

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 5, 2023 - 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, JJ Waldhalm and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

County Administrator Minke requested the following additions to the consent agenda:

Additions

1. Consent Agenda Item 0: Exempt Permit

Consider approval of the Application for Exempt Permit for Ducks Unlimited White Bear Lake Chapter 032 to conduct lawful gambling on September 9, 2023 at Wings North, 19379 Homestead Road, Pine City (Pokegama Township) and authorize County Auditor-Treasurer to sign application.

2. Regular Agenda Item 0:

Introduction of Extension Administrative Assistant Joanna Gechas.

3. Regular Agenda Item 2.1: Joint Powers Agreement 178605 – Amendment 3

Consider approval of Joint Powers Agreement 178605 – Amendment 3 between the Minnesota Department of Corrections for Work Release Services and Pine County Jail.

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

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the June 13, 2023 Minutes of the Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole Minutes (Strategic Planning) and the June 20, 2023 regular county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Committees and Correspondence

Pine County Surveyor's Report – June 2023

Pine County Zoning Board Minutes – May 25, 2023

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

0. Exempt Permit

Approve the Application for Exempt Permit for Ducks Unlimited White Bear Lake Chapter 032 to conduct lawful gambling on September 9, 2023 at Wings North, 19379 Homestead Road, Pine City (Pokegama Township) and authorize County Auditor-Treasurer to sign application.

1. Donations

Accept the following donations:

- A. Two (2) buses, value of \$3,000 each, from 4.0 School Service, to be used at the Benjamin Neel Gun Range for training.
- B. \$500 from the Finlayson Giese Lions designated toward offsetting expenses associated with hosting the 2023 Pine County Operation Community Connect.
- C. \$23,000 from the Grand Casino-Hinckley for third quarter 2023, designated to help offset the expenses in the Sheriff's Office.

2. Personnel / Promotion

- A. Approve the promotion of Highway Mechanic Tom Lindstrom to Maintenance Supervisor, effective July 6, 2023, \$32.35/hour, Grade 11, Step 3.

3. New Hire

Approve the hiring of:

- A. Brandon Janssen, Highway Mechanic, effective July 6, 2023, Grade 7, Step 1, \$22.16/hour.
- B. Troy Parker, part-time Corrections Officer, effective July 6, 2023, Grade 7, Step 3, \$26.00/hour.

4. Training

Approve the following training:

- A. Child Support Officers Yvette Weis and Marcy Moran, and Child Support Office Support Specialist Donna Olsen to attend the MN Family Support and Recovery Council Conference, October 1-4, 2023 in Welch, Minnesota. Registration: \$295/person: \$885 total; Lodging: \$437 total; Mileage: county car will be used. Total cost: \$1,322.
- B. IT Manager Ryan Findell to attend the 2023 Minnesota County IT Leaders Association Annual Conference, September 20-22, 2023, Mankato, Minnesota. Registration included with membership fee; Lodging: \$331; Mileage: approx. \$168. Total approx. \$499.
- C. Any commissioner interested to attend AMC County Government 201 Training for Commissioners, August 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Park Event Center, 500 Division St., Waite Park, Minnesota. Registration fee: \$175 per person.
- D. Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder to attend the Advanced Residential Assessing Course, October 25-26, 2023, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Registration: \$225. No mileage will be paid and lunch is included in the registration fee.
- E. Fiscal Supervisor Michelle Kelash, Accounting Case Aide Angie Boelman, Account Technician Judy Billman to attend the Minnesota County Health & Human Services Accountants Conference, August 28-30, 2023 at Breezy Point, Minnesota. Registration: \$100/each, lodging and meals \$610/each, and mileage is \$142.79. Total cost: \$2,273.

REGULAR AGENDA

0. **Introduction of Extension Administrative Assistant**

County Administrator David Minke introduced recently hired Extension Administrative Assistant Joanna Gechas to the county board.

1. **Midwest Medical Examiner's Office Annual Report**

Midwest Medical Examiner Dr. A. Quinn Piper presented the 2022 Medical Examiner's Annual Report.

2. **Probation Comprehensive Plan Presentation**

Probation Director Terry Fawcett presented the 2023 Comprehensive Plan. Correction fees and funding were discussed.

2.1 **Joint Powers Agreement 178605 – Amendment 3 – Work Release**

Jail Administrator Rod Williamson requested approval of an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for Work Release Services, which includes extending services for an additional year, ending June 30, 2024, and increasing the total obligation of the state to a maximum of \$320,000.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Amendment 3 to the Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for Work Release Services. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **2024 Budget Meetings**

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to schedule 2024 budget meetings as follows:

Budget meeting #1 – August 15, 2023, North Pine Government Center, Sandstone (part of regular board meeting)

Budget meeting #2 – August 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Board Room, Courthouse, Pine City

Budget meeting #3 - August 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Board Room, Courthouse, Pine City

Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0. Future budget meetings will be scheduled as necessary.

4. **Commissioner Updates**

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated discussion took place regarding tribes being able to grow their own marijuana, the need for quality, educated witnesses for ICWA, and funding for a business park in Hinckley.

State Community Health Advisory Committee: Commissioner Lovgren stated the meeting was in St. Paul, and that Community Health Supervisor Sam Lo is on a committee determine how funding is going to be distributed. Lovgren stated all schools must have Naloxone available, and discussion of dedicated tobacco prevention funds.

Snake River Watershed Management Board & 1W1P: Commissioner Lovgren stated Kanabec County hired attorney John Kolb to talk to the SRWM board as some board members are unsure what the role of the SRWMB is once the 1W1P JPA is implemented. A decision will take place at the July meeting.

East Central Regional Development Commission Annual Meeting: Commissioner Waldhalm stated raises for ECRDC employees was discussed, and elections took place.

Cancelled: NLX

Housing Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA):

Commissioner Waldhalm stated a citizen complaint was discussed against the management company. Maintenance and security issues were discussed. Also discussed was how the HRA/EDA could help local governments to clean up a couple of parcels of tax forfeited properties to get them on the market for sale. Property and liability insurance for buildings was increased 17%.

Central Regional EMS: Commissioner Ludwig stated Central Regional EMS received \$164,000 funding for the biennium. An update was given that law enforcement will be required to carry two doses of Naloxone. The new medical director gave a report on drug use, etc. Cost of EMS training was discussed and funding--is there a better way to train first responders and get better services.

Other

1. Commissioner Lovgren gave an update on NACo Technology and Telecommunications Committee that scamming is occurring through text messages and consumers being caught up in enrollment in programs they weren't aware of.
2. Commissioner Lovgren attended the annual opioid meeting with municipalities hosted by Public Health. Good discussion on how to bring this information to the schools.
3. Commissioner Lovgren attended a training by Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Workforce at the 49ers Training Center. Representatives Dotseth and Nelson were present.
4. Commissioner Lovgren dropped in at the Family Resource Center in Hinckley. Good feedback was received from families in attendance.
5. Chair Hallan attended Pine Technical & Community College Summer Academy. Great program.
6. Commissioner Ludwig received a couple of complaints on ambulance availability in the county.

5. **Other**

None.

6. **Upcoming Meetings**


Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

7. **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, July 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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