

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
Pine County Board Room
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, and Matt Ludwig. County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson were present. Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm was absent (excused).

The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, 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:

Remove from Agenda Regular Agenda Item #7: 2023 Budget Discussion
This discussion will be placed on the August 16, 2022 agenda.

Addition: Regular Agenda Item #8.1: Consideration of Letter of Support
Consider approval for County Administrator to sign a letter of support for Frontier Communications, to the Office of Broadband Development, regarding the Border-to-Border grant application.

Addition: Consent Agenda Item #3C: New Hire PT Corrections Officer
Consider approval of the hiring of part-time Corrections Officer Kyle Miller, effective August 9, 2022, \$21.77 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1.

Addition: Consent Agenda Item #4C: AMC Fall Policy Conference
Approve attendance at the AMC Fall Policy Conference, September 14-16, 2022 (pre-conference meeting on September 14, 2022) for County Administrator David Minke, and any commissioner desired to attend. The meeting is at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN. Registration \$250 per attendee, Lodging: \$149 per night; Meals: \$34 per day.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2022 County Board Meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Surveyor's Monthly Report – July 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda is voted on without any discussion. Any commissioner may request an item be removed and added to the regular agenda.

1. **Applications**

Acknowledge applications and authorize Board Chair and County Auditor-Treasurer to sign the following licenses (all licenses pending approval from the respective townships, county sheriff, county attorney, and State of Minnesota):

A. **On Sale, Off Sale & Sunday Liquor Licenses**

Badland's Entertainment LLC (DBA Maverick's) – Chengwatana Township
Bear Creek Tavern – Arlone Township
Countryside Campground – Sandstone Township
Doc's Sports Bar & Grill – Windemere Township
Floppie Crappie Lakeside Pub – Pokegama Township
Nemadji Enterprises (DBA Nickerson Bar & Motel) – Nickerson Township
Lake Appeil – Pokegama Township **2AM Close**
Wild Horse Tavern – Kerrick Township
Wings North – Pokegama Township

B. **On Sale & Sunday Liquor Licenses**

Moose Lake Golf Club – Windemere Township
Pine City Country Club – Pine City Township
Rocking K Lazy E (DBA Banning Junction Lounge) – Finlayson Township

C. **Off Sale & Sunday Liquor Licenses**

Beroun Crossing Country Store – Pokegama Township
Red's Liquor Box – Pokegama Township
Rocking K Lazy E (DBA Banning Junction Off Sale) – Finlayson Township

2. **Contracts/Agreements/Resolution**

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

A. Resolution 2022-41 authorizing Veteran Services Officer Mindy Sandell to sign the grant contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and execute the duties within the grant agreement. The grant amount is \$10,000.

3. **New Hire**

Authorize the hiring of the following:

- A. Social Worker Jeremy Lindstrom, effective August 15, 2022, Grade 10, Step 2, \$26.99 per hour.
- B. Public Health Nurse Maria Bernhardt, effective August 22, 2022, Grade 11, Step 7, \$34.99 per hour.
- C. Part-time Corrections Officer Kyle Miller, effective August 9, 2022, \$21.77 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1.

4. **Training**

Approve the following training:

- A. Veterans Service Officers Michael Harshman and Mindy Sandell to attend the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officer (MACVSO) Conference, September 11-14, 2022 at Nisswa, Minnesota. Lodging/Accommodations: \$532/person, travel: \$37.50 (ride share with another VSO), Total expenses: \$1,102.
- B. Child Protection Services Social Worker Angie Ripley to attend Exploring the Sexual Offender and Violent Offender, Understanding the Offender's Personality, Behavior and Typology training, August 8-9, 2022 at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. Registration \$200, Lodging/meals \$160, Travel \$50. Total cost \$410.
- C. AMC Fall Policy Conference, September 14-16, 2022 (pre-conference meeting on September 14, 2022) for County Administrator David Minke, and any commissioner desired to attend. The meeting is at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN. Registration \$250 per attendee, Lodging: \$149 per night; Meals: \$34 per day.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Public Hearing - Pine County Resolution 2022-10 to Consider Authorizing the Classification of Non-Conservation and Intent to Sell Listed Parcels (at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practicable)**

Parcels Being Opposed are:

- PID 32.0089.000 – 80 acres
- PID 32.0089.001 – 40 acres
- PID 32.0089.002 – 40 acres
- PID 32.0089.003 - 40 acres

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated on March 1, 2022 the county board approved Resolution 2022-10 classifying a number of tax-forfeit properties as non-conservation and the intent to sell the parcels. This resolution was forwarded to local units of government for their review; Wilma Township opposes the sale of the four parcels that are located within their jurisdiction. In the case of opposition, MS 282.01 requires the county board to hold a public hearing to solicit comments and recommendations about the pending classification or reclassification of the tax-forfeit land.

Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:15 a.m. and called for public comment.

Wilma Township Supervisor Michael McCullen spoke in opposition of the sale of these public parcels as the township would like to see these lands kept for future public use. With there being no further comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:19 a.m.

Commissioner Mohr inquired if the sale of these parcels would limit public access to other lands. Land Commissioner Beck stated it would not.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to reaffirm Pine County Resolution 2022-10 authorizing the classification of non-conservation and intent to sell listed parcels. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Land and Zoning Advisory Committee Report**

Commissioner Ludwig provided an overview of the July 15, 2022 Land and Zoning Advisory Committee meeting. The Land and Zoning Advisory Committee made the following recommendations:

- A. Approve the public land sale, the adjoining owner land sale, and the county fee owned land sale, identified by the following Resolutions:

- i. Resolution 2022-42: 2022 Pine County Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Sale Terms and Conditions. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.
- ii. Resolution 2022-43: Resolution for Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Limited to Adjoining Property Owners. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.
- iii. Resolution 2022-44: 2022 Pine County Fee Land Auction: Sale Terms and Conditions. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

B. Notify the Department of Natural Resources of the county's interest to sell Parcel 08.0131.000 for \$26,400, the current appraised value.

At the March 1, 2022 county board meeting the board voted 4-1 to allow the county's 3/16th interest in Outlot A of Jackie's 1st Addition be offered for sale to the other owners in Jackie's 1st Addition. At the April 5, 2022 board meeting, the board voted 4-1 to reconsider its previous action and refer the issue back to the Land and Zoning Advisory Committee for further study and consideration. The Land and Zoning Advisory Committee reconsidered the issue at its July 15 meeting and recommended to proceed forward with offering the 3/16th interest in Outlot A for sale.

The county board discussed the 3/16ths interest in the Outlot; Chair Hallan restated that public winter access to Cross Lake is an important concern to many residents.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2022-42: 2022 Pine County Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Sale Terms and Conditions, Resolution 2022-43: Resolution for Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Limited to Adjoining Property Owners, and Resolution 2022-44: 2022 Pine County Fee Land Auction: Sale Terms and Conditions and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Motion carried 3-1 with Chair Hallan opposing.

3. **Technology Committee Report**

Commissioner Josh Mohr stated the Technology Committee met July 26, 2022. The 2023 IT department budget and information security audit were discussed.

4. **Health Insurance Committee Report**

Chair Hallan provided an overview of the July 26, 2022 Health Insurance Committee meeting. At that meeting Justin Kroeger, Insurance Broker from Gallagher, reviewed an increase in claim usage and contract loss resulting in an unanticipated reduction to the plan fund. Kroeger also reviewed the Best and Final offers from three health insurance carriers: United Healthcare (UHC), Medica and BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS). UHC proposed an 18% premium increase with fixed costs up 17.3% and expected claims at 18.1%, Medica proposed a 17% premium increase, with fixed costs down 4.7% and expected claims at 20.4%, and BCBS proposed a 7.7% premium increase with fixed costs down 4.9% and expected claims at 9.7%. BCBS had the best rate cap on Best and Final Offers at a 10% stop-loss rate cap for 2024, administration fee guaranteed for 2023 and 2024 with a 3% cap for 2025, and BCBS also had the best implementation credit of \$50,000 for the first year. The additional financial considerations (return of funds to UHC) were discussed, which would result if the county would leave UHC as our health insurance carrier. The committee also reviewed vision carriers of Superior Vision, MetLife, VSP and EyeMed and the areas of the county that were served by these providers. Kroeger commented that the current ancillary benefit plans (dental, life/AD&D, and long/short-term disability) will remain the same for 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to recommend changing the county's health insurance coverage to Blue Cross Blue Shield for 2023, and MetLife as the 2023 vision plan at the \$200 benefit level. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

5. **Child Care Strategic Supply Plan Process**

Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter explained that First Children’s Finance (FCF) conducted a childcare supply and demand gap study in 2021. FCF has inquired if the county would be the local leader of the next step, which will develop solutions to the childcare shortage within the county.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve County Administrator Minke to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between First Children’s Finance (FCF) and Pine County, for the county to provide consulting services to conduct the childcare strategic supply plan process at no cost. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

6. **Rock Lake Monitoring Joint Powers Agreement**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collects surface water quality from lakes and rivers on a 10-year cycle. Rock Creek and Rock lake are now slated for data collection.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for water quality testing of Rock Lake tributaries with the assistance of county and Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District staff. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

7. **2023 Budget Discussion**

Removed from agenda and rescheduled to August 16, 2022 county board meeting.

8. **Set Time for August 30, 2022 Special Meeting**

Two county commissioners are unavailable for the August 25, 2022 budget meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to cancel the Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole budget meeting on August 25, 2022 and reschedule to August 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse Board Room. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

8.1 **Frontier Letter of Support for Border-to-Border Broadband Application**

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to authorize County Administrator David Minke to write a Letter of Support to the Office of Broadband Development in support of Frontier Communications’ application for a Border-to-Border broadband development grant. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

9. **Commissioner Updates**

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails: the Zoom link was not available; Commissioner Waldhalm was unable to attend.

PTCC Scholarship: Chair Hallan and County Administrator Minke attended the scholarship event at PTCC.

School Districts / PTCC / County meeting: Chair Hallan stated a tour of PTCC was given. Good opportunity to network with the new leadership of several schools in the county.

Central MN Council on Aging: Chair Hallan stated the budget was set and a review of the director was conducted. The reliance on home delivered meals in Pine County has increased.

Extension Committee: Commissioner Ludwig stated that 4-H Coordinator Sarah Odendahl gave a presentation on 4-H. The Kerrick Community Center is considering opening a daycare at its location.

Chair Hallan left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Vice Chair Mohr chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Snake River Watershed Management Board & Snake River 1W1P Policy: Commissioner Lovgren stated there is no increase in the budget. A Kanabec County project will receive \$27,000 toward summer crop planting to reduce runoff into the watershed. A public hearing will be held at the September 6th county board meeting to allow Pine County residents an opportunity to give input into the management structure of the watershed.

NLX: Commissioner Lovgren stated NLX has a new billboard by North Branch. They are looking at a 30% budget increase to be assessed to all participants who financially contribute; this increase would be used for additional advertising as they believe the legislature is going to hold a special session after the August elections. Commissioner Lovgren abstained from voting as Pine County does not financially contribute. NLX believes they are one of the first shovel-ready projects and are looking for federal funding. Hennepin County is considering joining.

Pine County Housing & Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA): Commissioner Ludwig stated it was a general meeting. Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter gave a presentation on short-term rentals. SMR Management explained the rent schedule increase (3.2%). County Administrator David Minke stated at the joint meeting held in January, the county board committed to meeting with the HRA/EDA annually. Targeting the HRA/EDA annual meeting, which is October 26th.

Central Regional EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated 200 doses of Naloxone was used in July. The new medical director for the EMS was introduced. Discussion of the opioid settlement.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference: Commissioner Lovgren stated the Test It program is being promoted again (for broadband to analyze what our needs are). Cyber risks/ransomware was discussed. Mental Health was discussed; Commissioner Lovgren toured two family resource centers, and Health & Human Services would like to look further into setting them up locally. Commissioner Lovgren was appointed to the Rural Action Board--discussed different ways for the rural communities to survive.

Other

East Central Regional Library: Commissioner Lovgren has attended two budget meetings in the past month; the proposed increase for Pine County is .89%.

10. Other

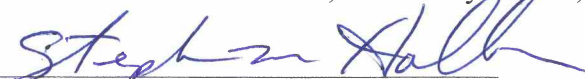
Commissioner Ludwig suggested that board members should evaluate the committees that they attend to determine how valuable they are.

11. Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

12. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No, Sandstone, Minnesota.


Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners


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

Kelly M. Schroeder, Acting County Administrator