

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 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, J.J. Waldhalm and Matt Ludwig. County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson were present.

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. Pine County residents Ailene Croup, Reed Owens, Kathy Horbacz, Dave Ostenson, and Bobby Butler spoke in opposition of the East Central Regional Library system's consideration of placement within the 10-year old child age area, or inclusion at all in the library system, of the book *It's Perfectly Normal*.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the Agenda:

Corrected the date of the 2022 Primary Canvassing Board Minutes – August 11, 2022
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2022 Regular County Board Meeting and Summary for publication, and Minutes of August 23, 2022 and August 30, 2022 Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Budget) meetings. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Surveyor's Monthly Report – August, 2022
Pine County Zoning Board Minutes – June 23, 2022 & July 28, 2022
2022 Primary Canvassing Board Minutes – August 11, 2022
Letter from Wadena County - Property Tax Disparity

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Applications

Approve the following and approve Board Chair and County Administrator to sign:

A. Repurchase Application

- i. Resolution 2022-47 authorizing Vanessa Offerdahl, owner at the time of forfeiture, to repurchase the parcel at Lot D13, Pathfinder Village, Hinckley (PID 09.5590.000) in full.

B. Septic Special Assessment

- i. Resolution 2022-48 extending a special assessment for a term of 19 years, beginning in 2023, against Pine County Parcel 28.0258.000 in the amount of \$19,250 with equal principal payments and 1% interest owned by Marc and Rachel Frogner.
- ii. Resolution 2022-46 extending a septic fix-up special assessment as follows:
Trevor Richards, PID 30.0604.001, \$18,503.22
David Dufresne, PID 06.0212.000, \$15,925.00
David & Rebecca Mallory, PID 04.0239.000, \$18,800.00
Doug Sawatzke, PID 38.0081.000, \$16,000.00
James Janssen, PID 08.0208.000, \$24,500.00
Alieta Johnson, PID 28.0951.000, \$11,000.00
Jolyn Winger, PID 08.0203.000, \$18,000.00
Amanda Delaney, PID 08.0331.000, \$23,800.00

C. Exempt Permit

- i. Roxie's Hope to conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on January 1, 2023 at Maverick's Saloon, 29410 Beroun Crossing Road, Pine City, MN (Chengwatana Township). Authorize Kelly Schroeder to send a letter of the Minnesota Gambling Control Board approving the date change for the Roxie's Hope Exempt Permit.

2. Contracts/Agreements

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

- A. Law Enforcement Contract between the Pine County Sheriff's Office and Pine City Township to provide law enforcement services for the Township for ordinance violation enforcement. Terms of the contract are October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Hourly rates for this contract are \$59.50/hour for 2022, and \$61.29/hour for 2023.
- B. UCare Amendment between Health & Human Services and UCare to remove special needs basic care services (SNBC). All rates remain the same.
- C. School Resource Officer - East Central Schools: Two-year contract between Pine County Sheriff's Office and East Central Schools for a part-time school resource officer (20 hours per week). Rate: \$39.97 for school year 2022/2023, and \$41.17 for 2023/2024.
- D. School Resource Officer – Pine City Schools: Two-year contract between Pine County Sheriff's Office and Pine City Schools for a full-time school resource officer (8 hours per day/40 hours per week). Rate: \$39.97 for school year 2022/2023, and \$41.17 for 2023/2024.

3. Donations

Accept the following donations:

- A. \$50 donation from Richard Hopkins to the Veterans Services Office for outreach expenses.
- B. \$1,500 donation from Minnesota Power Association to the Pine County Sheriff's Office for the drone program.
- C. \$3,000 donation from Walmart to the Pine County Sheriff's Office for the drone program.

D. \$650 donation from the Pine County Fair Board to the Pine County Sheriff's Office for the K-9 program.

4. **Purchase of Skid Steer**

Authorize Fleet Services to purchase a used skid steer for the North Pine Transfer Station (Willow River) not to exceed \$25,000, using funds from the Solid Waste budget.

5. **New Hire**

Approve the hiring of the following:

- A. Corrections Agent (Probation Department) Shawnesy Smith, effective September 7, 2022, \$26.65 per hour, Grade 10, contingent upon successful urinalysis.
- B. Full-time Dispatcher Tanya Kessler, effective September 7, 2022, \$21.77 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1
- C. Full-time Dispatcher Joshua Gusk, effective September 7, 2022, \$21.77 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1
- D. Part-time Clerk III Emeri Hagfors, effective September 8, 2022, \$18.24 per hour, Grade 4.
- E. Highway Maintenance Worker Andrew Beith, effective September 19, 2022, \$20.49 per hour, Grade 6, Step 1, contingent upon successful pre-employment drug screening and background.

6. **Training**

Approve the following training:

- A. Social Workers Heidi Burton, Ashley Gnat and Rona Duvall to attend the St. Louis Health and Human Services Conference, October 12-14, 2022, in Duluth, Minnesota. Registration: \$75 (total \$225); Meals: \$96 for all; Mileage: \$107.50. Total Cost: \$428.50. .
- B. Child Protection Services Social Worker Brittney Hogleund to attend Child First Forensic Interview Training, December 5-9, 2022, in Duluth, Minnesota. Registration: \$1,000 (covered via a scholarship); Lodging/Meals: \$800; Mileage: \$85. Total Cost: \$885.
- C. Financial Worker Scarlet Oquist to attend the Minnesota Financial Worker and Case Aide Association Conference, October 19-21, 2022 in Brainerd, Minnesota. Registration: \$375, Lodging: approx. \$462, county car will be used. Approx Total cost: \$837.
- D. Human Resources Manager Jackie Koivisto to attend the Minnesota Counties Human Resource Management Association Fall Conference, October 5-7, 2022, in Deerwood, Minnesota. Registration/meals: \$175.
- E. Health Educator Samantha Burch to attend the Toward Zero Deaths Conference, October 12-13, 2022, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Registration: \$125, Lodging: \$130, Meals: \$46. Total: \$301.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Retirement Recognition**

Jail Administrator Rod Williamson recognized the retirement of Jail Matron Heidi Pogones and Corrections Officer/Jail Transport Officer Larry Pogones, with 34 and 36 years of service, respectively, to Pine County.

2. **2023 Budget Discussion**

ExtensionRegional Director Susanne Hinrichs
❖ Requesting \$162,815 appropriation; increase of 4.17% increase over last year (\$6,521)

Pine County Historical Society/MuseumPresident Larry Helwig
❖ Requesting \$30,000 appropriation; increase of \$5,000 over last year

County Administrator David Minke reviewed the current proposed 2023 preliminary budget. The commissioners requested information for the next board meeting that include an option for a 0% property tax levy increase and an option that closes the \$1.7 million gap with a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 approach using budget cuts, ARPA funds, and property tax levy.

Chair Hallan called a recess at 11:24 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

3. **Commissioner Updates**

Law Library: Commissioner Mohr stated financials were reviewed. Discussion was held as to how to recycle/reuse outdated library materials.

Snake River Watershed Management Board & Snake River 1W1P Policy: Commissioner Lovgren stated that establishing management structure is still ongoing.

East Central Regional Development Commissioner: Chair Hallan attended as Commissioner Waldham was unavailable. Chair Hallan stated grants are available for the Safe Routes to School programs.

NLX (cancelled)

Pine County Housing & Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA): Commissioner Ludwig stated it was a general meeting. Streamlining of utility payments discussed. A joint meeting between the County Board and HRA/EDA will be held in October.

Chaffee Conference Room Dedication: New Conference Room dedication in remembrance of former Commissioner Steven Chaffee.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated 4-H /band involvement, programming and county/band relationships, and increase of contribution amount from the band to the county were discussed.

Pine City/Pine County/Pine City Schools/PTCC: Commissioner Mohr stated Luke Greiner, DEED regional analyst, provided a presentation—Pine County has lost 933 jobs in the past year, mostly in the service industry. Retirees are seeking employment due to the increase in inflation and costs.

Central MN Council on Aging: Chair Hallan stated it is increasingly more difficult to find individuals to be caregivers/choregivers to the aging population; volunteer numbers are dropping. There are grants available for the aging population.

AMC Community Supervision Workgroup: Commissioner Ludwig is the county representative to this group however was unable to attend this meeting. Probation Director Terry Fawcett gave a recap of the meeting.

Other

- a. State Community Health Services Advisory Committee: Commissioner Lovgren stated how Public Health can regain the public's trust was discussed.
- b. National Association of Counties (NACo) Membership Call: Commissioner Lovgren stated the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as available grants, were discussed.
- c. East Central Regional Library: Commissioner Lovgren stated the ad hoc committee will be making a recommendation to the full library board next week regarding the placement of the *It's Perfectly Normal* book in the library. After county board

discussion, it was the consensus of the board that Commissioner Lovgren recommend the book not be placed in the East Central Regional Library system.

- d. Commissioner Waldhalm commented on the County Property Tax Disparity correspondence from Wadena County.

4. **Other**
None.

5. **Upcoming Meetings**
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

6. **Adjourn**
With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 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