

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 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. There was no public comment.

Chair Hallan requested the following revisions to the agenda:

Addition of Consent Agenda item #4F: Promotion of part-time Correction Officers Donald Jamnick and Kyle Miller to full-time status effective November 1, 2022.

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

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Minutes of October 18, 2022 Regular County Board Meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Surveyor's Monthly Report – October, 2022

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Applications

Approve the following Tobacco Licenses and approve Board Chair and County Auditor/Treasurer to sign: BP – City of Pine City, Banning Junction Convenience Store-Finlayson Township, Bear Creek Tavern-Arlone Township, Bear's Den-City of Bruno, Beroun Crossing Country Store-Pokegama Township, Casey's General Store #3445-City of Sandstone, Casey's General Store #3520-City of Hinckley, Chris' Food Center-City of Sandstone, Crossroads Convenience Store-Ogema Township, Daggett's Super Valu-City of Hinckley, Dave's Oil Corp-City of Willow River, Denham Run Bar & Grill-City of Denham, Dollar General-City of Hinckley, Dollar General-City of Sandstone, Dollar General-City of Willow

River, Duquette General Store-Kerrick Township, Family Dollar Store-City of Hinckley, Family Dollar Store-City of Sandstone, Finlayson Municipal Liquor Store-City of Finlayson, Floppie Crappie-Pokegama Township, Froggies-City of Pine City, Hinckley Firehouse Liquor-City of Hinckley, Holiday Station-City of Hinckley, Holiday Station-City of Pine City, Holiday Station-City of Pine City, Kornerstore #900-Windemere Township, Kurt's Station-City of Hinckley, Kwik Trip-City of Hinckley, Lucky Seven General Store-City of Hinckley, Minit Mart-Windemere Township, Nickerson Bar & Motel-Nickerson Township, Petry's Bait Company-City of Finlayson, Pine City Tobacco-City of Pine City, Red's Liquor Box-Pokegama Township, Rich's Bar-City of Sandstone, Sandstone Petro Plus-City of Finlayson, Sidetracked-City of Brook Park, Slim's Service, Inc-City of Hinckley, Squirrel Cage-City of Willow River, Super Smokes-City of Hinckley, Speedway #4500-City of Pine City, Tobies Station, Inc-City of Hinckley, Wal-Mart Supercenter #2367-City of Pine City, Figueroa's-City of Askov, Marge's Pub & Grub-City of Brook Park, Mini Mart #1-City of Rock Creek.

2. **Donations**

Accept a \$23,000 donation from Grand Casino Hinckley to the Sheriff's Office to help offset sheriff's office expenses for 4th Quarter 2022.

3. **Tax-Forfeit Conveyance Request – Pine City**

Approve Resolution 2022-55 authorizing the conveyance/sale of tax-forfeit parcel #42.0238.003 to Pine City for the appraised value of \$1,000 plus miscellaneous sales fees as required. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

4. **New Hire / Promotion**

Authorize the hiring of the following:

- A. Thomas Lindstrom, Highway Maintenance Worker, effective November 7, 2022, Grade 6, Step 1, \$20.49/hour, contingent upon successful background check.
- B. Kenneth Behrens, Highway Maintenance Worker, effective November 7, 2022, Grade 6, Step 1, \$20.49/hour, contingent upon successful background check.
- C. Joesif Okerstrom, full time Corrections Officer, effective November 2, 2022, Grade 7, Step 1, \$21.77/hour.
- D. Emma Ellerman, full time Corrections Officer, effective November 2, 2022, Grade 7, Step 2, \$22.71/hour.
- E. Daniel Pardun, full time Corrections Officer, effective November 2, 2022, Grade 7, step 2, \$22.71/hour.

Authorize the promotion of the following:

- F. Part-time Correction Officers Donald Jamnick and Kyle Miller to full-time Correction Officer status, effective November 1, 2022. No change in grade or pay.

5. **Training**

Approve the following training:

- A. Health Educator Samantha Burch, Public Health Supervisor Jessica Fehlen, and Community Health Services Administrator Samantha Lo to attend the Local Public Health Association Fall Conference and Annual Meeting, November 13-15, 2022 in Alexandria, Minnesota. Total Cost for all three attendees: Registration: \$350 (registration includes meals), Lodging: \$0, Mileage: \$100. As a member of the Local Public Health Association (LPHA), public health received one free registration and one free room. As a conference planning committee member, Samantha Lo also receives an additional free room.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Lakes and Pines Executive Director Denise Stewart provided an update and usage of programs provided through Lakes & Pines Community Action Council for fiscal year 2022. These programs include energy assistance, weatherization, head start, housing rehabilitation, community services, and emergency housing.

2. Project Lifesaver

The Pine County Sheriff's Office and Pine County Health & Human Services have teamed up to implement Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a nationwide rescue program designed to quickly locate individuals who are prone to wandering.

3. County Marketing Proposal

Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter stated in 2021 American Rescue Plan Act funding was allocated towards county marketing as the tourism industry in the county was directly impacted during the pandemic. Pine County is proposing to hire a marketing consultant to create a unified communication and marketing plan by developing a tagline, elevator pitch and website redesign. Five finalists were interviewed--consideration was given to company experience working in greater Minnesota, price, and understanding of the organization. Sauter stated proposals submitted were within the price point range of \$14,900 - \$27,000. The firm with the lowest cost proposal was interviewed, but not selected.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve County Administrator David Minke to enter into a professional service agreement with marketing consultant CivicBrand to create unified communication and marketing plan, and that the Personnel Committee be the committee of jurisdiction to work with county staff and consultant through the process. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Waldhalm opposing.

4. Storm Damage Tax Relief Reimbursement

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated the county was declared a disaster due to damage from the May 30, 2022 storm, which caused extensive property damage. State statutes provides for property tax relief reimbursement upon reassessment of properties damaged by the disaster and application made to the State of Minnesota. Schroeder stated the minimum requirements of those statutes have been met.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2022-54 requesting the reimbursement of property tax relief for storm damaged affected properties. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Submission

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson stated on October 18, 2022 the county board voted to submit the Snake River Comprehensive Water Management Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for 90-day review. Five of the member counties approved the plan while three did not. At the October 24, 2022 Snake River Watershed IWIP Policy Committee meeting, the committee voted to amend the language in the plan by striking the following language: ~~Mille Laes Band of Ojibwe owns land in the watershed, which is used for multiple purposes and is important to tribal natural resource, economic and environmental programs. Native American communities of Ne-zhingwaakokaag (Pine City, Pine County), and a portion of Chiminising (Isle, Mille Laes County) and Gaa-zhiigwanabikokaag (Hinckley, Pine County) reside within the watershed~~ and replace with new language: The Snake River

Watershed Plan Partnership acknowledges that there is tribal land ownership within the Snake River Watershed.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve submission of the revised Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0

The county board also discussed options for Snake Watershed Organization for the 1W1P including (1) a new entity including mix of counties and SWCDs, (2) Policy Committee merges with Snake River Watershed Management Board, (3) Policy Committee delegates management of WBIF to SRWMB, and (4) SWCDs form new entity to administer WBIF. **It was the consensus of the board** that the Snake River Watershed Management Board proceed forward with option 1, organizing a new entity including the four counties and the four Soil and Water Conservation Districts as voting members.

6. **Correction Officer/Dispatcher Memorandum of Understanding Update**

County Administrator David Minke stated the county has met with the Correction Officer/Dispatcher union to negotiate changes to the existing contract related to pay. The county board had indicated support for those changes at the closed meeting held on October 18, 2022. The union has approved the negotiated changes.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the following three Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the county administrator to sign:

- A. Change of pay grid by removing step 1, effective November 6, 2022
- B. Allow the premium overtime incentive, effective at the Jail Administrator's discretion and expires 12/31/24. This term would not be needed if the jail is fully staffed.
- C. Language change regarding scheduling and shift bidding of senior correction officers, effective immediately.

Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Commissioner Updates**

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig unable to attend.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Update given at Regular Agenda 5 above.

Lower St. Croix Partnership 1W1P: Did not meet.

East Central Regional Development Commission: Commissioner Waldhalm stated another candidate has expressed interest for Jeanette Kester's position

Manufacturing Tours: Chair Hallan stated a total of 125 students participated from Willow River, East Central, Hinckley-Finlayson, and Pine City schools.

Health Care Leaders Coalition Meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated a survey was circulated in northern Pine County. Major finding of the survey was food insecurity concern, followed by mental/social wellbeing and workforce insecurities.

Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails Annual Meeting: Chair Hallan stated a very informational presentation was given on Emerald Ash Borer.

NLX: Commissioner Ludwig unable to attend.

Pine County Housing & Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA) Joint Meeting with County Board: Chair Hallan stated the HRA/EDA is excited to begin moving forward with projects.

School Districts / PTCC / Pine County Meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated HHS Director Becky Foss gave a very informative presentation on Family Resource Centers. An optional tour of the Vision Building in Pine City was given.

Zoning Board / County Board Joint Meeting: Chair Hallan stated good discussion took place.

Other

- A. Highway 23 Coalition: Commissioner Lovgren stated one of the 2023 Coalition Priority Projects discussed would be a future 4-lane road construction project from Milaca to Mora.
- B. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe/4-H: Commissioner Lovgren reported Jan Derdowski will be going out to the site where MLBO meet with the kids after school and view their programming. Derdowski is hoping to be able to work together on programming.
- C. Childcare meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated the priorities identified were– local funds for renovations, start up grants, and creation of a recognition dinner for childcare providers.
- D. Public Health: Commissioner Lovgren stated Community Health Services Administrator Sam Lo will be receiving the 2022 Local Public Health Association Emerging Leader Award at the Local Public Health Association conference.
- E. Commissioner Mohr attended the Donor Appreciation event hosted by Pine Technical and Community College. Students who received scholarships spoke at the event.

8. **Other**

Commissioner Waldhalm stated there are still downed trees from the May storm in the I-35 right-of-way near Hinckley and could be a hazard if a vehicle leaves the roadway. Commissioner Waldhalm asked that the Department of Transportation be contacted to follow up on the tree removal.

9. **Upcoming Meetings**

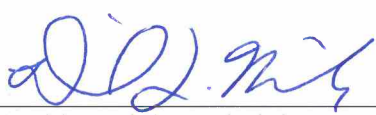
Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

10. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 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