

MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole (Economic Development)
Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Pine Innovation Center, Pine City, Minnesota

Chair Rossow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, Josh Mohr, Steve Chaffee and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Attorney Reese Frederickson, County Economic Development Coordinator Robert Musgrove and County Administrator David Minke.

Also present were: Sara Treiber, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Sam Griffith, City of Sandstone; Nathan Johnson, City of Pine City; Mark Perry, City of Hinckley; Brad Brzezinski, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development; and Henry Fischer, Pine City Pioneer.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Chair Rossow welcomed those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Motion by Commissioner Chaffee to approve the agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

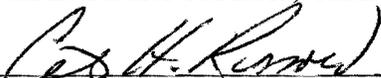
Robert Musgrove presented an overview of recent and current economic development activity.

During the discussion several issues were identified as priorities or targets for future action by the Office of Economic Development, including:

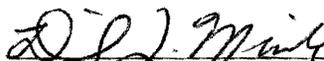
- **Workforce Development.** Convene a county-wide task force of educators and other stakeholders to talk about developing students for the 21st century workforce. Subtopics could include PSEO/concurrent enrollment options with the College, addressing the shortage of career counselors, tapping the commuter workforce and data collection on past graduates.
- **Housing.** Better understand the local housing market and determine how Pine County can improve housing options, particularly workforce housing.
- **Broadband Access.** Continue to explore broadband expansion as a key infrastructure improvement.
- **Community Relationships.** Continue to develop the County Economic Development Coordinator as the “go to” support person for collaboration with the cities on economic development.
- **Rail-Based Economic Development.** Study and pursue rail-based businesses to maximize use of local short-line rail.

The committee also discussed briefly other options, including parks and trails development and the development of mental health services and facilities in the middle and northern portions of the County.

With no further business, Chair Rossow adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.



Curtis H. Rossow, Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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