

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
NOVEMBER 8th, 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, November 8th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Bruce Lawrence, Darryl Tveitbakk, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: Seth Nelson.

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. The County Coordinator noted that Assistant County Engineer Alex Bladow will present in place of the County Engineer, and constituent Dean Philipp has been added at 10:45 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Board agenda with the changes presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the Board of minutes of October 25th, 2022, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the Auditor and Manual warrants for August 2022 totaling \$1,206,154.81 and September 2022 totaling \$1,101,004.98, and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$27,894.03
Road & Bridge	\$13,049.74
Ditch Funds	\$ 375.00

Per diems and meal reimbursements in the amount of \$2,042.29 were also approved.

Theresa Ebbenga - DNR Regional Director, Cheryl Kelley-Dobie – DNR Lands and Minerals (via Zoom), Kerry Ross – DNR Regional Planner, and Stephane Klamm – DNR Area Hydrologist, provided a regional update. It was noted that locally there are five full-time and three part-time staff. The county receives approximately \$28,500 annually in PILT funds for DNR-managed lands. They are working to improve area WMAs and fisheries, noting a successful reintroduction of lake sturgeon into the local river. Projects in the works include a 330+ acre acquisition of land near Pembina Trail through Pheasants Forever and the MN Prairie Chicken Society. Commissioner Peterson stated he would like to meet and discuss the Higinbotham WMA where the County has gravel rights, would like to see managed land near Pembina Trail treated for weeds, and would like to discuss state-owned land in Norden and Bray Townships. He noted his appreciation to the DNR for working with Ag Services/Solid Waste Coordinator Grant Nelson on area projects. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the accesses at Smiley

Bridge and Kratka Bridge are not in good condition and should be improved and better maintained. Ms. Klamm said she would be a contact regarding the accesses, and she will contact Parks & Trails on the issue. Commissioner Tveitbakk thanked the DNR for their part in the improvement to the Oxbow area in Thief River Falls.

Human Services Director Julie Sjostrand presented a letter of resignation by Social Worker Denise McCarty. Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to accept a letter of resignation from Denise McCarty effective December 1st, 2022, and to send a letter of appreciation to Ms. McCarty for her service to the County.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the Human Services Director to post and advertise for the position of Social Worker/Certified Assessor. Motion carried.

Assistant County Engineer Alex Bladow presented the following Highway Dept. items.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to approve the hire of Trevor Berg for the position of Full-Time Highway Mechanic effective December 19th, 2022, contingent upon a successful background check. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Pennington County and I.U.O.E. Local #49 regarding a seasonal work schedule for one Highway Equipment Operator for the period of December 1st, 2022 – April 1st, 2023. Discussion followed with Mr. Bladow noting the shift will start at 3:00 a.m. and features a \$2.00 per hour differential. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Mr. Bladow opened discussion on the ordering of two new tractors, noting they are budgeted for in 2023 but availability and pricing are of concern. The following two quotes have been received (sales tax not included, prices reflect the purchase and trade-in of two tractors). Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the County Engineer to order two, 2023 Case IH Puma tractors from Titan Machinery, contingent upon the quoted prices and trade in values. Motion carried.

	<u>Titan Machinery</u>	<u>True North Equipment Co.</u>
Sales Price:	\$448,000.00	\$384,662.40
Trade In:	<u>\$144,000.00</u>	<u>\$125,500.00</u>
Total Price:	\$304,000.00	\$259,162.40

Mr. Bladow noted that the two new pickups have been ordered but timeline for delivery has not been received.

Auditor-Treasurer Items: None.

County Coordinator Items:

County Coordinator Kevin Erickson opened discussion on the latest remodel plans for the 3rd floor of the Government Center. Commissioner Tveitbakk reviewed the demolition plan and proposed layout for Human Services.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to donate the hallway mural by artist Charles Beck, located on the 3rd floor of the Government Center; to be removed at no cost or liability to the county. Discussion followed with Mr. Erickson noting that Steve Nelson, an employee of M.C.I.T. and admirer of Mr. Beck's art, recently visited the mural and expressed great interest in its preservation and displaying it in Mr. Beck's hometown of Fergus Falls, MN. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize and begin advertising for bids for the Government Center 3rd floor remodel project on November 16th, 2022. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to set the bid opening for the Government Center 3rd floor remodel project for December 12th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the surplus items located on the 3rd floor of the Government Center, as well as other county buildings. The Board asked that county staff work with Public Surplus to have such items sold via online auction and removed as soon as possible.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Waylon Ivan-Richard Olson as Custodian I with an effective start date of November 14th, 2022. Motion carried.

County Attorney Items: None.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Peterson noted that MRC will soon interview three candidates for the position of Executive Director. Mr. Peterson also reminded the Board and staff about the December AMC Conference scheduled to be held in Bloomington, MN.

Commissioner Tveitbakk reported on the AMC District meeting held in October in Mahanomen, MN.

Chairman Lawrence noted for the record that constituent Dean Philipp was not in attendance at today's meeting.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Tveitbakk, to adjourn the Board meeting to November 22nd, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence, Chairman
Board of Commissioners