

**MINUTES
OF
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole
(Wetlands Banking/Land Department Contract Reinstatement/County Zoning Initiative)
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota**

Commissioner Mohr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Chaffee, John Mikrot, Jr. and Matt Ludwig. Commissioner Steve Hallan was absent (excused). Also present was County Administrator David Minke.

Others present: David Demmer, Wetlands Specialist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; Leah Hart, Wetlands Technician; Caleb Anderson, Land and Resources Manager, Kelly Schroeder, Auditor-Treasurer, Ailene Croup, media; Gary Hinsch, Sandstone Township Supervisor; Greg Beck, Land Commissioner/County Forester; Frank Christopherson, Pine City EDA and Planning Commission, and Traci LeBrun, media.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Commissioner Mohr welcomed everyone and those present introduced themselves.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Wetland Banking/Wetlands Credit

David Demmer, Wetlands Specialist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources presented an overview of wetland banking and provided information on the application process for creation of a wetland bank. The different phases necessary in the creation process as well as how to choose a site for a wetland bank, restoration and preservation of wetland sites, easements and the costs associated with creation/management were discussed. Demmer also acknowledged the Zoning Staff and the success that Pine County has had in assuming administration of the Wetland Conservation Act.

Consensus of the county board was to continue to evaluate the concept of creating a wetland bank through preservation of existing wetlands.

Chair Mohr called for a recess at 11:30 a.m.

Deputy Auditor Terry Lovgren joined the meeting at 11:35 a.m.
The meeting reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

2. Auditor-Land Department Contract Reinstatement

Land Commissioner/County Forester Greg Beck and Deputy Auditor Terry Lovgren reviewed the current contract reinstatement procedure for real property being forfeited due to non-payment of real estate taxes.

Currently, if a property goes tax forfeit, the owner can request a repurchase contract and pay 10 percent of the taxes due and the remainder over 10 years at 10 percent interest. Some property owners have entered repurchase contracts and then defaulted on the contract. The county has typically allowed them to get another repurchase contract.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that if a property owner is in default of a repurchase contract, that item should be brought to the board as the board has discretion and is not required to allow another repurchase contract. Commissioners requested that sufficient background information be provided to allow them to appropriately exercise their discretion.

3. County Land and Zoning Update/County Zoning Initiative

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson updated the board on the progress of the drafting of the county zoning ordinance. The next steps in the process will be review by the county attorney and zoning board and then the invitation to the townships to opt in to the ordinance. Those townships that desire to opt in will need to draft a zoning map that is consistent with the county's comprehensive plan. The Zoning Board will review and then forward to the county board. The final steps will be a public hearing and consideration for adoption by the county board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.



Joshua Mohr, Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners



David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the Pine County Board of Commissioners