

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, June 29, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.  
North Pine Government Center, Sandstone, Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Hallan announced Commissioner Ludwig may be late or absent from today's meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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.

The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, WebEx or watch via live stream on YouTube.

Present in the meeting room were Chair Steve Hallan, Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, and JJ Waldhalm. Also present in the meeting room was County Administrator David Minke. County Attorney Reese Frederickson was present via electronic means.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Agenda item #3, Continued Discussion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, was moved to the end of the agenda to allow participation by Commissioner Ludwig, if he were able to join.

Sales Tax For Transportation Update

County Engineer Mark LeBrun stated effective January 1, 2017 the board authorized a 0.5% sales tax for funding identified road and bridge improvements. The sales tax collection will cease upon collection of \$8,450,000, or December 31, 2026, whichever occurs sooner; to date \$5,132,000 has been received and at the current collection rate the tax will end in approximately three years. Reauthorizing the sales tax collection was discussed, with LeBrun reviewing two future transportation project lists, 7-year or 14-year, for sales tax road/bridge projects if approved. LeBrun stated that the board, after a public hearing, could levy a sales tax for transportation and transit, by resolution. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to schedule a public hearing in August for public comment regarding reauthorizing a 0.5% sales tax for funding identified transportation projects.

Chair Hallan called for a five-minute recess at 9:45 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

American Rescue Plan Act (APRA)

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act and reviewed the criteria for eligible projects. Schroeder reviewed the recent \$459,000 award to Pine Technical and Community College for various projects, and stated other eligible projects could include

housing, food support, broadband, business assistance and county direct costs such as Public Health and Economic Development. The county could also partner with townships or cities to utilize combined ARPA funding for projects--Commissioner Waldhalm inquired if ARPA funds could be used to assist with expenses related to stormwater flooding on Sturgeon Lake. Discussion took place. **Motion** by Commissioner Waldhalm to authorize payment up to \$25,000, to be used toward a feasibility study on the high water levels on Sturgeon Lake. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Ludwig absent).

Economic Development

Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter provided an update on her economic development activities since May, including a grant request to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) community development block grant, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), housing, broadband, community engagement with other cities and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

Chair Hallan called for a 10-minute recess at 10:48 a.m.

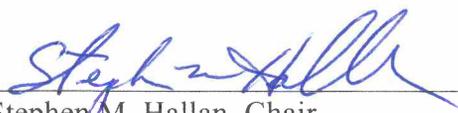
Meeting reconvened at 9:58 a.m.

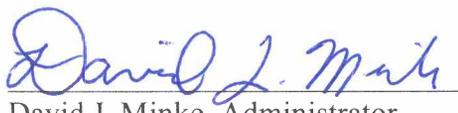
Continued Second Amendment Discussion

Commissioner Lovgren stated the county board recently approved a resolution reaffirming its support of the Constitution of the United States and of the Second Amendment, however stated she felt the board's support should be taken further and to designate the county as a "Second Amendment Dedicated County". After discussion among the board, no action was taken.

Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., 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