

**MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
and
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**July 28, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
Duquette Community Hall, 88179 State Hwy. 23, Kerrick, Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Steve Chaffee and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Attorney Reese Frederickson, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, Human Resources Manager Matt Christenson, and County Administrator David Minke. Commissioner Curt Rossow was absent (excused).

Also present were Regional Extension Director Susanne Hinrichs, Extension Program Leader Nathan Johnson, Regional Extension Educator Liz Templin, Ag Extension Education Troy Salzer, Local Ag Producers Nathan Nelson, Keith & Ruth Carlson, and Charlie Kersey.

Others present introduced themselves.

Chair Hallan called for discussion with local officials/residents. There were none present.

Discussion was held regarding an Agricultural Extension Educator for Pine County.

Extension Program Leader Nathan Johnson provided an overview of the current state of agriculture in Pine County. Johnson provided the benefits an ag extension educator could provide to the farmers within the County.

Regional Extension Educator Liz Templin provided overview of economic impact of agriculture has within the county.

Carlton County Ag Extension Leader Troy Salzer provided an overview of the services he provides to Carlton and Pine County producers.

Local Ag Producers Nathan Nelson (Home Place Dairy LLC, Hinckley), Keith & Ruth Carlson (Rocky C Ranch Beef, Sandstone), and Charlie Kersey, La Finca Organic Farm, Bruno stated their support for an agricultural extension educator.

Chair Hallan thanked everyone for their presentation and interest in an ag educator and advised that it will be taken under advisement for discussion at a future meeting.

Recess taken at 11:10 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Comprehensive Plan/Countywide Zoning

Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder stated the county has encountered blight and noise issues which could have been resolved if the county had a countywide zoning ordinance. Schroeder provided an overview of the steps necessary to proceed with a countywide zoning ordinance, including the updating of the county's Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 1993. Schroeder reviewed her proposed Comprehensive Plan Update timeline. Commissioners felt that possibly the timeline was too aggressive—Schroeder stated she felt her office could complete the updating within that approximate

timeframe. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with updating of the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion was held regarding the members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Chair Hallan requested this topic be added for discussion at the August 4, 2015 board meeting.

Household Hazardous Waste

Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder stated Pine County hosts one or two household hazardous waste events per year, which are not meeting the demands of the county. These events cost the county approximately \$120 per person. Schroeder stated that the best service the county could provide would be to have our own facility, either seasonal or year around. The nearest facilities now are Carlton or North Branch.

The operating cost of our own facility, with the first year being the most expensive with building costs and operating costs due to backlog of HHW, are estimated to be an operating cost of \$80,000, and construction cost of approximately \$20,000-\$40,000. The operation costs would reduce each year thereafter. Discussion was held as to ways of funding a facility – special assessment (solid waste management charge) or an increase in the tax levy. Schroeder will gather additional information and will report back to the board.

Budget

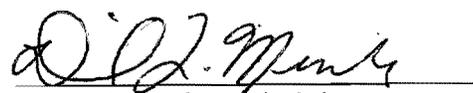
County Administrator David Minke stated that half way through the year, the 2015 budget is sound. Minke provided an overview of the revenues and expenses in each of the departments, and pointed out that there has been a \$200,000 decrease in personnel costs from 2014 budget to 2015 budget.

Discussion was had on the preliminary budget for 2016. There are several departments that are looking for an increase in personnel. A Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Budget) has been scheduled for August 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Courthouse, Pine City.

The board requested a meeting be scheduled with the Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss direction and services provided. It was suggested that a facilitator be involved to direct the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.


Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners


David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to County Board