

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse
Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Hallan stated 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 was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone or by WebEx via a link on the county website.

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

1. **Correction to Agenda Opening Paragraph**
Minnesota Statute should reflect 13D.021, Subd. (1) rather than 12D.021, Subd. (1)
2. **Addition: Regular Agenda Item 8A (Other)**
Schedule Special Meeting for April 14, 2020 – County Board Update/ Discussion/ Direction on any Matter Related to Responding to the Current Public Health Emergency Including consideration of changes to property taxes due May 15, 2020 such as temporary abatement of penalty.
3. **Revisions:**
 - A. **Change in Order of Regular Agenda:** Item 6 (Coronavirus Response Update) will be addressed prior to Regular Agenda Item 5 (Property Tax Relief Discussion).
 - B. **Regular Agenda Item 9j:** Arrowhead Counties Association meeting cancelled.

Commissioner Mikrot moved to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1- Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mohr moved to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2020 county board meeting and Summary for publication, and the Minutes of the March 24, 2020 and March 31, 2020 Special Meetings. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – March 9, 2020

Minnesota Department of Human Services correspondence – March 21, 2020

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – March 2020

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mikrot moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Donations**

Approve \$100 donation from the Pine Area Lions Club and designate these funds for the Evening Reporting Center.

2. **2020 Federal Supplemental Boating Safety Patrol Grant**

Approve the 2020 Federal Supplemental Boating Safety Patrol Grant in the amount of \$4,500 for the period of May 8, 2020 - September 7, 2020. The grant is to be used for enforcement hours only. There is no matching requirement. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

3. **Joint Powers Agreement Amendment – Work Release Services**

Approve the amendment to the Work Release Services Joint Powers Agreement which originally was not to exceed \$50,000. The State has requested to amend the original contract to increase the total obligation up to \$70,000. The contract is in effect through June 30, 2020. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

4. **Final Payment Contract #1802**

Approve the final payment to Knife River Corp. in the amount of \$133,948.98 for Contract #1802 related to:

SAP 058-653-011 located on CSAH 53 between CSAH 7 and CSAH 11
CP 058-106-003 located on CR 106 between CSAH 2 and TH 70
CP 058-122-001 located on CR 122 between CSAH 53 and CSAH 11
CP 058-133-001 located on CR 133 between CR 134 and CSAH 15
CP 058-134-001 located on CR 134 between CH 133 and TH 48

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Chronic Wasting Disease Update**

Dr. Linda Glaser, Assistant Director with the Bureau of Animal Health, presented an update on the Farmed Cervid (deer family) Program and Chronic Wasting Disease in a cervid farm located in Pine County. Dr. Glaser provided information relating to the program regulations, agricultural pursuit, farmed cervid numbers, and information related to the Pine County CWD investigation.

2. **2019 Juvenile Out-of-Home Placements**

Probation Director Terry Fawcett provided information regarding court-ordered juvenile placements in Pine County. Fawcett provided information regarding costs, budget busters, placements used and expenditures, community alternatives and Evening Reporting Center.

3. **2020 Timber Auction**

Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated May 13 is the tentative 2020 timber auction date. Schroeder stated the county typically has the same, small-number of bidders at each year's timber auction; Land Commissioner Beck has been in contact with these bidders and they have requested, due to technology constraints, to continue to have the 2020 timber auction in an in-person, oral bid, format. The county will facilitate a location such that everyone present will be able to exercise CDC and MDH recommend practices such as social distancing.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to (1) approve the timber auction tracts and general terms and conditions, (2) approve the oral, in-person method of sale, with the auditor-treasurer to schedule the date of the auction at a future time dependent upon the COVID-19 pandemic situation, and (3) approve that the timber tracts and general terms of sale be distributed to interested purchasers prior to auction notification. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Clean Water Partnership Loan**

Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated in 2016 the county was awarded a \$600,000 Clean Water Partnership Loan with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to provide citizens with a low-interest loan program to replace their non-compliant septic systems; this program expires July 31, 2020. The county applied for an extension of the program and have been awarded \$900,000 of loan funds for replacement septic systems.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2020-25 authorizing the County Auditor-Treasurer to execute a Clean Water Partnership Loan Agreement with MPCA and act as project sponsor and loan sponsor, and authorize the county auditor-treasurer to execute loan disbursement requests to MPCA on behalf of the county. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Coronavirus Response Update (Regular Agenda #6 on Agenda)**

County Administrator Minke provided an overview of county employees working at home and technology being utilized, and provided information related to the state budget forecast. The state legislature will be considering making COVID-19 a presumed condition for worker's compensation and a bonding bill to support critical infrastructure. Public Health and Emergency Management provided updates as to confirmation/death statistics, personal protection equipment distribution, and department heads provided an update on the status of their departments. The county-auditor provided a financial update related to cash-on-hand and county investments.

6. **Property Tax Relief Discussion (Regular Agenda #5 on Agenda)**

To help businesses and homeowners that are experiencing a loss of revenue due to COVID-19, the county board discussed the possibility of waiving the penalties for late payment of 2020 property taxes, due May 15, until a future date (possibly July 1st). Settlement payment to jurisdictions was discussed; currently jurisdictions receive settlement payments two times per

year. The county board requested the county administrator/county auditor-treasurer to explore alternatives for property tax relief/settlement payment options to be considered for action at the April 21, 2020 regular county board meeting.

7. **Commissioner Updates**

Meetings Which Were Cancelled:

- Arrowhead Counties Association
- Snake River Watershed Management Board
- NLX
- Rush Line Task Force

East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC): Commissioner Mikrot unable to attend, however he was made aware the ECRDC had previously contacted bar owners with the offer for them to make interest-only payments for the next six months (with a review thereafter). No establishment had taken advantage of that offer.

SCHSAC: Meeting cancelled.

Lower St. Croix 1W1P Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated the plan was submitted to BWSR for the 60-day review period; a public hearing will be necessary for input before it moves to the implementation phase.

Nemadji 1W1P: Commissioner Ludwig stated goals were discussed. Their draft watershed management plan will be completed by May. Joint powers collaboration versus joint powers board governing was discussed.

Central MN Council on Aging: meeting moved.

Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC): Chair Hallan stated two major topics of discussion included personal property tax relief and broadband.

Other: None.

8. **Other**

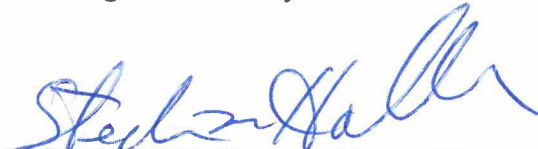
A Special Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. for a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update, to include the current situation, county operations and future planning. The board may make decisions directing the county response and to protect the health and welfare of the public, including consideration of changes to property taxes due May 15, 2020 such as temporary abatement of penalty. Due to social distancing recommendations, the county will provide a remote viewing option for the public. Information on joining remotely will be posted on the county website.

9. **Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

10. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:11 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners



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