

MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING

Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Sturgeon Lake City Hall
3084 Farm to Market Road, Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Steve Chaffee, Curt Rossow and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Attorney Reese Frederickson, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, and County Administrator David Minke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan requested an agenda amendment as follows:

Addition of: Other: Employment Offers.

Commissioner Rossow moved to approve the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. Members/citizens introduced themselves: Elizabeth Cisar, Tom Helpin, Don Jacobsen, Allen Delzer, Scott Helfman, Richard Glatly, Don Adams, Gordy Johnson, and Henry Fischer. Public discussion was held regarding the blight ordinance, current status of flood recovery for the city of Sturgeon Lake; property usage and tax implications for flood buyout property; and designation of ATV corridors/ordinances. No further public comment.

1. Blight Ordinance/Countywide Zoning

Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder provided background information on a county-wide zoning ordinance and potential board interest.

- Commissioner Ludwig expressed interest in an ordinance having the ability to be amended and Chair Hallan stated any creation of a county-wide ordinance would benefit from a joint committee.
- Discussion was held as to the difficulty of including a county-wide building code to coincide with a potential county-wide zoning ordinance and confusion of where to go for permits and permitting information. Commissioner Rossow preferred a county-wide ordinance to be open and general. City officials expressed concern over a county-wide zoning ordinance limiting future use of vacant land, Schroeder expressed the importance of properly designating land for future use.
- Township officials expressed concern over the enforcement of any zoning ordinances and the need for any plan to include clear enforcement roles and defined goals. Commissioner's Rossow and Hallan will bring the discussion to the Township Officers meeting on March 28, 2015.

It was the consensus of the board for Schroeder and County Attorney Reese Frederickson to reach out to cities and township officials to begin the framework for a county-wide zoning ordinance.

2. Potential Early Retirement Incentive.

Human Resources and Payroll Specialist Matt Christenson presented information on a potential early retirement program specific to the Health and Human Services department.

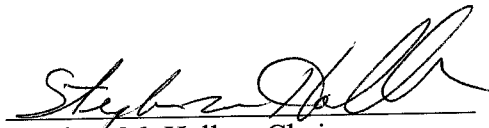
- Discussion was held regarding an incentive to keep good employees approaching retirement.
- Commissioner Hallan expressed interest in seeing detailed cost figures in order to make a more informed decision and determine the program guidelines. Potential incentive options were discussed such as paid health insurance, percentage of salary, cash payment, etc.
- HHS Director Becky Foss expressed the importance of any early retirement plan to have a clear plan for managing services through the transition. Discussion was held as to plans to manage the transition period more effectively.

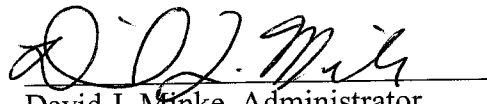
3. Other

A. Employment Offers – Chair Hallan expressed concern over current Pine County employees accepting new positions at other agencies and the knowledge that is lost. Hallan requested clarification on the board’s position on incentivizing these employees. Commissioner Chaffee expressed concern over this practice. The board’s consensus was that these decisions to go to the personnel committee.

- Commissioner Hallan provided an update to the status of the Probation Director hiring process and clarified the county’s relationship to the position.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.


Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners


David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to County Board