

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 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 Matt Ludwig was present in the meeting room. Members present via electronic means were Chair Hallan, Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren and J.J. Waldhalm. Also present in the meeting room was County Administrator David Minke.

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:

REVISION:

Consent Agenda Item #2: Memorandum of Understanding with District Court

Amend the Memorandum of Understanding to reflect Paul Patterson, Tenth Judicial District Administrator, as the Project Manager.

ADD:

Regular Agenda 8: Commissioner Update

Pine County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Update

Commissioner Lovgren asked if the filling of the zoning and solid waste technician position was to be a consent item as the agenda request indicated it be placed on the regular agenda. County Administrator Minke stated the consent agenda is the appropriate platform for a request to fill an approved position.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. 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 Mohr to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 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; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Senior Housing Board of Directors Minutes – February 24, 2021

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – March 8, 2021

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – March, 2021

MN Department of Human Services Internal Audits Office correspondence – March 5, 2021

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. 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 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/unavailable due to technology difficulties; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Applications/Abatement**

Approve the abatement application for Darin & Heidi Holmgren for parcels 33.0586.000 and 33.0578.000 for 2019.

2. **Memorandum of Understanding with District Court**

Approve the amended Memorandum of Understanding with the 10th Judicial District, State of Minnesota to remodel space and appoint Paul Patterson, Tenth Judicial District Court Administrator, as Project Manager on behalf of the district court, and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

3. **Donations**

Accept the \$2,000 donation from Jens H. Jensen Post 243 (Askov) for the Veterans van maintenance and operation expenses.

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

Approve Resolution 2021-23 extending special assessments as follow: Michael Winters, PID 28.0524.003, \$19,900, 20 years, 3% interest; Glen McDowell, PID 30.0354.004, \$14,500, 15 years, 3% interest; James & Donna Westman, PID 43.0595.001, \$20,225, 20 years, 3% interest. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

5. **Appointment to Northeast Minnesota Regional Emergency Communications Board and Radio Advisory Committee**

Approve the appointment of Chief Deputy-Designee Scott Grice as the 2021 alternate representative to the Northeast Minnesota Regional Emergency Communications Board and Northeast Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee, effective May 24, 2021.

6. **Grant Agreement for Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Communications Networks (DECN) Telephone Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation**

Acknowledge the award of a \$3,948 grant to train all dispatchers as emergency medical dispatchers. There is no match requirement.

7. **2021 Timber Auction**

Approve the timber auction tracts and the general terms and conditions of the sale. Timber auction scheduled for May 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m., 1610 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone. Seven parcels to be offered, estimated 5,745 cords at an appraised value of \$144,000.

8. **Personnel / Internal Transfer / Promotion**

- A. Approve the lateral transfer of Social Worker Tally Staber to Case Management, Adult Services Unit, effective April 12, 2021. Current wage remains unchanged.
- B. Approve the promotion of Jessica Sonstebly to full-time Zoning and Solid Waste Technician, \$21.04 per hour, grade 7.

9. **Training**

- A. Approve Social Worker Cassie Peterson to attend the virtual 25th Annual Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference, April 19-20, 2021. Registration: \$180.
- B. Approve Planning and Zoning staff to attend the following training/total cost \$4,295.
Caleb Anderson: Soils Continuing Education/June 10, 2021–Pelican Rapids, Registration/\$225, Meals/\$20, Mileage/\$200; General Continuing Education/April 26, 2021–Mankato, Registration/\$195, Meals/\$20, Mileage/\$200.
Lukas Olson: General Continuing Education-online, Registration/\$115; General Continuing Education/April 27, 2021–Mankato, Registration/\$115, Meals/\$20; Soils Continuing Education/date & location to be determined, Registration/\$255, Meals/\$20, Mileage/\$200
Jessica Sonstebly: Basic Design/date & location to be determined, Registration/\$495, Lodging/\$500, Mileage/\$200; Soils Pre-Certification/date & location to be determined, Registration/\$340, Lodging/\$260, Mileage/\$200; Inspecting Onsite Systems/date & location to be determined, Registration/\$310, Lodging/\$200, Mileage/\$175.

REGULAR AGENDA

Commissioner Waldhalm rejoined the board meeting at 10:12 a.m.

1. **Ordinance 2020-63 – Slow-No Wake Boating**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson reviewed that a public hearing was held October 6, 2020 on the proposed ordinance. The ordinance provides water elevations at which boat wakes will be prohibited. The proposed ordinance was submitted for approval to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as required in MN 6110.3800; the DNR provided approval of the ordinance in February, 2021. Anderson stated if the ordinance is approved by the county board, notification to boaters will be provided by the Sheriff's Office and Planning Department by using social media, the county website, posting general signage about the ordinance at the public boat launches, and notification to the lake associations.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve Ordinance 2020-63 regulating the surface use (slow-no wake) of Pokegama Lake, Cross Lake and the Snake River between these lakes. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. 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.

2. **Technology Committee Report**

Commissioner Mohr provided an overview of the March 23, 2021 Technology Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the Public Safety Answering Point equipment and services (911 phone system) contracts. Project cost is \$86,960.82 for hardware and services, with an annual maintenance agreement cost of \$23,539.65. Jail camera replacement, employee teleworking, and various IT project updates were given.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the dispatch center phone equipment Purchase Agreement (\$86,960.82) and Maintenance Agreement (\$23,539.65/annual cost) with Independent Emergency Services, LLC. 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.

3. **Special Committee Report – County Support of Second Amendment to the United States Constitution**

Commissioner Ludwig stated a Special Committee met on March 25, 2021 to discuss the county's support of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Upon discussion, the Committee consisting of Chair Hallan, Commissioner Ludwig, County Attorney Reese Frederickson and County Administrator David Minke, drafted a resolution stating the county board reaffirms its support of the Constitution of the United States and of the Second Amendment and expresses their commitment to the rights of all law-abiding citizens of Pine County to keep and bear arms. At the board meeting, Commissioner Ludwig submitted into the record petitions containing approximately 500 signatures requesting the county board to strengthen their support and encouraged the board to make Pine County a Second Amendment sanctuary county.

Commissioners Ludwig, Hallan and Mohr stated the resolution as drafted provides assurance of the county board's support of the Second Amendment. Commissioner Lovgren expressed the county should take the support further and support a sanctuary county designation. Commissioner Lovgren experienced audio technology difficulty and was at times difficult to hear. The consensus was to take a vote today to put something on the record in support of the Second Amendment, and to continue the conversation at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2021-25, as drafted, supporting the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. 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.

4. **Mille Lacs Band Corporate Ventures Fiber Optic Project**

Dustin Goslin, VP of Business and Economic Development and Beth Gruber, Director of Organizational Effectiveness from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures provided information on a proposed broadband project (census tract 9504) which encompasses an area east of the City of Hinckley to Lake Lena. The project is proposed for funding through Congressman Stauber's office.

5. **Dependent Care Flex Spending Increase for 2021**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Koivisto stated the American Rescue Plan Act includes a provision to allow employees to increase their pretax contribution limit for dependent care flexible spending accounts for calendar year 2021. The dependent care flexible spending limit would increase to \$10,500--up from \$5,000 for single taxpayers and married couples filing jointly, and up to \$5,250 for married individuals filing separately.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve to increase the 2021 annual dependent care flex spending limit to \$10,500 for single taxpayers and married couples filing jointly and up to \$5,250 for married individuals filing separately. 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 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Shoreland Management Ordinance Amendments**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated the Zoning Board has reviewed potential amendments to the Pine County Shoreland Management Ordinance. Anderson reviewed the proposed changes to solicit commissioner feedback and direction. The changes include grading and filling, minimum lot widths, guest quarters in accessory dwellings, variance mitigation plans and ordinary high water level and road right-of-way setback averaging. After discussion, it was recommended further discussion of structure setback averaging take place.

7. **Legislative Update**

The legislature is in recess for Easter.

8. **Commissioner Updates**

New Commissioner Training: No report.

CBR: Accelerate Program. Chair Hallan stated good conversation and ideas taking place. Good mix of participants and broadband opportunities are presenting themselves.

Arrowhead Counties Association (ACA): Commissioner Ludwig reviewed the legislative highlights important to the ACA.

Snake River Watershed Management Board - cancelled

Snake River Watershed Policy Committee – cancelled

Tel. Conf. w/Senator Smith's Office: Chair Hallan stated the need for broadband was discussed as well as the Recovery Act dollars usage.

Workfast Auto Tech Graduation: Commissioner Mohr stated there continues to be a lot of enthusiasm for the Workfast programs.

Lower St. Croix Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated the planning phase is completed.

MN Rural Broadband Legislative Day: Commissioner Lovgren stated the need for broadband is very prevalent.

NLX: Cancelled.

Township Officers' Meeting: Chair Hallan stated good attendance at the meeting, however some of the more populous townships were not in attendance.

Other:

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Update: Commissioner Ludwig stated the HRA Board has a couple of new members which are great additions. The City of Sandstone is working with the owner of the North Court apartment to facilitate a sale to a local organization to preserve the site-based section 8 vouchers. The HRA is considering its role in the project.

9. **Other**

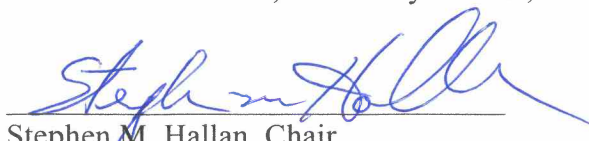
None.

10. **Upcoming Meetings**

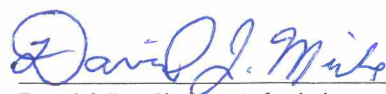
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

11. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 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