

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.  
Board Room, Pine County Courthouse  
Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, 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 Hallan welcomed law enforcement personnel in attendance.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

1. Correction to the January 21, 2020 county board meeting Minutes and Summary:  
Accept a \$500 donation from the Pine County Agriculture Society, *designated to the Sheriff's Reserve.*
2. Updated information provided for Regular Agenda Item #6 -- 2019 Novel Coronavirus  
Commissioner Ludwig moved to adopt the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mohr moved to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2020 county board meeting and Summary for publication, with correction. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mikrot moved to approve the Minutes of January 28, 2020 Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Local Government Officials). Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – January 2020

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Central Minnesota EMS Joint Powers Agreement Amendment**  
Approve amendment to Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Region Joint Powers Agreement. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

2. **New Hire**
  - A. Approve the hiring of Simcha Gavzy, fulltime Deputy Sheriff, effective February 10, 2020, grade 10, step 1, \$25.44 per hour.
  - B. Approve the hiring of Nicholas Solomon, fulltime Deputy Sheriff, effective February 10, 2020, grade 10, step 1, \$25.44 per hour.
  - C. Approve the hiring of Amanda Manley, Social Worker, effective February 10, 2020, grade 10, step 1, \$24.70 per hour.
3. **Training**

Approve Community Health Services Administrator Samantha Lo and Public Health Supervisor Jessica Fehlen to attend required public health emergency preparedness ICS-400 (complex incidence command) training, February 18-19, 2020, in Minneapolis. Registration \$0, Hotel \$150, Mileage \$100, Meals \$92. Total cost: \$342.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Acknowledge Retirement of K9 Chewy**

The retirement of K-9 Chewy was recognized, with his placement with the Neel family. Sheriff Nelson expressed his appreciation to the board for support of the K9 program.
2. **K9 Donation**

Mark McDonough of McDonough K9 offered to donate a replacement K9 and training for a deputy handler - the K9 will be for retired K9 Chewy and in memory of Deputy Benjamin Neel. McDonough K9 estimates the value of this donation at \$17,500.  
**Motion** by Commissioner Chaffee to approve the K9 and training donation from McDonough K9. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.
3. **Gun Range Naming – “Benjamin Neel Gun Range”**

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2020-07 renaming the Pine County gun range to the “*Benjamin Neel Gun Range*” in honor and memory of Deputy Benjamin Neel. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Technology Committee Report**

The Technology Committee met January 28, 2020 and made the following recommendation:

  - A. Ratify the contract between Microsoft and Pine County for the Office 365 infrastructure. The contract includes licensing for Office 365, Windows 10 Enterprise and multi-factor authentication. The total cost of the 3-year contract is \$326,664. Payments will be made in three annual payments of \$108,888.

Chair Hallan stated this contract cost is included in the budget.  
**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to approve the 3-year contract between Microsoft and Pine County for the Office 365 infrastructure, for a total cost of \$326,664. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried.
5. **Midwest Medical Examiner’s Office Annual Report**

Dr. A. Quinn Strobl, Medical Examiner for Pine County, presented the 2019 Medical Examiner’s annual report for Pine County. Commissioners inquired if any of the suicide victims were veterans and requested that veteran suicide information be provided in future annual reports.

**6. 2019 Novel Coronavirus Update**

Community Health Services Administrator Samantha Lo presented information on the 2019 novel Coronavirus. There are no confirmed cases in Minnesota and the risk to Pine County is very low.

**7. Clean Water Partnership Loan Award**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated that in 2016 the county was awarded \$600,000 (upgraded to \$900,000 in 2019) for a Clean Water Partnership (CWP) loan with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This award was to provide a low-interest loan program to replace non-compliant septic systems. Schroeder stated 59 septic systems have been successfully financed, with 16 applications pending. This program expires in July 2020 and Schroeder requested approval to enter a new CWP Loan with MPCA extending the program for another three years.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2020-08, authorizing Kelly Schroeder to submit a proposal with MPCA for a subsurface sewage treatment systems upgrade project and act on the board's behalf on matters not requiring board action. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 5-0.

**8. Outdoor Recreation Plan**

University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs students Corrin Bemis and Megan Reineccius presented findings of their 2019 Pine County Parks and Recreation Study. This study was related to increasing outdoor recreation accessibility on county-owned and tax-forfeited lands. Their recommendation included additional parks in the Sandstone, Finlayson, and Rutledge area with the inclusion of activities such as rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking.

**9. Commissioner Updates**

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Opportunity Zone meeting: Commissioners Hallan and Chaffee met with representatives from Corporate Ventures who are looking to build a 36-unit apartment building in Hinckley. Units will be available to band and non-band members.

NLX: Commissioner Ludwig stated this was an organizational meeting. Funding was discussed. Northeast Emergency Communications Board/Regional Advisory Committee: Chief Deputy Paul Widenstrom attended the meeting. Carlton County Commissioner Marv Bode was re-elected chair.

Pine County Coalition of Lakes and AIS Stakeholder: Commissioner Ludwig was unable to attend; Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson did attend. Anderson stated lake associations, SWCD, and St. Croix River Association members attended and gave some input on the AIS plan. The plan will be brought to the county board in next few months for consideration.

Snake River Watershed: Commissioner Mohr stated the budget was approved. Grant has expired, however funding still available if projects arise. Received planning grant for the 1W1P.

Lakes & Pines: Chair Hallan requested Nicole Klosner from Lakes & Pines to present to the full board as to opportunities that have been provided to Pine County residents and businesses through loans provided by Lakes and Pines to be able to rehab homes and businesses.

Snake River 1W1P Initial meeting: Commissioner Mohr stated it was an initial meeting with the policy meeting and advisory board; bylaws were discussed; chair and vice chair will be elected at next meeting.

Lower St. Croix 1W1P Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated distribution of funds through the watershed is a contentious discussion as some areas will get more funding than others. Chair Hallan is unavailable to attend the next meeting and asked for an alternate to attend for him.

Phone meeting with Senator Rarick and in person meeting with Representative Nelson: Items discussed for the upcoming legislative session included SWCD levy authority, out-of-home placement, Oberstar Trail funding, casino sales tax, Chronic Wasting Disease (a town hall meeting in Pine County will be scheduled in March by the Board of Animal Health), and CPO reimbursement to Pine County.

Central Regional EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated Marge Fagerstrom and JoAnn Gray are current Pine County representatives on the advisory board—Marge is accepting of reappointment, however looking for a new representative for JoAnn for 2020-2022.

Other: Chair Hallan will not be present for the February 18 and March 3, 2020 county board meetings, but intends to join via video conference; Commission Mohr will chair.

**10. Other**

None.

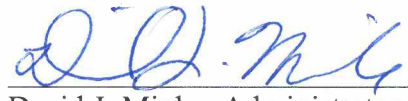
**11. Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

**12. Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota.

  
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Stephen M. Hallan, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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