

**MINUTES
OF
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Special Meeting – Budget
August 29, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse, Pine City Minnesota**

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Terry Lovgren, JJ Waldhalm, and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke, County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder, Health & Human Services Director Becky Foss, Probation Director Terry Fawcett, IT Director Ryan Findell. Commissioner Josh Mohr was absent (excused).

Others Present: Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager Paul Swanson, Pine County Agricultural Society President Pete Leibel.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Additional Information Provided/Agenda Item #4F: County Administrator David Minke provided copies of Mutual Rescission and Release Agreement of the Pine County School Resource Officer Contract with the East Central School District, Hinckley-Finlayson School District, Willow River School District, and Pine City School District,

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the agenda. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 4-0.

The following made budget requests to the county board:

Pine County Agricultural Society (Fair)President Pete Leibel

- ❖ Requesting \$10,000 appropriation

Soil & Water Conservation District.....District Manager Paul Swanson

- ❖ Requesting \$69,000 appropriation

County ProbationProbation Director Terry Fawcett

- ❖ 1 new probation agent requested; \$100,000 added for salary/benefit for new position
- ❖ \$642,196 total reimbursement to Pine County with new formula (this is an increase of \$463,042 from the \$175,000 received in 2022)

Chair Hallan called a recess at 10:14 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Veterans and Health & Human Services.....HHS Director Becky Foss

Veterans Service Office

- ❖ The budget request is for \$155,689 of which \$143,689 is the requested tax levy. This amount is a \$20,000 decrease from 2023.

Health & Human Services

- ❖ Income Maintenance – Request is for \$3,654,243 with a deficit of \$52,288.
 - Proposed option to balance budget without additional tax levy by using funds from the one-time MA Unwinding Allocation.
 - County burials were discussed. \$32,000 is budgeted for 2024. The county pays up to \$1,500 for an indigent county burial. Discussion of increasing the per burial amount by 10% to \$1,650.
- ❖ Social Services – Request is for \$7,055,529 with a deficit of \$78,173.
 - Proposed option to balance budget without additional tax levy by using fund balance.
 - Requesting two full-time social workers in the Aging and Disabilities Unit based on case load. These positions are cost neutral as they would be paid for through reimbursements.
 - Requesting one full-time Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) in the Behavioral Health Unit. This position would reduce the backlog of Diagnostic Assessments and be paid for through insurance billing.
- ❖ Public Health – Request is for \$1,690,192 with a deficit of \$90,460.
 - No change in staffing.
 - MIECHV funds will cover the deficit.

Total Funds necessary to balance HHS budget are \$220,92. No levy increase is requested.

❖ Children’s Collaborative

Fiscal host for children’s collaborative. Budget request is for \$134,700.

❖ Opioid Lawsuit Settlement

Total amount projected for known activities to be expended in 2024: \$138,127

- \$50,000 for Section G – Prevent Opioid Misuse
- \$10,000 for Section I – Support First Responders
- \$78,127 for Section J – Leadership, Planning and Coordination and Staff Development

ExtensionD. Craig Taylor, Regional Director

- ❖ 28% budget increase (\$209,232, \$46,000 increase from 2023)
 - Added Administrative Assistant position 1.0 FTE dedicated full time to Extension (transferred from County Administration budget)
 - Changed 4-H Intern Position to Summer Coordinator/Intern
 - Increased personnel costs for Master Gardener (.35 FTE), 4-H Coordinator (1.0) FTE, and Ag Educator (.5 FTE)

Chair Hallan called a recess for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Contracts with School Districts – Sheriff Jeff Nelson

Recent legislation has changed the provisions that limit the use of force that law enforcement officers, acting as School Resource Officers, can use. The most effective way to ensure the highest level of safety for the schools is to cancel the four existing SRO contracts.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to cancel the School Resource Officer contract with the following school districts: East Central School District, Hinckley – Finlayson School District, Willow River School District, and Pine City School District, effective upon full execution of document by all parties. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff's Office and Jail

Dispatch/Grants/Emergency Management.....Denise Anderson, Sheriff's Office Supervisor

- ❖ 204-Dispatch --Budget request \$829,365
No change in staffing (9 full-time, 4 part-time)
- 205-State Boat & Water
- 206-Snowmobile Grant
- 208-ATV Grant
- 211-Chaplain
- 215-Federal Boat & Water
- 227-E-911
- 281-Emergency Management

Sheriff's Office – JailJail Administrator Rod Williamson

- ❖ Jail Operations
 - Requesting an increase of \$485,995 increase from 2023 (10.9%) if staffed at 100%
- ❖ Court Security
 - Requesting an increase of \$15,197 increase from 2023 (16.6%); court schedule is increasing.

Sheriff's OfficeSheriff Jeff Nelson

- ❖ 201 Sheriff Operations: Requesting \$6,010,548
 - One-time public safety aid of - \$825,752
 - The request includes addition of a lieutenant
 - \$50,000 for handgun replacements
 - \$50,000 for less lethal weapons
 - \$35,000 for All Terrain (side by side) Vehicle
- ❖ 210-Gun Permits
- ❖ 212-Canine
- ❖ 214-Gun Range
 - \$50,000 for gun range improvements / burn house
- ❖ 216-Drone

Chair Hallan called a recess at 2:35 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m.


General Budget Discussion

The board asked for better comparative data from surrounding counties for deputies; a closed session for discussion of this data will be held at the regular county board meeting on September 19, 2023. Cameras and lights were discussed for installation at the Bruno Transfer Station.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners



David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to County Board