

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTICE CENTER BOARD ROOM
JULY 9, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

Pursuant to M.S. 375.07, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Pennington County Justice Center Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Members Present: Seth Nelson, Bruce Lawrence, Roy Sourdif, David Sorenson, and Neil Peterson. Members absent: None.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. The County Coordinator stated that the County Engineer has been removed and the County Assessor has been added at 10:20 a.m. Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the agenda with the changes presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Citizens: None.

Motioned by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve the County Board minutes of June 25, 2024, as written. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve the Auditor & Manual warrants for June totaling \$6,814,321.71, payment to Jodi Flaagan (June TZD services) in the amount of \$1,575.00, and also the following Commissioner warrants. Motion carried.

County Revenue	\$162,381.22
Road & Bridge	\$ 52,868.09
Solid Waste Facility	\$ 3,066.00
Ditch Funds	\$ 3,704.36

Meal reimbursements and per diems in the amount of \$2,513.12 were also approved.

Kayla Jore and Sarah Lefebvre of Community Strong presented an update to the Board. About 300 people attended the 'Be The Voice' event in August 2023, and the group has also continued to bring awareness and make resources available at multiple community events. Be The Voice will be held on September 12th this year and will feature a sponsored speaker. Community Strong has partnered with Roseau County for the event but is making a request to this Board to sponsor the event in the amount of \$5,000. The Board thanked them for their report and took their request under consideration.

County Sheriff Seth Vettleison presented the following items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve the hire of Chealyn Reese as Part-Time Corrections Officer, with final approval contingent on receipt of a BCA fingerprint records check. Motion carried.

Sheriff Vettleson noted that he is still short-staffed by one each of Corrections Officer, Deputy Sheriff, and Dispatch.

County Assessor Carl Bruzek presented the following items:

Deputy Assessor-Appraiser Ashley Benson has completed all training and tests for the Accredited MN Assessor (AMA) license and will complete her third-year employment on July 13, 2024, both of which are requirements for AMA licensure. Mr. Bruzek is recommending her transfer to Deputy Assessor-Senior effective July 13, 2024. Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the transfer of Ashley Benson to the position of Deputy Assessor-Senior effective July 13, 2024, at the step 3 wage of \$30.09 per hour. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve an Application for Abatement for Amber (Tysk) Suronen regarding property ID# M25.091118200; thereby abating the 2024 tax to reflect the residential non-homestead classification for the mobile home at 1209 Stephen St. Motion carried.

Auditor-Treasurer Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to authorize the purchase of three Lenovo desktop computers from Garden Valley at the quoted price of \$919.00 each for the Dept. of Motor Vehicle, as recommended by the Technology Committee. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to authorize the following purchases from Garden Valley: a Lenovo laptop computer at the quoted price of \$1,219.99; a Lenovo desktop computer at the quoted price of \$919.00, both for the Auditor-Treasurer's office. Motion carried.

Motioned by Commissioner Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Sourdif, to approve an application to conduct off-site gambling by the Thief River Falls Amateur Hockey Assn for a raffle to be held August 7th, 2024, at the Legacy Event Center. Motion carried.

County Coordinator Items:

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve a quote by Safety Compliance Services LLC in the amount of \$3,700 to conduct two, three-hour safety training sessions for Pennington County employees in 2024. Motion carried.

The County Coordinator provided an update on the Safety Committee, noting that building heads have appointed or secured employees and alternates to serve on the

Committee. An initial meeting will be scheduled soon and the committee will discuss its goals, objectives, and meeting schedule going forward. The Safety Committee is to meet a minimum of four times per year.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to approve issuance of a duplicate warrant to Career Force – Deed in the amount of \$9,309.79 to replace lost warrant #108737 dated November 27, 2019, without issuance of an indemnifying bond. Motion carried.

Committee Reports / Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner Nelson opened discussion on cannabis, noting that upcoming State rules and regulations for its sale, cultivation, etc. demands that we promptly address the issue. Commissioners Sorenson and Nelson then volunteered to sit on a cannabis committee. Commissioner Nelson will reach out to the City of Thief River Falls to coordinate an initial meeting on the issue of cannabis.

The County Coordinator discussed the AMC Fall Policy Conference being held in Alexandria in September. All five Commissioners expressed their desire to attend.

Motioned by Commissioner Sourdif, seconded by Commissioner Sorenson, to adjourn the Board meeting July 23rd, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, County Coordinator
Pennington County

Seth Nelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners