

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

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 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 Terry Lovgren and Commissioner Matt Ludwig were present in the meeting room. Members present via electronic means were Chair Hallan and Commissioner Josh Mohr. Also present in the meeting room was County Administrator David Minke and present via electronic means was County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm was unavailable due to technology difficulties.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Chair Hallan asked for revisions to the Agenda. There were no revisions.

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

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. 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 Lovgren/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – January 2021

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – January 2021

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. 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 Lovgren/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Applications

Approve the following applications, and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign (where applicable):

A. Disaster Abatements

- i. Bruce Ripley, PID 30.0184.001, Sandstone Township, fire 12/29/19, did not become habitable in 2020;
- ii. Genell Klande, PID 28.0734.004, Pokegama Township, fire 8/12/20, did not become habitable in 2020;
- iii. Verjoooc Gostin, PID 45.5094.000, Sandstone City, fire 5/08/20, moved back in November 10, 2020 (5 months of abatement)

B. Premises Permit: Resolution 2021-08 approving premises permit for the Pine City Youth Hockey Association to conduct lawful gambling at Lake Appeil, 13646 Muffies Ln, Grasston (Pokegama Township)

C. 2021 Tobacco License: Floppie Crappie Lakeside Pub

D. 2021 Solid Waste Collection and Transportation Licenses: Holdt's Disposal LLC, Matt's Sanitation, Vanderpoel Disposal, Veit Disposal Systems, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, SKB Environmental Cloquet Landfill, Inc., Donna Tourville, Talon Sanitation LLC, Quality Disposal Systems Inc., Tri-Township Disposal District, Curt's Roll-Offs, LLC

2. Septic Fix-Up Special Assessments

Approve the following resolutions and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign:

- i. Resolution 2021-03 against PID 25.0138.002, owned by Mitchell Hobbins, in the amount of \$12,500 for 10 years at 0% interest beginning in 2022.
- ii. Resolution 2021-04 rescinding resolution 2020-71 extending a special assessment against parcel 33.0725.000, owned by Troy Foucault and Megan Moore, in the amount of \$15,000 with \$13,550 remaining unpaid for 9 years at 0% interest beginning in 2022.

3. Final Payment – Hardrives, Inc.

Approve final payment to Houle Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$8,304.13 for Contract #1904 related to:

SAP 058-599-044 Located on Balsam Road, 0.2 miles East of Lake 12 Road over unnamed tributary

Authorize County Administrator to sign Certificate of Final Contract Acceptance.

4. Support of North Pine Riders Federal Recreational Trail Grant for the Soo Line South Trail

Approve Resolution 2021-09 supporting the North Pine Riders Federal Recreational Trail Grant for the Soo Line South Trail. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

5. Contracts

Approve the following contracts and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign:

A. Pine County Health & Human Services and Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.)
to provide transportation to eligible social service clients. Term: January 1, 2021 through

December 31, 2022. Arrowhead is reimbursed at the IRS mileage rate plus an administrative rate of 38 cents per mile for mileage driven.

- B. 2021 Pine County Health & Human Services and Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment (PHASE). PHASE will provide day training and habilitation and supported employment to individuals who are not on a waived program.
PHASE North & Recycling: Daily/\$62.83; Partial/\$47.13; RT Transportation/\$22
PHASE South: Daily/\$103.60; Partial/\$77.71; RT Transportation/\$22
Supported Employment 1:1: 15 minutes / as negotiated
- C. Law Enforcement Contract with City of Willow River – term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Hourly rates: 2021/\$57.77, 2022/\$59.50, 2023/\$61.29
- D. Law Enforcement Contract with City of Askov – term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Hourly rates: 2021/\$57.77, 2022/\$59.50, 2023/\$61.29

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Health Insurance Committee Report

Commissioner Lovgren provided an overview of the January 21, 2021 Health Insurance Committee meeting. United Health Care (UHC) has four wellness programs available for the county to purchase, the programs ranging from a no cost plan to \$23,000 annually. UHC has included a \$55,000 implementation credit. The credit needs to be repaid on a prorated basis (approximately \$18,000 per year). The county's direction is to dedicate these funds to the wellness program. Discussion was held whether the funds should be focused on only employees on the county's health insurance, or if they should be accessible to all county employees. **Motion** by Commissioner Lovgren to authorize the Wellness Committee to select a wellness program from UHC and to provide funding up to \$18,000 per year from the implementation credit. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Land and Zoning Advisory Committee Report

Commissioner Ludwig provided an overview of the February 1, 2021 Land and Zoning Advisory Committee. Items discussed included a review of parcels not sold at the 2020 land sale; new parcels available for sale in 2021; review of the 5% set aside of tax forfeit land sales for clean up of blighted tax forfeit properties; and a change to increase the current 10% set aside to 20% of tax forfeit land and timber sales for acquisition and/or maintenance of county parks and recreational areas. Also discussed was the encroachments onto county property with the building of permanent deer stands and other structures and the cutting of trees for shooting lanes. Action items from this meeting will be brought before the county board on February 16th.

3. 2020 Midwest Medical Examiner's Office Annual Report

Dr. A. Quinn Strobl, Medical Examiner for Pine County, presented the 2020 Medical Examiner's annual report for Pine County. Dr. Strobl stated her office reviewed 225 cases and performed 39 autopsies.

4. Health & Human Services Waivered Services

Social Services Supervisor Pat Meacham presented information on waived service program areas in Pine County and Case Manager Samantha Maser shared a client success story.

5. **Property Tax/CAMA Support Contract**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder explained the necessity of having a maintenance and support contract in place on the current Property Tax/Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system until a new system is in place. This support contract is for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to ratify the two Property Tax System Maintenance and Support Agreement Amendments between Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MnCCC) and Avenu providing an extension for support for Property Tax System (PTS), and Cama USA, for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

6. **Lower St. Croix 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan**

Chair Hallan stated the implementation funding work plan was discussed at the Lower St. Croix 1W1P meeting. Each agency that is represented must approve the work plan before it goes back for final approval from the Lower St. Croix 1W1P board. The total work plan budget is \$1,264,531 with \$20,000 identified for targeted analysis of Rock Lake in Pine County.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Lower St. Croix 1W1P first biennium work plan and budget. 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 Lovgren/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

7. **Schedule a Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole**

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to schedule a Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (via video conference), July 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing areas of interest with the DNR, with DNR Regional Director Patty Thielen. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

8. **Coronavirus Response Update**

A. Community Health Services Administrator Sam Lo provided an update on the current public health situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine distributions.

B. Pine County Business and Non-Profit Assistance Grant Update

County Administrator David Minke stated as of February 1st 50 completed applications had been received (deadline for receipt of applications is February 5th). It is anticipated that more grants will be received than funds are available. Checks should be sent out to the winning recipients within three weeks of the February 5th deadline.

9. **Legislative Updates**

County Administrator stated the AMC Legislative Conference is February 18th for commissioners interested in attending. Two legislative issues of importance include the possible 2.5% reduction in County Probation Officer (CPO) funding, and the possible cost shift to counties of paying more for children and adolescents who no longer meet the hospitalization criteria but still need significant care.

10. **Commissioner Updates**

Arrowhead Counties Association (ACA): Commissioner Ludwig stated, the state is looking at starting a new adult mental health initiative (more information to be provided at a later date).

The three top priorities that made the ACA legislative priority list were County Program Aid (CPA), Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding. Also noted the Department of Human Services is sending out bills to counties that received overpayment (\$44,000 bill to Pine County). Officers were elected, and Pine County's Workfast program was discussed.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Commissioner Mohr stated bills paid and audit work done. At the next management board meeting discussion will take place as to whether to keep the management board active or to incorporate into the 1W1P board.

Snake River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee: Commissioner Mohr stated they are working on the planning and direction for the 1W1P plan.

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council: Chair Hallan stated the clients that Lakes and Pines provides services to are especially struggling during the pandemic.

Lower St. Croix Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated requested distribution of funds to projects is ongoing.

Central Regional EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated the State is going to do a non-competitive grant to make it easier for applications. The Minnesota Resuscitation Consortium will send an AED survey hoping that people take an active role in returning the survey; this may result in a grant to replace AEDs. Vaccination distributions were discussed. Commissioner Ludwig also stated a portion of EMS funding comes from seatbelt violation fines. Because of increased compliance in seatbelt usage, this fund is decreasing; Central EMS would like to see fine allocation from another statute be applied to their funding.

Other: None

11. **Other**


None.

12. **Upcoming Meetings**

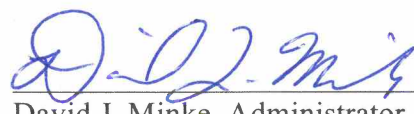
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

13. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy 23. No., Sandstone, Minnesota.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners
Josh Mohr, Vice Chair



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