

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, Pine County Courthouse
Pine City, Minnesota**

Vice Chair Josh Mohr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Chaffee and Matt Ludwig. Due to Commissioner Steve Hallan traveling out of state, Commissioner Hallan was present via Interactive TV, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02 and MN Department of Administration Advisory Opinions 08-034 and 13-009. Commissioner Hallan was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means and participated from Pensacola Naval Base Air Station, Oak Grove Park Campgrounds, Site 14, 190 Radford Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32508, a location open and accessible to the public. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Commissioner John Mikrot, Jr. was absent (excused).

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Vice Chair Mohr called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Mohr requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

1. Addition: Regular Agenda (Other) 5A: AMC Legislative Conference Update
2. Additional Information: Regular Agenda #7
Additional Letter of Support: Dr. Curt Tryggestad, Superintendent, Pine City Public Schools

Commissioner Ludwig moved to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Chaffee moved to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – February 2020

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Chaffee moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Real Estate Donation**
Accept the donation from Thomas and Frances Schrade of Pine County parcel 03.0196.002. Approximate value \$700.
2. **Additional 2020 Waste Hauler Licenses**
Approve the following additional waste hauler licenses for 2020 and authorize Board Chair to sign: Ron's Roll-offs, SKB Environmental Cloquet Landfill, Inc.

3. **New Hire**

A. Authorize the hiring of Clerk III Jolene Sievert, effective March 16, 2020, pending successful background check, \$17.41 per hour, Grade 4, Step 1.

4. **Training**

- A. Authorize Social Worker Samantha Maser to attend the Minnesota Social Service Association's 127th Annual Conference, March 11-13, 2020, in Minneapolis. Registration, \$115; Meals, \$36; Mileage, county car if available. Total cost: \$151.
- B. Authorize Zoning and Environmental Technician Assistant Joy Hix to attend OSHA Safety and Health Initial Training and DOT Training, April 14-16, 2020, in Waite Park. The course is offered free of charge. Lodging: \$170 for two nights; Meals: \$102; Mileage: \$86.25. Total cost: \$358.
- C. Authorize Social Workers Cassie Peterson and Amber Andrews to attend the Minnesota Social Services Association Annual Conference, March 11-13, 2020, in Minneapolis. Registration: \$545; Meals: \$72. Staff will utilize a county vehicle. Total cost: \$617.
- D. Authorize Veterans Services Officer Mindy Sandell to attend the County Veterans Services Officer Spring Conference, March 17-19, 2020, in Walker, Minnesota. No registration fee; Meals: \$71; Lodging: \$158. Total cost: \$229. Staff will be carpooling with another attendee.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **DNR Regional Trail Grant**

Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder explained the county had previously applied for a \$600,000 Transportation Alternatives federal grant for the James L. Oberstar Trail from the Rock Creek City Center to the Pine City High School; \$300,000 was awarded to the county. Schroeder stated a \$250,000 DNR grant is available which could help with the funding shortfall. The county will use the same match money as was used for the Transportation Alternatives federal grant for the required match to the DNR grant.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2020-17 supporting the grant application to the DNR for the Regional Trail Grant in the amount of \$250,000, which also names Kelly Schroeder, County Auditor-Treasurer, fiscal agent for the project and assures maintenance for a period of no less than 20 years. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Hay Creek Headwaters Wetland Bank Evaluation**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated additional information is necessary to evaluate the eligibility of the Hay Creek Headwaters area for possible establishment of wetland bank preservation credits. Two bids were submitted to do a qualitative assessment of the project for data collection and suitability of the site. The information from this step will inform the County whether to proceed with a Prospectus Application to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to authorize the County Auditor/Land & Resources Manager to negotiate and execute a contract, not to exceed \$10,000, with SEH Inc. for preliminary ecological data collection and project consultation to investigate viability of wetland bank creation at the Hay Creek Headwaters. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 4-0.

3. **MN DNR Aggregate Resource Study**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated the state legislature authorized the DNR to conduct an aggregate resource mapping study to chart the location of aggregate resources in Pine County. There is no cost to the county for this mapping study.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to approve Resolution 2020-18 requesting the DNR to place Pine County on the wait list for aggregate resource mapping. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Commissioner Updates

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Mikrot unable to attend.

Pine County Transit Advisory Committee: Commissioner Hallan unable to attend.

Extension Committee: Commissioner Chaffee stated new Extension Committee member Barbara Fischer was introduced; presentation by SNAP-Ed Educator Jimmie Johnson was given; Farm Family of the Year was discussed and voted on; discussion of ag educator took place.

Ag Educator Interviews: Commissioner Chaffee stated two candidates were interviewed; a finalist has been identified.

Snake River Watershed: Commissioner Mohr stated a manure pit closure was approved; the Watershed is not operating on a grant right now, they are operating on cash reserves. After the Snake River Watershed meeting, the Snake River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting took place. Chair and vice chair were elected.

Lower St. Croix 1W1P Policy Committee: Commissioner Hallan unable to attend, Commissioner Chaffee attended as alternate. The Committee has decided to operate as a Joint Powers Collaboration—this to be reviewed in 18 months. Each partnering agency will have one vote, except for Chisago County which will have one additional vote.

East Central Regional Development Commission: Commissioner Mikrot unable to attend; County Administrator Minke had been provided information that the audit results were back and were sound.

Courthouse Annex Review of RFPs: Vice Chair Mohr stated three architects will be interviewed on March 4, 2020.

NLX: cancelled

Northeast Minnesota Emergency Communications Board: Chief Deputy Paul Widenstrom attends this meeting.

Law Library: Vice Chair Mohr stated Reese Frederickson was elected secretary and in the event the chair is unavailable, Reese will now be able to sign documents.

Other: None.

5. Other

County Administrator Minke provided an overview of topics discussed with Senator Rarick and Representative Nelson at the AMC Legislative Conference.

6. Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

1W1P Nemaadji meeting (March 5, 2020) cancelled.

Minnesota Rural Counties (March 9, 2020) Commissioner Hallan unable to attend.

Vice Chair Mohr called a five-minute recess at 10:32 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

7. Presentation/Discussion of Tobacco 21 (T-21)

In 2019 the federal government raised the minimum age to sell tobacco products to individuals to 21. This federal law preempts local and state laws. County Attorney Reese Frederickson stated a local ordinance would be necessary to allow county law enforcement to enforce the sale to 21 year

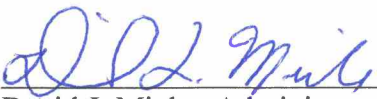
olds. Public Health Educator Hailey Freedlund commented on the increase of vaping and e-cigarette usage of students in schools. After discussion, it was the **consensus of the board** to hold a public hearing on April 7, 2020, 10:00 a.m., to discuss a tobacco ordinance raising the minimum selling age to 21 and to examine options such as banning flavored e-cigarettes.

8. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Vice Chair Mohr adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners



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