

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 4, 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.

Commissioners Terry Lovgren, J.J. Waldhalm, and Matt Ludwig were present in the meeting room. Chair Hallan and Commissioner Josh Mohr were present via electronic means. Also present in the meeting room was County Administrator David Minke. County Attorney Reese Frederickson was present via electronic means.

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:

**ADDITIONS:**

1. **Subparagraph C to Consent Item 2: MNDOT Tax-Forfeit Land Conveyance/Purchase**  
C. Approval of a temporary construction easement along the north and west sides of Parcel 45.5176.000.
2. **Consent Agenda Item 2.1: Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring Grant**  
Consider approval of the Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) grant for the Probation Department for FY 2022-2023 for a total of \$23,000.
3. **Regular Agenda Item 3.1: Emergency Medical Services Week**  
Consider approval of Resolution 2021-34 proclaiming the week of May 16-22, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week.
4. **Regular Agenda Item 4.1: Schedule In-Person / Remote Special Meeting–Committee of the Whole**  
Consider scheduling an in-person/remote Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole, May 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m., to conduct a public hearing for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Coronavirus response Program (DEED-CDBG-CV) on the following projects and consider resolutions to approve and submit the projects to DEED.
  - A. Broadband Development Project – Project Partner SCI Broadband

B. Retrofitting Buildings and Commercial Rehabilitation – Project in partnership with A Place for You (APFY)

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. 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 approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. 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.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – April 2021

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. 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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. 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.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Applications**

Approve the following applications:

A. **Abatement**

- i. Suk Cha Seidel: PID 11.0098.000 for taxes payable in 2021, removing the cabin value (\$29,500) that is not on the property

B. **Exempt Permit**

- i. To conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on August 15, 2021, at the Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, (Chengwatana Township).

2. **MNDOT Tax-Forfeit Land Conveyance/Purchase**

Approve Resolutions 2021-32 and 2021-33 and Temporary Easement and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign:

- A. Resolution 2021-32 conveying PID 45.5176.000 in its entirety to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for the appraised value of \$1,200.
- B. Resolution 2021-33 conveying a 20' x 25' portion of PID 45.5310.000, to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, for the appraised value of \$1,300. Leonard Bonander, purchaser of this tax-forfeited parcel, and Pine County both have interest in this parcel and both parties agree that payment for the property be made to Pine County and applied to the principle balance of Mr. Bonander's Repurchase Contract.
- C. Temporary construction easement along the north and west sides of Parcel 45.5176.000. The parcel is being repurchased by Leonard Bonander. The easement shall cease on December 1, 2024, or on such earlier date upon which the Commissioner of Transportation determines by formal order that it is no longer needed for highway purposes.

2.1 **Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring Grant**

Approve the Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) grant for the Probation Department for FY 2022-2023 for a total of \$23,000. This amount includes previous amount without amendment for \$10,000 and this amendment of \$13,000. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

3. **Personnel (Employment Status)/Promotion**

Approve the regular employment status to the following:

- A. Eligibility Worker Andrea Norberg, effective April 24, 2021
- B. Eligibility Worker Denise Blesi, effective May 10, 2021
- C. Social Worker Brittney Hogle, effective May 24, 2021

4. **New Hire**

Approve the hiring of Jessica Brown, Social Worker, effective May 17, 2021, \$27.20 per hour, Grade 10, Step 3, contingent upon successful background investigation.

5. **Training**

Approve assessor staff Lorri Houtsma/Assessor, Troy Stewart/Deputy Assessor, Jennifer Christensen/Senior Appraiser, and Property Appraisers Karen Stumne, Molly Benoit, and Kim Kylander, to virtually attend the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officer's Summer Seminars, May 26-27, 2021. Cost of the seminars are \$40 per session per person, total cost \$760.

**REGULAR**

1. **County Zoning Ordinance 2021-30, Amending the County Zoning and SSTS Ordinance – Public Hearing**

Land and Resources Manager/Zoning Administrator Caleb Anderson explained Ordinance 2021-30 addresses amendments to the Pine County Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Ordinance relating to (1) the ability to provide greater control on sewage management when recreational vehicles (RVs) are used as dwellings or residences, and (2) to provide septic contractors and homeowners flexibility to install septic system components closer to lot lines and existing structures than state sewer codes allow. Ordinance 2021-30 also addresses an amendment to the Pine County Zoning Ordinance relating to an increase in homeowners' flexibility to provide temporary family health care dwellings.

Discussion took place as to unlicensed, occasional-use, or RV's which have construction add-ons and the requirement for sewage management this ordinance would create. Discussion of the intent of the proposed ordinance is to require sewage treatment for campers serving as permanent or semi-permanent dwellings and not apply to fix-up project campers or campers used as hunting shacks. The county board stated the language of 4.06.01 should be revised to more reflect the intended purpose. County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the language in 4.06.01A could be revised to clarify the ordinance to reflect "...provisions of this ordinance when any two of the following conditions occur..."

Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:32 a.m. Aileen Croup stated licensing of an RV should not be taken into consideration for SSTS but it should be a township-regulated consideration or public health issue. There being no additional comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:34 a.m.

Commissioner Mohr state the intent is sewage not being properly disposed not regulating unlicensed RVs. It was the consensus of the board that 4.06.01 should be referred back to the Zoning Board for revised language and then brought back to the county board for reconsideration.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt Pine County Ordinance 2021-30 amending the Pine County Zoning Ordinance, and Pine County Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Sections 5.03.03/Board of Adjustment and 5.03.04/Administrative Variances. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. 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.

2. **Liquor Ordinance 2021-31 -- Public Hearing**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated Minnesota Statute 340A.404 allows restaurants with 25 seats or more, which hold both an on-sale 3.2 liquor license and a wine license, to sell on-sale intoxicating malt beverages with no additional license if the county board authorizes it by ordinance. The county has two on-sale 3.2 liquor license holders. As the county has never issued any wine licenses, a fee also needs to be established for that license. The fees associated with licenses was discussed – a regular on-sale license is \$1,500, 3.2 liquor license is \$50, and proposed wine license would be \$150, so it is more cost effective for a business to purchase an on-sale 3.2 license and wine license for \$200 versus \$1,500 for a regular liquor license. Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:47 a.m. There being no public testimony, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:47 a.m.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-31 amending previous liquor ordinances and set the fee for the Wine License at \$150. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. 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.

3. **Amendment Joint Powers Agreement – Work Release**

Jail Administrator Rod Williamson requested approval of an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for Work Release Services, which includes extending services for an additional year, ending June 30, 2022, and extending the total obligation of the state from \$80,000 to a maximum obligation of \$160,000.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for Work Release Services. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Mohr. 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.

3.1. **Emergency Medical Services Week**

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2021-34 designating the week of May 16-22, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Pine County. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. 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.

4. **Schedule In-Person / Remote Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole**

An in-person / remote Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole is scheduled for June 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota. The

purpose of the meeting is: continued discussion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, sales tax/transportation/roads, broadband, American Rescue Plan, and economic development update. The public may attend in person, via Web-Ex or view on YouTube.

4.1. **Schedule In-Person / Remote Special Meeting – Public Hearing**

An in-person / remote Special Meeting-Public Hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m., to conduct a public hearing for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Coronavirus response Program (DEED-CDBG-CV) on the following projects and consider resolutions to approve and submit the projects to DEED:

- A. Broadband Development Project – Project Partner SCI Broadband
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5. **Legislative Update**

Administrator Minke stated it is under two weeks to the completion of the session; there are at least 11 Omnibus bills at the Conference Committee stage.

6. **Commissioner Updates**

Bridging Divides/Commissioner Training: Commissioner Lovgren stated this training focused on clear communication.

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig stated John Ongaro provided a detailed legislative update; counties will not be responsible for payment of the clawback dollars, will be handled in the budget of Health & Human Services. Information was provided on the tax settlement with the counties that have pipelines – some of the counties will have considerable payback. County Probation Officer (CPO) and Community Corrections Act (CCA) probation dollars are not going to be cut as was in the original budget and there may be an inflationary increase to both. Carlton County is happy with their satellite broadband. Aitkin County struggling to hire nurses.

CBR: Accelerate Program: Commissioner Lovgren stated the project is now at the stage where providers are being talked to. Some providers have indicated they are very busy and may not be able to be involved in this project. Commissioner Lovgren spoke with CenturyLink, Commissioner Mohr spoke with Frontier, County Administrator Minke with SCI, and Chair Hallan is reaching out to Midco.

Snake River Watershed Management Board – Cancelled

AMC Futures Past Presenters, Virtual Coffee: Commissioner Lovgren stated this presentation was given by Mark Thomas, a professor at the University of Minnesota. Conversation was about the large amount of illegal drugs available and how they affect the community.

Snake River Watershed Policy Committee: Commissioner Mohr stated mussels, lake sturgeon, and other things affecting the watershed were discussed. The next meeting will focus on the future of the Snake River Watershed Management Board.

East Central Regional Development Commission: Commissioner Waldhalm unable to attend.

NLX: Commissioners Ludwig and Lovgren unable to attend.

HRA: Commissioner Ludwig stated the purpose of this meeting was discussion of the purchase of the North Court Apartments in Sandstone; purchasing options and value were discussed. Jan Oak has tendered her resignation due to health reasons.

Central Region EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated their budget balance is currently \$200,000—seatbelt revenue continues to decline. There has been an uptick in our area for a request for naloxone. The state is demobilizing its large quantity of PPE. COVID update given.

Economic Development Committee: Commissioner Mohr stated Lezlie Sauter, who will start May 17<sup>th</sup> as the Economic Development Coordinator, was able to attend this meeting. Discussion of the fund to cities, townships, and the county from the American Rescue Plan funds. The estimated county amount to be received is \$5.7M, city/township amount is \$3.4M. Outreach to cities and townships is necessary due to if these funds are not spent, the funds do not automatically roll to the county. Priorities discussed were broadband, housing, business relief focus on property improvements to increase the value and viability of the business, sewer/water infrastructure, stimulation of housing construction, and revenue replacement.

MN Rural Counties: Chair Hallan unable to attend the meeting.

Other:

Zoning Board: Commissioner Ludwig stated a company called the Getaway House is going to take over the area formerly Wilderness Campground on the north end of Long Lake. It will be used as a camping, retreat-type getaway.

State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC): Commissioner Lovgren stated that our Public Health department is very strong and this was very apparent throughout the pandemic. A COVID update was given.

7. **Other**

None.

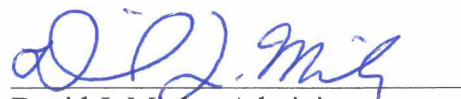
8. **Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

9. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 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