

**MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**Special Meeting – Strategic Planning**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Chaffee, John Mikrot, Jr., and Matt Ludwig. Also present were Auditor-Treasurer Cathy Clemmer, County Engineer Mark LeBrun, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, Health & Human Services Director Becky Foss, IT Supervisor Ryan Findell, Probation Director Terry Fawcett, County Sheriff Jeff Nelson, Jail Administrator Rod Williamson, University of Minnesota Extension Regional Director Susanne Hinrichs, County Attorney Reese Frederickson, and County Administrator David Minke. Commissioner Josh Mohr was absent (excused).

Others Present: Michael Piha, Roy Matson, Frank Libra Jr., Wilda Obey, Jim Obey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

Additional Information for Access to County Memorial Forest Discussion

Emails from Jim Taurinkas, Attorney at Law for Wilda & Jim Obey, and Todd Libra.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

**1. Discussion of Access to County Memorial Forest Located in Munch Township**

County Auditor-Treasurer Cathy Clemmer and County Forester Greg Beck explained they are looking for direction from the county board for the purchase of a permanent non-exclusive easement for roadway purposes for access to memorial forest property, and to establish a public parking area on county land. Clemmer and Beck stated that 1,120 acres of real property, classified as Pine County Memorial Forest, have previously been accessible to the public by an old, undocumented, road along the section line of Sections 16 and 21 of Township 40, Range 20. Except for the most westerly one-quarter mile of the old road, the road is either on county tax-forfeit property or on an existing easement. Recently a gate has been installed on the road, prohibiting access to the public. The County Land Department has requested access using the old road and has been denied. The board discussed the value of the timber and gravel on the property, the use of the property, and previous options for access. The matter was referred back to the Land Advisory Committee for discussion and a recommendation on how to proceed, and the recommendation to be brought back to the county board.

**2. Review Progress on 2017 Goals**

Department Heads and Lead Staff provided an update of their department's 2017 goals.

**3. Department Presentations**

The following department representatives provided an overview of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for their departments:

County Attorney..... Reese Frederickson  
County Auditor-Treasurer..... Cathy Clemmer

County Sheriff .....	Jeff Nelson
Health and Human Services.....	Becky Foss
Highway.....	Mark LeBrun

Chair Hallan called a recess for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The board reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Overview of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats continued:

University of Minnesota Extension...	Susanne Hinrichs
Land Services.....	Kelly Schroeder
Probation.....	Terry Fawcett
Information Technology.....	Ryan Findell

**4. Commissioners' Assessment and Discussion**

- a. The consensus of the commissioners of the most significant accomplishments of 2017 were: the Comprehensive Plan Update, decision to build the Sandstone government building, receiving Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) funding, obtaining authority to appoint the auditor-treasurer, hiring of a community culture coach, and negotiations and settlement of three-year labor agreements with the unions.
- b. Commissioners stated the most important goals which were not met were not keeping the levy under three percent, not being fully funded for ICWA, and not having funds for an agricultural educator.
- c. Commissioners stated the most frustrating issues for 2017 were out-of-home placements and economic development.

**5. County Board 2018 Goals/Priorities**

The following were identified as goals/priorities for further discussion.

- Building up of funding for technology for 2019 and beyond
- Completion and transition to new Sandstone building
- Future of John Wright building
- Completion of Pine Government Center remodel
- Permanent transfer station in northern part of the county (to include a mobile household hazardous waste site)
- Trails/Outdoor Recreation
- Transition plan for auditor-treasurer position and land/forestry.

These goals and priorities will be further discussed and refined at upcoming meetings.

**6. 2018 Special Meetings-Committee of the Whole meeting topics, dates and locations**

Scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings:

- May 1, 2018 – Road Tour scheduled upon conclusion of regular board meeting
- May 22, 2018 – St. Croix State Park (to include potluck)

Topics for Committee of the Whole meetings:

- Presentation by Walmart manager of economic impact to the county
- Tri-Township/garbage service
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Economic Development Summit with Cities
- Solar Energy (with industry experts)
- Joint Meeting with county and state forestry

Possible Meeting Locations

Sandstone Hospital

Pine Town Hall

7. Other

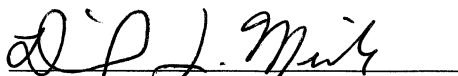
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

8. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair  
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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