

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

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan welcomed the Health & Human Services department to the courthouse. Health & Human Services has recently moved from the South Pine Government Center location to the Courthouse.

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr and Terry Lovgren. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Due to out-of-town commitments, Commissioners Matt Ludwig and J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioners were seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at locations open and accessible to the public, and participated from:

Commissioner Ludwig: Staybridge Suites, 2350 Commerce Drive NW, Rochester, MN

Commissioner Waldhalm: 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrerro, Arecibo PR

The public was invited to join the meeting in person, by phone, by Zoom or watch via live stream on YouTube.

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:

Additional Information

1. Regular Agenda Item 3: Joint Powers Agreement with East Central Regional Juvenile Center

The board packet only contained Exhibits B, C, and D of the JPA/those are pages 23-33 of the Joint Powers Agreement. Pages 1-22 of the Joint Powers Agreement and Exhibit A were provided as additional information.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lovgren to adopt the Agenda. 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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2021 County Board Meeting and Summary for publication. 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.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Land Surveyor Monthly Report – September 2021

Vernon Valvoda correspondence – September 13, 2021

Pine County Zoning Board Minutes – August 26, 2021

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Order Approving Rate Increase and Granting Rule Variances dated September 24, 2021

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

**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 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Application for Exempt Permit**

Approve the exempt permit from the Sturgeon Lake Relief Association to conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on November 19, 2021 at Doc's Pavilion, 24427 Majestic Pine Dr., Sturgeon Lake, MN (Windemere Township).

2. **Septic Fix-Up Special Assessment**

Approve Resolution 2021-66 extending a septic fix up special assessment as follows:

A. Ronald W. Lyon and Catherine E. Lyon, PID 12.0005.000, \$15,300

B. Richard A. Rhoades and Lisia K. Rhoades, PID 17.0052.000, \$16,850

Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

3. **Donations**

A. Approve acceptance of the following donations from Grand Casino Hinckley to be used to offset the expenses of the Sheriff's Office:

i. December 9, 2020 for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021: \$23,000

ii. March 12, 2021 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021: \$23,000

iii. June 14, 2021 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021: \$23,000

4. **2021-2022 Prosecution Contract with City of Sturgeon Lake**

Approve the 2021-2022 Prosecution Contract with the City of Sturgeon Lake for the period of October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022. The rate is \$100 per case filed submitted for review or charging of violation of ordinances. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

5. **Agreements**

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

A. Cooperative Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the

Pine County Veterans Service Office. Effective upon full execution of the Cooperative Agreement through June 30, 2025.

- B. 2022 and 2023 Child Support Program Interagency Cooperative Agreement
- C. Biennial Service Agreement and Agreement to Provide MFIP/DWP Services Between Pine County and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

6. **2021 Land Auction Results**

Acknowledge the 17 tracts offered for sale consisting of 396 acres at an appraised value of \$419,200; 13 tracts sold with bids totaling \$517,910.

7. **Training**

- A. Approve Human Resources Manager Jackie Koivisto to attend the Minnesota Counties Human Resource Management Association Fall Conference October 6-8, 2021, Deerwood, MN. Registration: \$175; Lodging: \$481/2 nights and meals. Total cost: \$656.
- B. Approve attendance at the AMC Annual Conference (December 6-8, 2021), for any commissioner desiring to attend, and County Administrator David Minke. Cost per attendee: Registration: \$375; Lodging: \$125 plus tax per night.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Recognitions**

The County Board recognized the following:

- A. Veterans Service Officer Mindy Sandell and thanked her for work, going above and beyond, with our veterans.
- B. The Pine County Health & Human Services department was designated as a finalist in the “Best Place to Work, Large Employer” contest sponsored by local media.
- C. Health & Human Services Director Becky Foss was designated as a finalist in the “Best Public Servant” category in the “Best Of” media campaign.

2. **October -- Manufacturing Month**

Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter stated the month of October has been designated in the United States to promote manufacturing jobs and careers. Sauter requested approval of a resolution to proclaim October as Manufacturing Month in Pine County.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2021-67 declaring the month of October 2021 as Manufacturing Month in Pine County and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. 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.

3. **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for East Central Regional Juvenile Center (ECRJC)**

Probation Director Terry Fawcett stated the county has historically contracted for one bed with the ECRJC. This Joint Powers Agreement extends that contract for a period of five

years, for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with East Central Regional Juvenile Center and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. 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.

4. **Sandstone Recycling Drop-Off Center**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated in 2020 the county entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Sandstone to operate Central Pine Recycling Center. Anderson stated this Memorandum of Agreement will expire November 1, 2021 and the City and County wish to extend the agreement for an additional three years.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Sandstone to continue to use the property at 145 Robin St., Sandstone for the Central Pine Recycling Center through December 31, 2024. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Mohr. 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.

5. **Kettle River/Upper St. Croix One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee Appointment**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated on May 18, 2021 Commissioner Ludwig was appointed to the Kettle River/Upper St. Croix One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee. Anderson requested an alternate be appointed in the event Commissioner Ludwig is unavailable.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to affirm Commissioner Ludwig's appointment to the Kettle River/Upper St. Croix One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee and appointment Commissioner Waldhalm as the alternate. 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.

6. **Solid Waste Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated at the September 14, 2021 county board meeting the board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to review and recommend necessary revisions to the county's Solid Waste Ordinance. The board was to provide recommendation for representatives on this committee.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the following representatives to the ad hoc committee to review the Pine County Solid Waste Ordinance:

Seat 1	County Commissioner	Steve Hallan
Seat 2	County Commissioner	Matt Ludwig
Seat 3	County Zoning Board member	Dirk Nelson

Seat 4	City Representative	Kathy George/City of Sandstone
Seat 5	Township Representative	Terry O'Rourke/Nickerson Township
Seat 6	MPCA Representative	Heidi Kroening
Seat 7	Local Solid Waste Industry Representative	Terry Peterson, All Season Services

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.

7. **2022 Vehicle Purchases**

County Administrator David Minke stated due to a global shortage of microchips for vehicle manufacturing there is a backlog of vehicle demand. Minke requested authorization to approve the ordering of 2022 vehicles starting in 2021. Should delivery of vehicles arrive in 2021, the 2021 budget can be adjusted to allow for payment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Mohr to authorize the ordering of 2022 vehicles starting in 2021. 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/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **Commissioner Updates**

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated the Band is moving forward with the road project between the Highway 23 and Highway 48 exchange and will be meeting with the Department of Transportation. The Band is also interested in moving forward with a business incubator program.

Rush Line Task Force: Commissioner Waldhalm unable to attend.

NLX - Cancelled

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA): Commissioner Ludwig stated a Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next HRA meeting. Discussion of development/structure of a county HRA-EDA took place.

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig stated John Ongaro provided a detailed legislative update. Other items discussed included payment in lieu of taxes and the disparity in the value calculation, chronic wasting disease, housing, broadband, skilled labor shortage, and mining issues in Aitkin County.

GPS 45:93 Annual Meeting: Chair Hallan stated an excellent presentation was given by Extension Educator Ben Winchester. Commissioner Lovgren stated a discussion took place explaining the populating move from metro to rural and the reclassification of these neighborhoods.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Commissioner Mohr stated the Board discussed modifying the Joint Powers Agreement to become a Joint Powers Board and how the board will function going forward.

Snake River Watershed Policy Committee: Commissioner Mohr stated technical discussion took place.

Lower St. Croix Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated a virtual tour of projects took place, with a Pine County project at Hinze farms.

Blandin Foundation Kick-Off Meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated the foundation is asking for more people to be involved in the next phase, and there is a need for input and involvement from cities and townships.

Technology Committee - Cancelled

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council Annual Meeting: Chair Hallan stated recipient awards were given; the professional services agreement was approved with Lakes and Pines.

Other: The Lourey Family Farm was awarded the Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year recognition.

9. **Other**

Commissioner Lovgren stated LTD, which received the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) award, has indicated 7,015 locations will receive broadband to their home.

Commissioner Lovgren provided an update on training she attended. Chair Hallan stated Midco is in the process of building out the broadband fiber to homes in the Rock Creek area.

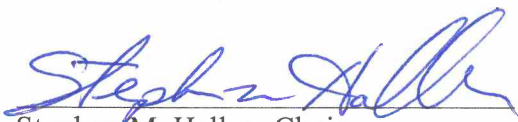
Ailene Croup inquired if the county had a process for removal of fiber/cable that has been buried and abandoned to be removed from the ground. This will be referred to Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson for review.

10. **Upcoming Meetings**

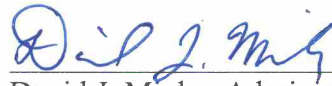
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

11. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 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