

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.
North Pine Government Center
1602 Hwy. 23 North, Sandstone, Minnesota**

Chair Josh Mohr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, John Mikrot, Jr., and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Commissioner Steve Chaffee was absent (excused).

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Mohr called for public comment - there was no immediate public comment. Bashir Moghul arrived to address the board after the public comment portion of the board meeting had concluded. Chair Mohr subsequently allowed Mr. Moghul an opportunity to address the board in a public comment format; added to the agenda at Regular Agenda 7A.

Chair Mohr requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

Addition: Regular Agenda #9A - Repeal of Cadillac Tax (S.684)

Revision:

Remove from Regular Agenda #8A: Land Sale Update/Resolution 2019-50

Move Regular Agenda #5 to Regular Agenda #4: Introduction of New Employee Nicholas Miller

Correction: Regular Agenda #12: Upcoming Meetings

12E: Extension Committee meeting will be held at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone

12I: Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole will meet at 7:00 p.m., November 26, 2019, North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy 23 No., Sandstone.

Commissioner Hallan moved to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ludwig moved to approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2019 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

None.

Commissioner Hallan stated his appreciation to the Pine County Veterans Council and Cloverleaf Chapter No. 4 Disabled American Veterans for the generous donations for the Veterans Van.

Commissioner Hallan moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve October, 2019 Cash Balance

Fund	October 31, 2018	October 31, 2019	Increase(Decrease)
General Fund	3,209,367	3,015,928	(193,439)
Health and Human Services	619,298	352,105	(267,194)

Fund			
Road and Bridge Fund	211,278	4,883,973	4,672,695
Land Management Fund	1,774,794	2,043,829	269,035
TOTAL (inc non-major funds)	17,825,770	24,476,976	6,651,206

2. **October 2019 Disbursements and Claims over \$2,000**

Approve Disbursements Journal Report, October 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019 and Claims over \$2,000.

3. **Applications**

Approve the following 2020 tobacco license applications, and approve board chair and county auditor to sign: Bear’s Den, Bruno; Beroun Crossing Country Store, Pokegama Township; Casey’s General Store, Sandstone; Casey’s General Store, Pine City; Nemadji Enterprises Inc., Nickerson Township; Country Side Campground LLC, Sandstone Township; Rock K Lazy E (Banning Bar), Finlayson Township; Rocking K Lazy E, Convenience Store; West Beroun Liquor LLC, Pokegama Township; Bear Creek Tavern, Arlone Township; Moose Lake Golf Club, Windemere; Pine City Country Club Inc., Pine City Township; Chris’ Food Center, Sandstone; Chris’ Food Center, Pine City; Crossroads Convenience Store, Hinckley; Daggett’s, Hinckley; Dave’s Oil, Hinckley; Denham Run Bar & Grill, Sturgeon Lake; Duquette General Store, Duquette; Family Dollar, Hinckley; Family Dollar, Sandstone; Finlayson Municipal, Finlayson; Finlayson Municipal, Finlayson; Firehouse, Hinckley; Holiday, Hinckley; Holiday, Pine City; Holiday, Pine City; Kurt’s Station, Hinckley; Kwik Trip, Hinckley; Main Street Grocery, Askov; Minit Mart, Sturgeon Lake; Minit Mart, Hinckley; Mini Mart, Rock Creek; Murphy’s Oil, Pine City; Off the Road Bar & Grill, Brook Park; Petry’s Bait, Finlayson; Pine City Tobacco, Pine City; Rich’s Bar, Sandstone; Sandstone Arco, Sandstone; Sandstone Petro Plus, Sandstone; Side Tracked Enterprises, Brook Park; Slim’s Service, Hinckley; Squirrel Cage, Willow River; Speedway, Pine City; Super Smokes, Pine City; Tadpoles, Pine City; Tobies Station, Hinckley; Wal-Mart-Pine City.

4. **Donations**

Accept \$20,000 donation from the Pine County Veterans Council and \$2,000 donation from the Cloverleaf Chapter No. 4 Disabled American Veterans to be designated for the Veterans Van.

5. **Prosecution Contract – City of Pine City (2020-2021)**

Approve the Agreement for Prosecution Services with the City of Pine City in the total amount of \$22,000 for calendar years 2020 and 2021. Authorize Board Chair and County Auditor to sign.

6. **2020 Recycling Contract**

Approve the 2020 Recycling Program contract with Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment, Inc. (PHASE) in the amount of \$174,000 for 2020. The amount is unchanged from 2019. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

7. **Personnel**

Approve regular employment status for Social Worker Carrie Reeves, effective November 11, 2019; Social Worker Miranda Auger, effective December 11, 2019; and Registered Nurse Amber Stumne, effective December 11, 2019.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Public Hearing – New and Amended Fees

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided an overview of requested new and amended county fees. The board discussed how the establishment or fee change amounts were determined. Chair Mohr opened the public hearing at 10:15 a.m. and called for public comment. There being no public comment, Chair Mohr closed the public hearing at 10:15 a.m. Additional conversation took place relating to highway department issued permits and credit card processing fees. Recorder's Office credit card fees have in the past been charged as a part of doing business. Real estate or mobile home taxes paid by credit card are charged a credit card fee by a third-party vendor who offers that service; these credit card fees are not received by the county.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve adoption of the following new and amended county fees:

Department	Fee	Original Fee	New or Amended Fee
Countywide	Fax/Email Fee	\$3.00-\$3.50	\$3.50
Auditor-Treasurer	Escrow Company-Annual Maintenance	No Fee	\$2/parcel
Auditor-Treasurer	Escrow Company-Refund/Correction	No Fee	\$10/parcel
Auditor-Treasurer	Delinquent Tax Judgment Publication & Entry Fee	\$35	\$50
Auditor-Treasurer	Gambling Permit Application	No Fee	\$10
Auditor-Treasurer	Returned Check Fee	\$25	\$30
Auditor-Treasurer	Special Assessment Initial Entry Fee	\$1.80/parcel	\$5/parcel
Auditor-Treasurer	Special Assessment Annual Maintenance Fee	\$0.60/parcel	\$1.00/parcel
Jail/Sheriff	Copy of CD, DVD, Video Tape, Audio Tape	\$10	\$10 or \$50/hour for requests taking > 15 minutes
Recorder	Credit Card Processing Fee	3%	0%
Planning & Zoning	Conditional Use Permit	\$650	\$600
Planning & Zoning	Plat-Final (plus \$10/lot)	\$650	\$600
Planning & Zoning	Interim Use permit	\$650	\$600
Planning & Zoning	Plat-Preliminary	\$650	\$600
Planning & Zoning	Request for Zoning Map Amendment	\$650	\$600
Planning & Zoning	Variance	\$500	\$600
Public Works	Transportation Permit – Annual Over-Width	No Fee	\$150
Public Works	Transportation Permit – Single Trip Over-Width	No Fee	\$50
Public Works	Transportation Permit – Single Trip – Overweight	No Fee	\$200
Public Works	Utility Permit	No Fee	\$100
Solid Waste	32-gallon construction debris disposal	n/a	\$5
Solid Waste	Solid Waste Fee (improved,	\$8	\$10

	taxable real estate & Mobile home parcels)		
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and

adoption of Resolution 2019-52 increasing the Solid Waste Fee from \$8 to \$10 per improved, taxable real property and mobile home parcel. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Facilities Committee Report**

Commissioner Ludwig provided an overview of the November 6, 2019 Facilities Committee meeting. Items of discussion included the 2020 lease with the City of Pine City for the South Pine Government Center, the John Wright/Doug Carlson room usage (NPGC), sound problems in the John Wright/Doug Carlson rooms, and courthouse space planning.

Commissioner Mohr thanked Commissioner Hallan for attending this meeting in his absence.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the lease with the City of Pine City at the South Pine Government Center for 2020 in the amount of \$46,689. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 4-0.

3. **Personnel Committee Report**

Commissioner Ludwig provided an overview of the November 12, 2019 Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee made the following recommendations:

A. **Auditor-Treasurer**

- i. approve the job description for the temporary Elections Assistant and authorize the hiring of a temporary Elections Assistant at a minimum starting wage of \$14/hour to assist with the three major elections in 2020. The position will be non-union and will work part-time hours January-March and June-November.

B. **Sheriff's Office**

- i. acknowledge the resignation of part-time Dispatcher Nickole Mensen, effective October 2, 2019, and authorized the backfill of the position and any subsequent vacancies.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Personnel Committee Report. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **Introduction of New Information Technology (IT) Employee**

IT Manager Ryan Findell introduced IT Support Specialist Nicholas Miller.

5. **Lynn Zeleny**

Lynn Zeleny spoke to the county board addressing her concerns with non-emergency medical transportation related to the medical assistance program.

6. **Essentia Health Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report**

Essentia Sandstone CEO Michael Hedrix and EMS Sr. Manager Joe Newton provided the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report providing information as to financial status, staffing, projects, equipment, training opportunities. Transporting of patients, community EMT/first responder service, and the transition of dispatch services back to the Pine County Sheriff's Office were discussed.

7. **Youth Tobacco Data**

Community Health Services Administrator Samantha Lo and Health Educator Hailey Freedlund provided information on Pine County youth tobacco usage and vaping. Three options were presented for consideration in an effort to reduce youth tobacco and vaping usage: 1) Adopt a "T21" ordinance setting the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products to 21; 2) Set a minimum price, packaging and promotion restrictions; and 3) Prohibit the sale of some or all types of flavored

tobacco products. This topic will be placed on the agenda for the Pine County Strategic Planning meeting in January, 2020.

- 7A. **Public Comment**. Bashir Moghul addressed the county board requesting reconsideration of the board's October 15, 2019 denial for the reinstatement of Mr. Moghul's tax forfeited real property.

8. **Land Sale Updates**

A. Removed from Agenda.

B. County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the City of Sandstone has requested to purchase Tract 9 of the lands offered for sale at the September 20, 2019 Land Sale. The City has undertaken extensive blight clean-up on this property and the property has substantial unpaid special assessments due to the City of Sandstone.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2019-51 withdrawing Tract 9 from the land sale and offering to sell it to the City of Sandstone for \$1.00, below its market value due to the city's cleanup of the blighted conditions on the property under Minnesota Statute 282.01 Subd. 1a(d)(1) and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commission Hallan. Motion carried 4-0.

9. **Septic Fix-Up Special Assessments**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder explained the county has extended loans to homeowners to upgrade non-compliant septic systems through a low interest loan from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These loans are then recorded as a lien against the real property. Participants who wish to refinance their homes have been unable to do so because of the county's lien in the first position. To alleviate this situation, Schroeder recommended the loans be assessed as a special assessment levied by resolution against the property. In the future, these special assessments will likely be placed on the consent agenda for county board consideration.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to authorize the County Auditor to record a lien satisfaction for a non-compliant septic systems loan received by Patrick Van Heel and Suzanne (Novacek) Van Heel and approve Resolution 2019-53 extending a 13-year special assessment against parcel 17.0223.00 in the amount of \$13,362.81 to the property and authorize the Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

9A. **Consideration of Letter of Support for S.684 to Repeal the Cadillac Tax**

County Administrator David Minke explained the Cadillac Tax adopted as part of the Affordable Care Act and its impact on Pine County. Minke stated in July, 2019 the US House passed a bill repealing the Cadillac Tax. The U.S. Senate companion is S.684 and is likely to be considered before the end of the year.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to approve the county's support for S.685-Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019 to repeal the Cadillac Tax. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

10. **Commissioner Updates**

Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD): Commissioner Ludwig stated SWCD is hiring a forestry intern for six months in 2020 and adding an office assistant.

MN Council on Aging: Commissioner Hallan stated the proposed budget was reviewed.

Congregate dining sites will be freezing unused meals and these will then be distributed to local food shelves.

East Central Solid Waste Commission: Commissioner Hallan stated the cell at ECSWC is filling up faster than was originally projected; if the trend continues it will be filled up in 8.5 years rather than 10 years.

Labor Negotiations: Commissioner Mohr stated a tentative agreement has been reached with the Correction Officers/Dispatchers.

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition: Commissioner Mikrot stated the Coalition is adding children vaping to its focus.

Ag Educator Meeting: Chair Mohr stated this meeting was very productive; the job description for this position was discussed. Commissioner Hallan stated the job description scope is large and possibly the county should be looking at this as a full-time position within the county rather than sharing the position with another county.

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council: Commissioner Hallan stated grants were reviewed; MN Council on Aging has cut grant funds to Lakes & Pines. Hallan explained that Lakes & Pines, and other agencies, submit a grant for chore services and state the dollar amount they provide the service for. Other agencies could provide these chore services for less.

11. **Other**
None.

12. **Upcoming Meetings**
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

Chair Mohr called a five-minute recess at 12:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:21 p.m.

Closed meeting – labor negotiation-Correction Officers/Dispatchers

13. Motion by Commissioner Mikrot to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §13D.03 to consider negotiation strategies and develop, discuss, and review labor negotiation proposals, for negotiations conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 179A.01 to 179A.25. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was closed at 12:22 p.m.

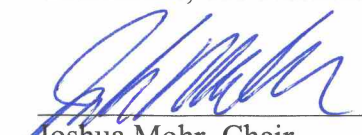
Present at the meeting were Chair Mohr, Commissioners Hallan, Mikrot, and Ludwig; County Attorney Reese Frederickson, County Sheriff Jeff Nelson, Jail Administrator Rodney Williamson, and County Administrator David Minke.

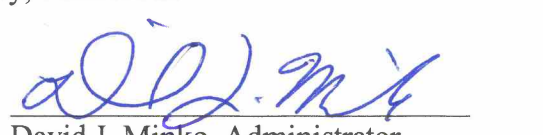
Motion by Commissioner Hallan to open the meeting. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was opened at 12:34 p.m.

13. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Mohr adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota.


Joshua Mohr, Chair
Board of Commissioners


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