

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
North Pine Government Center, Sandstone, Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Hallan stated the Governor of the State of Minnesota has issued Executive Order 20-01 Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19. On March 24, 2020, the Pine County Board of Commissioners declared a local emergency for Pine County.

Based on these conditions, the Chair of the Pine County Board of Commissioners has determined that the requirements of Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subd. (1) have been met and it is not practical or prudent for all members of the county board to meet in person. Members of the county board will join the meeting remotely.

The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, WebEx or watch via live stream on YouTube.

Commissioner John Mikrot and Commissioner Matt Ludwig were present in the meeting room. Members present via electronic means were Chair Hallan, Commissioner Josh Mohr and Commissioner Steve Chaffee. Also present in the meeting room was County Administrator David Minke and present via electronic means was County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the agenda:

1. Correction-- Regular Agenda Item #3B / (Resolution 2020-54) / Authorizing the Public Land Auction, the Parcels to be Sold, the Appraised Values and the Sale Terms and Conditions
Parcels 11 & 12 should have had the language "Subject to Agricultural Lease A-1-20 (expires June 1, 2021 or upon harvest of 2020, whichever occurs first)."
2. Addition: Regular Agenda #4A – Broadband Feasibility Study letter of support
Consider letter of support for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for a broadband grant from the USDA to do a broadband feasibility study.
3. Addition: Commissioner Updates – Closing of Minnesota Correctional Facility at Willow River

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2020 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board of Directors regular meeting
Minutes – May 27, 2020 and June 24, 2020

Pine County Surveyor’s Monthly Report – July 2020

Motion by Commissioner Chaffee to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Applications**

Approval of the following:

A. **Application to Repurchase**

Resolution 2020-52 authorizing Ginger Jensen, the daughter of the deceased former owner Sandra Pederson, to repurchase the property at 9002 Royal Ave., Sturgeon Lake (PID 46.5028.000) on a 10-year repurchase contract. The property will be placed in the ownership of Sandra Pederson as no probate proceedings have taken place.

B. **Liquor License On/Off Sale Sundays**

Wild Horse Tavern (Kerrick Township); Doc’s Sports Bar & Grill, Inc. (Windemere Township); Floppie Crappie Lakeside Pub LLC (Pokegama Township); Wings North Inc. (Pokegama Township); Vannelli’s Landing Inc. (Pokegama Township); Nemadji Enterprises Inc. (Nickerson Township); Country Side Campground LLC (Sandstone Township); Rocking K Lazy E (Banning Lounge)/(Finlayson Township); Rocking K Lazy (Banning Off Sale)/(Finlayson Township); West Beroun Liquor LLC (Pokegama Township); Bear Creek Tavern (Arlone Township); Moose Lake Golf Club (Windemere Township); Pine City Country Club Inc. (Pine City Township); Badlands Entertainment LLC (DBA Maverick’s) (Chengwatana Township); Beroun Crossing Country Store (Pokegama Township).

Pending approval from the State, Township, County Sheriff and County Attorney
Authorize Board Chair and County Auditor to sign.

2. **Donation**

Accept a \$1,000 donation from David Ubl obo Slim’s Service of Hinckley and designate to the Pine County Sheriff’s Office K-9 program.

3. **Minnesota Prison Doula Project**

Approve the 2020 Minnesota Prison Doula Project contract. A maximum of \$15,000 will be spent annually. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

4. **Training**

A. Approve attendance by Appraiser Molly Benoit to attend the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices course, August 24-25, 2020 in St. Cloud. Registration: \$375;

Lodging, approx. \$96; Meals, approx. \$46. County car will be used. Total cost: approx. \$517.

- B. Approve attendance by Appraiser Kim Kylander to attend the Mass Appraisal Basics course, September 21-25, 2020 in St. Cloud. Registration: \$200; Lodging, approx. \$460; Meals, approx. \$67. County car will be used. Total cost: approx. \$727.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Tax-Forfeit Land Sale Public Hearing – Opposed by Wilma Township (at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical)**

Parcels Being Opposed are:

- 53 acres in Section 18 – identified as Parcels 32.0151.000 and 32.0150.001
- 160 acres in Section 9 – identified as Parcel 32.0070.000

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated February 18, 2020 the county board approved Resolution 2020-10 classifying a number of tax-forfeit properties as non-conservation and the intent to sell the parcels. This resolution was forwarded to local units of government for their review; Wilma Township opposes the sale of the three parcels that are located within their jurisdiction. In the case of opposition, MS 282.01 requires the county board to hold a public hearing to solicit comments and recommendations about the pending classification or reclassification of the tax-forfeit land.

Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:29 a.m. and called for public comment.

Wilma Township Supervisor Michael McCullen spoke in opposition of the sale of these public parcels as the township would like to see these lands kept for future public use. McCullen also commented that Parcel 32.0070.000 is landlocked and creating access to this parcel could be cumbersome and expensive to the township. With there being no further comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:33 a.m.

Land Commissioner Greg Beck was present and answered further questions from the board.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to reaffirm Pine County Resolution 2020-10 authorizing the classification of non-conservation and intent to sell listed parcels. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Nay; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Chaffee opposed.

2. **Introduction of Employee**

Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder introduced Environmental Technician Jeremy Williamson.

3. **2020 Tax Forfeit Land Auction and Sealed Bid Auction**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the land auction is scheduled for September 18, 2020 and to be held at the grandstands at the Pine County Fairgrounds pending approval by the Pine County Agricultural Society. Two types of auctions will be held, a public auction and a sealed bid adjoining landowner auction. The revenue from the sale of these parcels is split 40% county, 40% school district, and 20% township/city after all costs and special assessments are paid.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve of Resolution 2020-53 authorizing the sealed bid land auction to adjoining property owners, the parcels to be sold, the appraised values and the sale terms and conditions. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair

Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mikrot to approve of Resolution 2020-54 authorizing the public land auction, the parcels to be sold, the appraised values and the terms and conditions. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee (unavailable due to technological difficulties). Motion carried 4-0.

4. **Grant Application for ARMER Equipment**

Sheriff Jeff Nelson requested approval of Resolution 2020-55 approving the ARMER Equipment grant in the amount of \$9,391.50 to be used for equipment replacement. This grant requires a 50% match, \$4,695.75, available from the sheriff's dispatch budget.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2020-55 approving the ARMER Equipment grant in the amount of \$9,391.50. This grant requires a 50% match. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4A. **Support for Mille Lacs Corporate Venture's Grant Application**

County Administrator David Minke stated Mille Lacs Corporate Venture is applying for a USDA grant to complete a planning and feasibility study for broadband expansion and has requested a letter in support from the Pine County Board.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to provide a letter in support for Mille Lacs Corporate Venture's grant application to fund a broadband feasibility study for the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Deficient Bridges**

County Engineer Mark LeBrun stated Resolution 2020-51 identifies deficient bridges in the county which require replacement or rehabilitation within the next five years. The replacement/rehabilitation will begin as soon as state transportation bond funds are available.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2020-51 identifying deficient bridges in the county. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Summary of County Administrator Performance Evaluation**

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the summary conclusions of the July 21, 2020 performance evaluation of County Administrator David Minke. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Coronavirus Response Update**

- A. Community Health Services Administrator Sam Lo provided an update on the current public health situation.
- B. County Administrator David Minke provided an update on the current CARES Act funding distribution.

8. **Schedule Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Budget Committee)**

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to schedule the following Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Budget Committee) meetings for August 25, 2020, August 31, 2020 and September 9, 2020, all to commence at 9:00 a.m. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Mikrot/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Chaffee/Aye. Motion carried 5-0. The meetings will be conducted via electronic means.

9. **Commissioner Updates**

NLX – cancelled

Rush Lake Task Force: Commissioner Mikrot stated the work plan, insurance renewal and budget were approved; project updates were given; a MnDOT presentation on public transit was given.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Commissioner Mohr unable to attend.

1W1P Policy Committee – Lower St. Croix 1W1P: Chair Hallan stated he voted against the final plan because they decided to do a collaborative administration instead of a joint powers. The Committee is near the end of the planning phase and will be moving into implementation phase.

Technology Committee: cancelled

Central Regional EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated they signed an opioid grant to purchase Naloxone. Equipment to sanitizer ambulances was ordered with roll out to rural departments first.

Other: Chair Hallan stated the correctional facility at Willow River will be closed by the Department of Corrections due to budget constraints. The facility has 51 employees. Hallan also stated that a bonding bill (in which the Oberstar Segment of the Munger Trail may be a part) has not yet been passed by the legislature. He encouraged all to contact our legislators on these concerns.

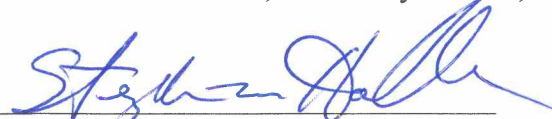
10. **Other**

11. **Upcoming Meetings**

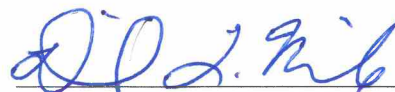
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

12. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., 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