

**MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Board Room, Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, MN**

Acting Chair Chaffee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Mitch Pangerl, Steve Chaffee, and Matt Ludwig. Chair Rossow was absent (excused). Also present were County Administrator David Minke, County Auditor-Treasurer Cathy Clemmer, Health and Human Services Director Patrick Bruflat, County Engineer Mark LeBrun, and Human Resources and Payroll Specialist Matt Christenson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

County Administrator David Minke announced a change in time of the July 24, 2014 Ad Hoc Committee–Kanabec County Meeting, originally scheduled for 3:00 p.m. now rescheduled to 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ludwig moved to approve the agenda. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 4-0.

County Administrator Minke stated in the past six months two of the seven supervisors in Health and Human Services have been eliminated for budget reasons, and HHS Director Patrick Bruflat has given his resignation notice effective August 15, 2014. Discussion was held as to the direction Health and Human Services is heading, with Commissioner Hallan stating this presents an opportunity to give the board a chance to examine all possibilities of a restructure. Discussion was held as to internal promotion; the possibility of an interim director; or the hiring of a director with, or without the public health component. HHS Director Bruflat stated he feels with the recent changes implemented in the HHS department he feels the department needs consistency, continuity and support. Administrator Minke stated Wendy Thompson from Kanabec County has offered her staff for consulting help for any help necessary in the transition. Thompson has also offered to be the interim Public Health Director.

Motion by Commissioner Pangerl to accept the resignation of HHS Director Patrick Bruflat, effective August 15, 2014. Second by Commissioner Hallan with regret. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to authorize the backfilling of the HHS director position and direct the Personnel Committee to work with the Administrator to determine if there are any internal candidates who are interested and qualified for the position of Health and Human Services Director, or to recruit externally. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to authorize the advertising for the Adult Mental Health Supervisor position, not to be filled prior to September 5, 2014. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Health collaboration with Kanabec County was discussed. It was clarified that the combining of Pine and Kanabec Health and Human Services was completely off the table and only public health was being considered.

County Administrator Minke presented the proposed 2015 budget calendar and goals of the board. Discussion was held as to the levy and county program aid. Minke reviewed the risks of the 2014 budget as Health & Human Services, the ability of departments to stay within budget, and shortfalls in fee revenue. Minke is requesting individual department budgets by August 11, 2014. The date for the certification of the preliminary levy is September 30, 2014 with the final levy to be certified on or before December 29, 2014. Truth in Taxation Hearing is scheduled for December 4, 2014.

Future Budget Committee Meetings to be held in the Board Room at the Pine County Courthouse, Pine City:

August 26, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and September 9, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The September 9, 2014 Personnel Committee will be moved from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to accommodate these meetings.

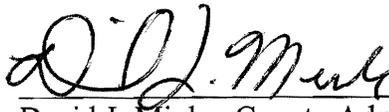
County Engineer Mark LeBrun presented his 2015 preliminary budget, stating about 11 percent of the levy goes to the highway fund. LeBrun is requesting no increase in property tax levy at \$1,525,000 while maintaining his current service level. LeBrun proposed to reserve the wheelage tax funds for future county road projects (2017). LeBrun stated future tax levy increases could be used for chloride/gravel, equipment replacement, and additional staff. Discussion was held as to the Public Works Department purchase of all county vehicles.

Commissioner Pangerl provided an update on the Pine Government Center lease with the City of Pine City as well as demolition of the old jail. Discussion was held with the consensus being the value of the Pine Government Center will be greater with the demolition of the old jail and a parking lot in its place. County Engineer LeBrun offered to contact contractors for the demolition process, with the block and brick being stored at the highway department for future use, and the contractor to receive the steel within the building. It was the consensus of the board that LeBrun move forward with this and report back to the board with an update.

With no further business, Acting Chair Chaffee adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.



Steve Chaffee, Acting Board Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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