



## AGENDA

### **PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING**

District 1	Commissioner Hallan
District 2	Commissioner Mohr
District 3	Commissioner Chaffee
District 4	Commissioner Mikrot
District 5	Commissioner Ludwig

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 1:00 p.m.**

**The Governor of the State of Minnesota has issued Executive Order 20-01 Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19.**

**On March 24, 2020 the Pine County Board of Commissioners declared a local emergency for Pine County. Based on these conditions, the Chair of the Pine County Board of Commissioners has determined that the requirements of Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subd. (1) have been met and it is not practical or prudent for members of the county board to meet in person. Members of the county board will join the meeting remotely.**

**The public is invited to join the meeting remotely: by phone by calling 1-650-215-5226, meeting number (access code): 142 352 460, or via Webex by clicking the link on the county website ([www.co.pine.mn.us](http://www.co.pine.mn.us)).**

**1. Call meeting to order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Situation Update Public Health**

Community Health Administrator Samantha Lo will update the county board on the current public health situation.

**4. Emergency Management Update**

Sheriff Nelson and/or Emergency Management Coordinator Denise Baran will update the county board on the current emergency management situation.

**5. County Service Delivery and Deployment/Status of County Staff (as necessary)**

- a. Health and Human Services
- b. Highway
- c. Auditor/Treasurer
- d. Probation
- e. Sheriff
- f. Attorney
- g. Human Resources
- h. Information Technology

6. **Consideration to Changes to Property Taxes due May 15, 2020 such as Temporary Abatement of Penalty**

7. **County Board Discussion/Direction on any Other Matter Related to Responding to the Current Public Health Emergency**

8. **Adjourn**

The next regular meeting of the Pine County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for April 21, 2020, 10 a.m.



# AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2020

- County Board**
  - Consent Agenda
  - Regular Agenda      5 mins. \_\_\_ 10 mins. \_\_\_ 15 mins. \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_
- Personnel Committee**
- Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda Item:** Consider Deferral of Penalty on Property Taxes Due May 15, 2020

**Department:** Administration

Department Head signature

### Background information:

Commissioners have been discussing the possibility of providing some property tax relief as many individuals and businesses are experiencing financial hardships. Many businesses have been shut down. Many other businesses remain open, but have seen a reduction in business. Many workers have lost their jobs. From March 16th to March 31st, nearly 240,000 applications for unemployment were filed in Minnesota. This two-week total is more than the total number of filings in 2019. The state and federal governments have approved, and continue to work on, economic stimulus packages. The state and federal income tax filings have been pushed back to July 15th.

Counties levy and collect property taxes on behalf of numerous jurisdictions—cities, townships, special districts, and the county itself. Some have asked if property tax payments can be delayed. The property tax deadlines are set by Minnesota state statute and counties cannot change the due date. However, counties can waive the penalty on late payments.

This concept was discussed at the March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> county board meetings. As discussion has continued, some counties have proposed a reduced but not eliminated penalty. The legislature is also working on changing the settlement requirements to allow for a more timely payment of late-collected taxes with the taxing jurisdictions. Even without a legislative change, current law would allow for a taxing jurisdiction to request a supplemental settlement payment.

Attached is a draft resolution that provides an option to fully abate (paragraph 2A on the resolution) or partially abate (paragraph 2B on the resolution). The partial abatement is based on the model put forth by Sherburne, Stearns, Benton, Mille Lacs, and Wright counties. The dates and amounts could be set differently in Paragraph 2B.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Consider the resolution with a full or partial abatement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-26**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REQUESTING THAT THE PINE COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER ABATE  
THE PENALTY ON LATE PAYMENT OF  
PROPERTY TAXES FOR TAXES PAYABLE MAY 15, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-01 declaring a Peacetime State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020 the Pine County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution Number 2020-24 declaring a local emergency in response to the conditions from COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Pine County Board of Commissioners desires to provide temporary relief to its residents and businesses within the county that have been directly or indirectly impacted by the economic pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Pine County Board of Commissioners recognizes that because of unemployment, lost or reduced wages and the loss of business income, the timely payment of property taxes due May 15, 2020 may be a major economic pressure for many county property owners and businesses;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §279.01, subd. 2, the County Board may, with the concurrence of the County Treasurer, abate the penalty for late payment of property taxes;

**WHEREAS**, the Pine County Board of Commissioners finds that imposing the **full** penalty for late payment of property taxes in 2020 would be unjust and unreasonable, and further finds that **partially** abating the penalties associated with the late payment of property taxes in 2020 furthers the economic interests of the County and its residents and business owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pine County Auditor-Treasurer has indicated that she concurs with the Board's findings and its desire to **partially** abate the penalty for late payment of taxes in 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Pine County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 279.01, subd. 2, the County Board hereby delegates to the Pine County Auditor-Treasurer the power to abate the penalty provided in Minn. Stat. §279.01 for the late payment of property taxes payable May 15, to the extent provided for in this Resolution.
- 2A The County Board further requests the Pine County Auditor-Treasurer to abate the penalty for taxes due May 15 through July 1, 2020.

OR

2B The County Board further requests that the Pine County Auditor-Treasurer impose the following modified penalties for late payment of property taxes due and payable in 2020 for all applicable property classifications:

- a. For taxes paid between May 16, 2020 and June 30, 2020: a penalty of 1% of the unpaid tax otherwise due and owing.
- b. For taxes paid between July 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020: a penalty of 2% of the unpaid tax otherwise due and owing.
- c. For taxes paid on or after August 1, 2020: the penalty otherwise imposed by law. For reference purposes, the current penalty schedule is shown below.

Property Type:	2020										2021
	May 16	June 1	July 1	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 1	Oct 16	Nov 1	Nov 17	Dec 1	Jan 2
<b>Homesteads and Seasonal Rec.</b>											
1st half	2%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	-	8%	10%
2nd half	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	4%	-	5%	7%
Both Unpaid	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	6%	-	6.5%	8.5%
<b>Agricultural Homesteads</b>											
1st half	2%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%
2nd half	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	4%	6%
Both Unpaid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	6%	8%
<b>Nonhomesteads</b>											
1st half	4%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%	12%	-	12%	14%
2nd half	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	8%	-	9%	11%
Both Unpaid	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	10%	-	10.5%	12.5%
<b>Agricultural Nonhomesteads</b>											
1st half	4%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	14%
2nd half	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	8%	10%
Both Unpaid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	10%	12%
<b>Personal Property</b>	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
<b>Manufactured Homes</b>											
1st half	-	-	-	-	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
2nd half	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	8%	8%

- 3. This Resolution does not limit the authority of the County Board or the Auditor-Treasurer to abate taxes or property values as otherwise provided by law.

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Stephen M. Hallan, Chair  
 Pine County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 David J. Minke, Clerk  
 County Administrator