge workers, they often went above and beyond to accommodate Enbridge's schedules. The Board thanked Ms. Huber for her report, presentation, and the plaque received from Enbridge.

County Engineer Mike Flaagan discussed the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan presented at the last Board meeting, noting that adoption of the plan is required to be a federal aid recipient. Hearing no questions or comments, Commissioner Peterson motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Title VI Non-Discrimination plan as written. Motion carried.

Engineer Flaagan presented the following quotes received for annual county-wide road striping:

Traffic Marking Services	\$56,598.65
Northstar Safety Inc.	\$79,658.60
AAA Striping Service	\$55,969.03

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the quotes received and approve the bid of AAA Striping Service in the amount of \$55,969.03 for county-wide road striping as the lowest and best bid received. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to accept and approve the bid for culvert supplies as submitted by True North Steel. Discussion followed with Mr. Flaagan noting that the bid featured a small increase from 2021. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was carried.

Two fuel bids were received with Northdale Oil bidding \$.15 below the posted price for #1, #2 and gas. Farmers Union Oil bid \$.15 below the posted price for #1, #2, and premium with diesel additive, and \$.12 below the posted price for gasohol. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to accept both fuel bids as received and authorize the use of both vendors for 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to accept the following equipment rental bidders and authorize the Engineer to select from these bids for 2022. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Lawrence noted that members of the public have commented to him that the Highway Department has done a good job with snow removal this winter and his staff should be complimented. Mr. Flaagan was glad to hear that and said they are still working on a few trouble spots. He noted that the warmer temperatures and sun are warming up the tar roads and that will cause blowing snow to stick, resulting in icy conditions, so drivers should remain cautious.

NW MN Juvenile Center Superintendent Mindy O'Brien presented an update to the Board. In 2021 the Center served 22 kids from Pennington County and had a total intake of 501 kids. She discussed their programming and noted that new outdoor areas were created with CARES funding received. Grants have also been received to offer recreational activities such as painting, sewing, etc., with some of these activities resulting in school credits for kids. They now provide their own food service to the kids and are focusing on bringing activities to the kids while they are in their care. Chairman Lawrence commented that the facility tour last fall was educational and eye-opening for the Board. Sheriff Kuznia said working with the Center has been great, noting it's a great place to bring kids that need their care. The Board thanked Ms. O'Brien for her report.

Sheriff Kuznia presented the following LEC items:

A quote from Stone's Mobile Radio for a new squad radio in the amount of \$8,909.25, two handheld deputy radios in the amount of \$10,944.18, and three handheld radios for the jail in the amount of \$7,989.45. All quoted items are budgeted for 2022. Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the quote by Stone's Mobile Radio for the new radios as detailed above. Motion carried.

Sheriff Kuznia said that a Special Response team is being formed by the Thief River Falls Police Department and Pennington County. Quotes have been received for purchase of rifle and scope for the team – a Savage .308 from Hunters Outlet in the amount of \$759.99, and a scope from Nightforce Optics, Inc. in the amount of \$1,061.00. The Sheriff noted that a staff member from each of the County and City will be trained to use the specialized weapon. Mr. Kuznia noted that the budget allows for the rotation of weapons and this purchase is within the 2022 budget.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the quote and purchase of a Savage .308 rifle from Hunters Outlet in the amount of \$759.99 for use by the Special Response team as discussed. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the quote and purchase of a rifle scope from Nightforce Optics, Inc. in the amount of \$1,601.00 for use by the Special Response team as discussed. Motion carried.

County Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items: None.

County Attorney:

County Attorney Seamus Duffy stated that Judge Tamara Yon has changed the mask/face covering requirements on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Justice Center. Face coverings/masks will no longer be required as of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Sorenson noted that his personal vehicle was vandalized while at the AMC Legislative Conference in St. Paul, MN. Personal items were stolen as well as a county-owned Microsoft Surface Pro, related accessories, and the case. The loss has been reported to MCIT.

Commissioner Peterson gave an update on the AMC Legislative Conference, noting that some Board members met with the legislators and were well-received by them. It was noted that due to redistricting following the 2020 census, Deb Kiel will no longer be a representative for Pennington County.

Commissioner Nelson gave an update on the Health and Human Services Committee, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has taxed the mental health system, proving it is broken and has been for some time. Work is being done to correct this problem and legislative funding is being proposed to help remedy the situation.

Chairman Lawrence requested that Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel provide an update on spring flooding. Mr. Beitel noted that the county is currently at low-to-moderate risk for spring flooding. He will be attending a March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting which will re-assess our risk at that time. He noted that flooding will depend on the speed of the spring thaw and other factors, such as ice out of the rivers. He noted he would like to have 2,000+ sandbags ready and available for the public for spot flooding.

Motioned by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the Board meeting to March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator  
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners