

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

**Tuesday, March 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, Commissioner Josh Mohr, and Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm. 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. Ailene Croup requested a copy of the Health Insurance Committee Minutes.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the agenda:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 1. Regular Agenda Item #1: Minutes from the February 24, 2021 Insurance Committee Meeting**

ADDITIONS:

- 1. Consent Agenda #2.1: Donation**
Consider approval of \$5,196 donation from the Rock Creek Lions.
- 2. Regular Agenda #1.1: Introduction of Pine County 4-H Youth Development/Extension Educator Hannah Halldorson**
- 3. Regular Agenda #2.1: Amendment to Employment Agreement with the County Administrator**
Consider approval of an Amendment to the Employment Agreement with the County Administrator and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.
- 4. Regular Agenda #3.1: Letter in Support of City of Sandstone for Creation of Panther Park (skate park)**
Consider approval of a letter in support of the Sandstone City Council to receive grant money for the creation of Panther Park skate park in the City of Sandstone.

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

Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2021 county board meeting and Summary for publication, and February 23, 2021 Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Broadband). Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition – February 8, 2021

Mission Creek Township Zoning Commission – February 10, 2021

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

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. 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; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Applications / Exempt Permit

Approve the Application for Exempt Permit from the Mission Creek Ducks Unlimited to conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on April 25, 2021 at the Wings North, 19379 Homestead Rd., Pine City, MN (Pokegama Township).

2. Contracts

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

A. 2021-2023 Law Enforcement Contract with City of Rock Creek

Term: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2023

Hourly rates: 2021-\$57.77, 2022-\$59.50, 2023-\$61.29. All other terms remain unchanged from the previous contract.

B. 2021 Prosecution Contract with City of Rock Creek

Term: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Rate: \$3,500 annually

2.1 Donation

Approve the \$5,196 donation from the Rock Creek Lions. This donation, together with the trade in of four current AEDs, will allow for the purchase of four new AEDs to be placed in squad cars.

3. Personnel (Employment Status)

Approve the regular employment status for Child Support Officer Tracy Erickson, effective March 10, 2021.

4. New Hire

Approve the hiring of Eligibility Workers Angie Horton and Darcie Koecher, effective March 8, 2021, \$19.84 per hour, Grade 6, Step 1.

5. **Training**

Authorize Children's Mental Health Social Worker Amber Andrews to attend the Minnesota Social Services Association Conference, March 17-19, 2021. The conference is being held virtually. Registration: \$150.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Health Insurance Committee Report**

Commissioner Lovgren provided an overview of the February 24, 2021 Health Insurance Committee meeting. The committee discussed current versus future funding and discussed reserve funding goal strategies. It was the **consensus of the committee** to recommend the minimum long-term reserve funding goal with a target balance of \$1,031,015.

The appeals process for denied claims was discussed; appeal options include to 1) allow United Health Care, or 2) allow Pine County, to review and consider the appeal. It was the **consensus of the committee** to recommend that United Health Care handle all claim appeals with the understanding the county can make administrative adjustments.

The Wellness Committee met on February 24, 2021 and made the recommendation to implement the UHC turn-key Rally Engaged program. The program has various health and wellness incentives and provides financial rewards via HSA/VEBA contributions (not taxed) or gift cards (taxable). The basic Rally program (without incentives) is available to employees with health insurance effective March 1st; the Rally Engaged program (with incentives) will become available to employees with health insurance June 1st.

1.1 **Introduction of Pine County 4-H Youth Development / Extension Educator**

University of Minnesota Extension Regional Coordinator Susanne Hinrichs introduced Pine County 4-H Youth Development/Extension Educator Hannah Halldorson.

2. **Encroachment and Trespass of Improvements Policy**

Commissioner Ludwig provided an overview of the Encroachment and Trespass of Improvement Policy. This policy is to provide a direction and solution to encroachments and trespass of improvements and structures on Pine County managed tax-forfeited properties.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Pine County Land Department Encroachment and Trespass of Improvements and Structures on Tax-Forfeited Properties policy. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2.1 **Amendment to Employment Agreement with the County Administrator**

County Administrator Minke has an employment agreement with Pine County which states he is employed exclusively by Pine County. The amendment to the current employment agreement would allow outside work, if it is approved by the county board. County Administrator Minke has been asked by another county to be a hearing officer for a one-day event.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to amend the Employment Agreement with the County Administrator to allow outside work on a case-by-case basis. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. 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 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to authorize County Administrator Minke to serve as an administrative hearing officer for an employee disciplinary action in Polk County, Wisconsin.

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

3. **Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Commissioner Vacancy**

Consideration of appointment of HRA commissioner to fill vacancy to be placed on the March 16, 2021 county board agenda.

3.1 **Letter in Support of City of Sandstone for Creation of Panther Park (skate park)**

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the letter of support for the City of Sandstone for the creation of Panther Park skate park. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Legislative Update**

The Minnesota's Office of Management and Budget (MMB) released its February revenue forecast. The report projects a surplus of \$1.6 billion for the next budget cycle, which begins in July. The surplus is a reversal from the November forecast, which projected a \$1.27 billion deficit for the upcoming budget cycle.

5. **Commissioner Updates**

AMC Legislative Conference: Commissioner Lovgren stated there is \$1 trillion dollars of CARES Act funds that were not spent. CARES Act funding for those who need to take time off due to COVID has been extended to September, 2021. Redistricting information will be released in late September.

AMC Policy Meetings: Chair Hallan attended the transportation policy meeting--a lot of what was discussed had to do with not knowing what the February forecast would be. Gas tax collection was down for a portion of the year so there is less money to put into the formula for funds for county/township roads; some road projects may be delayed due to this.

Commissioner Lovgren attended the Health & Human Services policy meeting—funding discussion on homelessness that is going on from the streets to a hotel to a home. Other items discussed included increasing maternity leave to 12 months, efficacy of COVID vaccines, and whether there will be a need for a booster shot for COVID 19.

AMC Tribal Relations Forum: Chair Hallan commented on the positive outcomes which happen with tribal/county collaboration.

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig stated the governor's budget recommends reducing appropriations by \$1.6 million in 2022 and \$6.61 million in 2023, which represents a 2.5% reduction to the Community Corrections Act (CCA) subsidy and County Probation Officer (CPO) reimbursement program. Commissioner Ludwig stated that the Department of Human Services has determined that the Moose Lake Alternative fund is no longer a separate funding source and those funds have now integrated into the AMHI Integrated Fund where DHS is spreading those dollars statewide rather than just focused in our region.

Pine County Law Library: Commissioner Mohr stated the state law library contract was renewed. Maintenance to book shelves will be taking place. The kiosk, which was purchased with CARES Act funds, has been installed.

Extension Committee: Commissioner Mohr stated HHS Director Becky Foss gave an update on the COVID vaccine. A presentation was given by David Abaz, Exec. Director of Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, on trees that adapt with climate change. The Master

Gardeners are planning on a plant sale this year. The 2021 budget was reviewed. Ag Educator Rod Greder updated the committee on the new process for nomination of the Farm Family of the Year. The 2021 Chair and Vice Chair were elected.

Rush Line Task Force: Commissioner Waldhalm stated funding grants for projects in the metro areas were discussed. Ramsey County is the fiscal agent for the task force. The tax force is in opposition to House File 1027/Senate File 957 that would change the way guideway transit projects, such as the Rush Line, are funded.

Snake River Watershed Management Board - cancelled

Snake River Watershed Policy Committee - cancelled

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council: Chair Hallan stated funding for fuel assistance was discussed.

East Central Regional Development Commission: No report given.

East Central Regional Library Trustee Board: Commissioner Lovgren stated the Scholarship Committee met. Letters were sent to schools and libraries for income-eligible families to apply for scholarships to help pay for college.

Other: None.

6. **Other**


Fifty interested parties attended the Broadband special meeting on February 23rd. Nineteen participants will take part in the CBR: Accelerate program led by the Blandin Foundation.

7. **Upcoming Meetings**

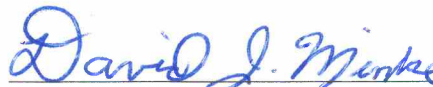
Upcoming meetings were reviewed. Personnel Committee meeting time has been moved from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on March 8, 2021.

8. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 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