Chair Josh Mohr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, Steve Chaffee, John Mikrot, Jr., and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Mohr called for public comment; noting that any public comment related to the renaming of the St. Croix State Park or replacement of the Grindstone Dam would be heard on the regular agenda with those items. There was no public comment.

Chair Mohr requested the following revisions to the Agenda.

Additions
1. Consent Item #9 - New Hires
   A. Consider the hiring of Jesse Kenow as a full-time deputy sheriff, effective May 6, 2019, $24.70 per hour, Grade 10, step 1
   B. Consider the hiring of Colin Waddel as a part-time deputy sheriff, effective May 6, 2019, $24.70 per hour, Grade 10, step 1
2. Consent Item #10 - Police Officer Declaration - PERA
3. Consent Item #11 - Purchase of Sheriff’s Vehicles
   Consider the purchase of five (5) 2020 Ford Explorer K8A squads from the low bidder, Ford of Hibbing, at $32,654 per vehicle, total cost $163,270.
4. Regular Agenda #5 - Legislative Update
   Additional Information: County Program Aid (CPA) and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Funding.

Correction
5. Consent Agenda Item #8A - Training
   Correction to job title county assessor (not county appraiser) to attend training.

Commissioner Ludwig moved to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mikrot moved to approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2019 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Chaffee moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hallan encouraged public attendance at the 2019 timber auction -- May 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board Room, Pine County Courthouse, Pine City.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Approve March, 2019 Cash Balance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>March 31, 2018</th>
<th>March 31, 2019</th>
<th>Increase(Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>2,130,292</td>
<td>2,590,284</td>
<td>459,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human</td>
<td>200,324</td>
<td>664,974</td>
<td>464,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road and Bridge Fund</td>
<td>3,243,641</td>
<td>1,309,579</td>
<td>(1,934,062)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Management Fund</td>
<td>2,094,576</td>
<td>1,883,122</td>
<td>(211,454)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL (inc non-major</td>
<td>9,833,007</td>
<td>8,433,728</td>
<td>(1,399,278)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funds)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Application for Exempt Permit**

Approve the Application for Exempt Permit from Ruffed Grouse Society – Rum River Chapter to conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on August 3, 2019 at Wings North, 19379 Homestead Rd, Pine City, MN (Pokegama Township).

3. **Easement Over Tax Forfeit Land**

Authorize the Board Chair and County Administrator to sign an updated Quit Claim Deed granting Richard Dvorak, adjoining landowner to Pine County tax-forfeit parcel 20.0199.000, a 30’ x 208.13’ easement.

4. **Tank Removals – Henriette Gas Station**

Authorize solicitation of bids for the removal of three underground gas tanks from tax-forfeit parcel 39.5030.000. The estimated cost is $10,000 to $15,000 from the tax-forfeit Property Blight Clean-Up/Demolition Fund.

5. **Well Sealing**

A. Authorize solicitation of bids for the sealing of wells located at 1) 26912 Crooked River Road (Chengwatana Township), and 2) Section 23-43-17 (New Dosey Township).

B. Approve Land Commissioner/Forester Greg Beck or County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder to administer grant applications through the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). The estimated cost is $1,500 per well. With a SWCD grant requiring a 50% cost share, the total Land Department expense is estimated at $1,500 from the Tax Forfeit Property Blight Clean-Up/Demolition Fund.

6. **2019 Timber Auction**

Approve eight parcels, with over 6,400 cords, to be offered at an appraised value of $170,000+ at the timber auction on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota.
7. **Donation**
   Accept $1,000 donation from the New Horizon Thrift Store in Pine City and designate to the Pine County Sheriff’s Office K-9 program; to be used to help offset expense of the canine program.

8. **Training**
   A. Approve Property Appraiser Kim Kylander to attend the Basic Appraisals Principles course, August 5-8, 2019, and the Basic Appraisal Procedures course, August 26-29, 2019 both in St. Cloud. The course cost for each course is $450. Lodging: estimated $345 for each course. Meals: $121 per course. Mileage calculated at .58 per mile. Each course is $916 (excluding mileage) for an estimated total cost of $1,832.
   C. Approve Probation Director Terry Fawcett to attend the AMC Futures Advanced Leadership Academy and Task Force, phase two training, on May 9-10, 2019, St. Paul. Lodging: $150. Use of county vehicle as available.

9. **New Hires**
   A. Approve the hiring of Jesse Kenow as a full-time deputy sheriff, effective May 6, 2019, $24.70 per hour, Grade 10, step 1
   B. Approve the hiring of Colin Waddel as a part-time deputy sheriff, effective May 6, 2019, $24.70 per hour, Grade 10, step 1

10. **Police Officer Declaration - PERA**

11. **Purchase of Sheriff’s Vehicles**
    Approve the purchase of five (5) 2020 Ford Explorer K8A squads from the low bidder, Ford of Hibbing, at the state bid price of $32,654 per vehicle, total cost is $163,270.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **SSTS Ordinance Amendment Public Hearing (to be heard at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter is practicable)**
   County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Ordinance which include mitigation requirements of systems determined to be imminent threats to public health and safety, compliance criteria for holding tanks, and description of when permits are required. Further discussion of holding tank usage took place.
   Chair Mohr opened the public hearing at 10:14 a.m. Ailene Croup asked for interpretation on holding tank compliance and usage, County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided clarification as to holding tank application and conditions. With there being no further comment, Chair Mohr closed the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

   **Motion** by Commissioner Hallan to adopt Ordinance 2019-17 amending the Pine County Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Ordinance and approve summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Health and Human Services
Commissioner Hallan stated the Health and Human Services Committee met April 2, 2019. Items were reviewed at the April 2, 2019 county board meeting.

3. Facilities Committee Report
Commissioner Ludwig stated the Facilities Committee met April 3, 2019. Items discussed were the remodel/transition of the 1610 Building (HHS/Silver building) and the construction progress of the North Pine Government Center (NPGC). The Grand Opening of the NPGC is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on June 18th (before the county board meeting). The City of Sandstone has expressed interest in purchasing the John Wright building and has subsequently made an offer to purchase the building.

4. Personnel Committee Report
Commissioner Ludwig stated the Personnel Committee met April 9, 2019. The Personnel Committee made the following recommendations:

A. Health & Human Services
   i. Acknowledge the retirement of Public Health MnChoices Assessor Jan Chaffee, effective March 29, 2019, and approve backfilling the position and any subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or lateral transfer.
      (a) Approve the transfer of the MnChoices Assessor position from Public Health to Social Services. The position is Grade 10 with a minimum hourly wage of $23.98.
   ii. Acknowledge the resignation of Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Stephanie Larson, effective March 12, 2019, and approve backfilling the position and any subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or lateral transfer.
      (a) Approve the conversion of the position from a Licensed Practical Nurse to a Registered Nurse. The position is Grade 10 with a minimum hourly wage of $23.98.
   iii. Acknowledge the resignation of Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Wendy Bloom, effective March 28, 2019, and approve backfilling the position and any subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or lateral transfer.
      (a) Approve the conversion of the position from a Licensed Practical Nurse to a Health Educator. The position is Grade 10 with a minimum hourly wage of $23.98.

B. Sheriff’s Office - Jail
   i. Acknowledge the retirement of Corrections Officer Don Miller, effective March 28, 2019 and approve backfilling the position and any subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. Position is a Grade 7 with a minimum hourly wage of $19.33.

Commissioner Ludwig also stated that previously, probation agents had operated as both court employees and county employees. Effective July 1, 2019, probation agents will become county employees only. The county will be adopting job descriptions and assigning grades through the Springsted SAFE system for these positions.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

State Representative Nathan Nelson provided a legislative update addressing three of the district’s
concerns: 1) the proposed renaming of the St. Croix State Park, 2) the replacement of the Grindstone River dam in Hinckley, and 3) the removal of funding for WINDOW Victim Services. Representative Nelson stated his opposition to the renaming of the park and the removal of the dam, and conversation of a restructuring of WINDOW Victim Services. Discussion of County Program Aid (CPA) and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) funding, transportation funding, tribal sales tax and county probation officer funding reimbursement were also discussed. Health & Human Services Becky Foss explained the tribal court process for delinquent Indian juvenile children and the county’s financial obligation for out-of-home placement.

6. **St. Croix State Park Rename**

Following Rep. Nelson’s legislative update, Commissioners Ludwig, Chaffee and Hallan stated their disapproval with the process to rename St. Croix State Park without any public meetings or opportunity for public input. Chair Mohr opened the floor for public comment. The following members of the public present stated their opposition to the proposed renaming of St. Croix State Park: Tim Williams, Executive Director with the Hinckley Convention & Visitors Bureau; Charlene Gafkjen with the Hinckley Area Chamber of Commerce; and PICK News representative Ailene Croup.

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaffee to approve of Resolution 2019-20 requesting removal of the renaming of St. Croix State Park from HF 2209, the Omnibus Natural Resources Finance Bill, to allow opportunity for public comment on the proposal. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Grindstone River Hinckley Dam**

Hinckley Mayor Don Zeman provided an overview of the significance of the Grindstone River dam to the city of Hinckley. Mayor Zeman stated the city opposes the removal of the dam without replacement of the dam or installation of a fish ladder structure to maintain the recreational features of the reservoir; Commissioners Chaffee and Ludwig stated their support of the City’s proposal. Chair Mohr opened the floor for public comment. PICK News representative Ailene Croup commented on the financial investments made by the City for the street improvement and projects relating to the dam.

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaffee to approve Resolution 2019-21 supporting the replacement of the Grindstone River dam. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **DNR/MDHA Land Acquisition Approval**

Joe Koelsch, Assistant DNR Area Wildlife Manager explained that the Minnesota DNR and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) are in the process of purchasing 118.17 acres of land owned by Great River Energy for inclusion in the Pine County V & S 1 Wildlife Management Area. The funding for the acquisition is being provided by MDHA through a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the property would be removed from the tax rolls; however, a PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) and revenue received from new construction in the county will offset the loss in property taxes.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hallan to approve Resolution 2019-19 approving the proposed land acquisition by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association for inclusion in the Pine County V & S 1 Wildlife Management area. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Scheduling a Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaffee to schedule a Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at the Henriette City Hall, 119 Main St. S, Henriette, for the
purpose of discussing University of Minnesota Extension programs and county investments and financial information. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.

10. **First Quarter 2019 Financial Report and County Board Goals Update**
County Administrator David Minke provided an update of the budget for the first three months of 2019 reviewing the expenditure and revenue of the major funds. The budget is on track, except for the higher than projected out-of-home placements. The progress of the county commissioners’ 2019 goals adopted on January 22, 2019 was reviewed.

11. **Closed Meeting (Pursuant to M.S. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) – Attorney/Client Privilege**
The *Tricas vs. Pine County* closed meeting will take place after the conclusion of the Commissioner Updates.

12. **Commissioner Updates**
East Central Regional Library: Chair Mohr stated an interim financial officer has been hired. The vacant resource librarian position has been reposted for additional applicants. The library’s 60th anniversary celebration was discussed.

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition: Commissioner Mikrot stated a “sticker shock” event will be promoted at off-sale establishments. A dinner and conversation event discussing the trends in underage drinking and other drugs, and the newly adopted Social Host Ordinance, will be held May 1, 2019 at Tobies in Hinckley.

NE MN Area Transportation Partnership: Commissioner Hallan and County Engineer LeBrun attended the meeting. The District is currently planning projects out to 2024.

HRA Planning/Training: Commissioner Ludwig stated it was an informative meeting. The MN Housing Partnership gave a presentation to better understand how the levy process works. No decisions have been made as it is only in the informational phase.

Soil & Water Conservation District: Commissioner Ludwig was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict; County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder attended in his absence. The SWCD is working with a consultant on strategic planning--financials statements and balance sheets are provided at their meeting. The new biologist is working on starting different projects; tree sales are going well; SWCD is recruiting to fill a technical position. An update on the Island Lake project was given; maintenance of the channel is an issue.

Lakes & Pines Executive Committee: Commissioner Hallan stated that he is not on the Executive Committee; these meetings may be deleted from the commissioners’ calendar.

Other:
East Central Solid Waste Commission: Chair Hallan stated the flare is done. The generator is rebuilt and running.

AMC Meeting: Aitkin County Chair Anne Marcotte is the district representative to the AMC, Commissioner Hallan is the alternate. Chair Marcotte is unable to attend this month’s AMC meeting, Chair Hallan will attend in her absence.

Chair Mohr acknowledged Senator Jason Rarick who joined the meeting.

13. **Upcoming Meetings**
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

Chair Mohr called a recess at 11:58 a.m.

The board reconvened at 12:05 p.m.
11. **Closed Meeting (Pursuant to M.S. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) – Attorney/Client Privilege**

**Motion** by Commissioner Hallan to close the meeting for the purpose of discussing the *Tricas vs. Pine County* case in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §13D.05, Subd. 3(b), attorney/client privilege. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was closed at 12:06 p.m. with the following present: Chair Mohr, Commissioners Hallan, Chaffee, Mikrot and Ludwig, County Attorney Reese Frederickson, County Administrator David Minke, County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder; Ann Goering, attorney with Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, and Jeff Hentges from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT).

**Motion** by Commissioner Hallan to open the meeting at 1:08 p.m. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

14. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Mohr adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota.

Joshua Mohr, Chair  
Board of Commissioners  

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