

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Special Meeting-Public Hearings
Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Projects (CDBG-CV)
Tuesday, May 24, 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.

Chair Hallan and Commissioner Matt Ludwig were present in the meeting room. Commissioner Lovgren was present via electronic means. Commissioners Josh Mohr and J.J. Waldhalm were absent (excused). 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 stated that Pine County desires to act as funding sponsors for Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Community Development Block Grants– Coronavirus Project (CDBG-CV) for two projects:

- (1) Broadband Expansion Project for Areas of Census Tracts 9504 and 9505 in Cooperation with SCI Broadband, and
- (2) Shelter Improvement Project in Cooperation with A Place for You.

The following public hearings for these two projects are necessary to move forward with the grant application process.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING: Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Project (CDBG-CV) Broadband Expansion Project for Areas of Census Tracts 9504 and 9505 in Cooperation with SCI Broadband**
Scott Savage, Sales Manager for Savage Communications (SCI) stated this is a fiber-to-home project in the Hinckley/Sandstone area. Savage reviewed the project areas stating 487 homes are available for service. The project will provide up to gigabit symmetrical service. Savage also reviewed the funding sources for this project – CDBG-CV grant /\$2,787,704, and SCI Debt commitment/\$256,086. It is anticipated the timeline for completion of this project is 30 months. The cost to the homeowner for service was discussed—average subscriber rate is \$57 per month, but packages are available between \$40-\$120 per month.

Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:13 a.m. There being no public comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:14 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2021-36, supporting the broadband expansion project in cooperation with SCI Broadband and directing the submission of the grant. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/absent; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/absent; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye. Motion passed 3-0.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Project (CDBG-CV) Shelter Improvement Project in Cooperation with A Place For You

Vicki VanderVegt, Executive Director of a Place For You gave an overview of the requested building remodeling of A Place for You. The remodel would include a new roof and siding, expansion of resident rooms and bathrooms into an area being vacated by Furnishings for You, new HVAC, replacement of flooring and updating of lighting, and an update to the kitchen and office areas. VanderVegt estimated the project cost between \$469,470 - \$500,000.

Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:29 a.m. Pine City residents Carol VanderHorck and Mary Kay Sloan expressed their support for this project. With no further public comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:32 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2021-37, supporting the shelter improvement project in cooperation with A Place For You and directing the submission of the grant. 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/absent; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/absent. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners



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