

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, J.J. Waldhalm and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

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 Steve Hallan welcomed the students and staff from the East Central Schools 9th grade government class. The class will spend the day at the courthouse learning about county government.

Chair Hallan called for public comment.

- Three students from the East Central Schools addressed the county board; two with broadband concerns, one in support of public train transportation.
- Sheriff Nelson provided an update on the search efforts for missing person Ashley Carlson, who was last seen near Hinckley on September 24th.
- Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter provided survey information to the East Central students for two upcoming November meetings aimed at improving/accessibility to high-speed internet

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the agenda:

Correction to Consent Agenda Item 4A/Promotion of Terry Clementson to reflect an increase in hourly pay to \$41.66 per hour.

Additions: (1) Consent Agenda Item 4B: Promotion of Highway Maintenance Worker Chris Matrios to Highway Maintenance Supervisor, effective November 3, 2021. (2) Regular Agenda Item 5A: Appointment of Pine City Community Development Director Mike Gainor to the Development Authority Study Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 County Board Meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence
Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes

Pine County Land Surveyor Report – October 2021

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve Resolution 2021-71 extending septic fix-up special assessments as follows: Ryan P. Jansen and Stacey L. Biron, PID 29.0059.001, \$22,750; John Russell and Julie Russell, PID 15.0341.000, \$14,650; Gerald F. Barton, PID 28.0731.016, \$15,500; Steven P. Farrell and Nicole R. Farrell, PID 27.0017.001, \$20,500; Hubertus R. VanderVelden and Deanna G. VanderVelden, PID 28.0522.000, \$17,500; Brian D. Coonradt and Deanna M. Coonradt, PID 06.0204.000, \$15,200; Stuart Berberich and Janessa Berberich, PID 40.0101.000, \$18,100. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

2. **Donations**

Accept the following donations:

- A. \$600 donation from the Pine County Fair Board to be used toward the K-9 program.
- B. \$25 donation from David and Wendy Nelson to be used toward the Ben Neel Gun Range.

3. **Contracts / Agreements**

- A. Approve two-year contract between Health & Human Services and Jennifer White to provide monthly clinical supervision to the adult mental health social workers. Hourly cost of supervision is \$125 (no change from 2021), for maximum 4 hours of supervision per month. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.
- B. Approve FY 2022 and 2023 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement to access \$188,257 of state funding, and appoint Kelly Schroeder, Auditor-Treasurer, to serve as the county's authorized representative for the grant. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

4. **Personnel / Promotion**

- A. Approve the promotion of Highway Maintenance Supervisor Terry Clementson to Highway Maintenance Superintendent, effective November 3, 2021, Grade 13, \$41.66 per hour.
- B. Approve the promotion of Highway Maintenance Worker Chris Matrious to Highway Maintenance Supervisor, effective November 3, 2021, Grade 11, \$29.81 per hour.

5. **New Hire**

- A. Approve the hiring of Health & Human Services Case Aide Kristi Wimmer, effective November 15, 2021, Grade 5, Step 3, \$20.58 per hour.

6. **Training**

- A. Approve Probation Director Terry Fawcett to attend the American Probation & Parole

Association Winter Training Institute, January 30-February 2, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration \$345, Lodging \$152 x 3 nights, Airfare \$367 , Meals \$45/day, Ground transportation \$60. Total cost \$1,273.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Letter of Support – East Central Electric/Broadband

Commissioner Lovgren stated several years ago East Central Energy (ECE) conducted a feasibility study to research the possibility of ECE providing broadband internet to its members; at that time, it was deemed not viable. Given the recent increase in potential broadband funding, ECE has initiated an update to the feasibility study and on November 19th the ECE Board of Directors will meet to discuss broadband.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to provide a letter to East Central Energy supporting East Central Energy’s interest in providing broadband to its members. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

2. 2022 Budget Update

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder reviewed the 2022 preliminary budget and provided a current overview of revenues and expenses. The budget is currently balanced with planned use of reserves and American Rescue Plan Act funds. The 2022 preliminary property tax levy was set at \$20,652,675, which is a 3.6% increase from 2021.

3. Redistricting

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided information on the 2021-2022 state and local redistricting timeline. Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts after each federal decennial census. The county cannot redistrict until after the state and cities complete their redistricting. The county deadline is April 26, 2022.

4. Commissioner Updates

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe meeting - cancelled

Soil & Water Conservation District: Commissioner Waldhalm stated the new biologist started with SWCD on November 1st; per diems were increased; no till drill is in winter storage.

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig stated SSIS paperwork, PILT and the adult mental health initiative were discussed. Chronic wasting disease and counties submission of a resolution in support of a moratorium on the moving of deer was discussed.

Rush Line Task Force: Commissioner Waldhalm stated discussion of bus service to Pine City took place.

Snake River Watershed Management Board - cancelled

Snake River Watershed Policy Committee - cancelled

Lower St. Croix Policy Committee: Chair Hallan stated work has started on the project by Rock Lake in Pine County.

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

NLX – cancelled

Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Commissioner Ludwig stated chair, vice chair and secretary were elected. Discussion of moving investment accounts to more local depositories was discussed; board organization/committee structure was discussed -- three committees were formed.

Extension Committee: Consultants will be meeting with staff and volunteers regarding the 4-H program. The hiring process for the 4-H Coordinator will begin shortly.

Central Region EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated the following items were discussed: budget, opioid increase in area counties, COVID management, and Naloxone training.

Other: Commissioner Ludwig attended a first time homebuyers meeting sponsored by the Association of Minnesota Counties.

5. **Other**

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to appoint Mike Gainor to the Development Authority Study Committee. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

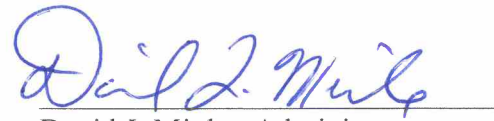
6. **Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

7. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 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