

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 1, 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, and Matt Ludwig. Also present was County Administrator David Minke. Commissioner JJ Waldhalm was absent (excused).

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:

Addition

1. Consent Agenda Item 3.1: Personnel / Promotion

Consider approval of the lateral transfer of Angela Boelman to the vacant case aide position in the Aging and Disabilities unit in Health & Human Services, effective August 2, 2023. Hourly wage will remain unchanged.

2. First Regular Agenda Item: Recognition of County Surveyor and County Surveyor Week

Recognition of County Surveyor Robin Mathews and July 31, 2023-August 4, 2023 as County Surveyor Week.

3. Regular Agenda Item 9.1: Labor Negotiations

This portion of the meeting may be closed pursuant to M.S. §13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies and development, discussion, and review of labor negotiation proposals pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §179A.01 to §179A.25.

Revision

1. Upcoming Meetings: 9C: August 2, 2023 Facilities Committee meeting CANCELLED

Additional Information

1. Osprey Wilds additional information: Outdoor School for All brochure and Bill

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

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the July 18, 2023 regular county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes of Boards, Committees and Correspondence

Pine County Surveyor's Monthly Report – July, 2023

Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – July, 2023

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Liquor Applications

Acknowledge the following applications and authorize Board Chair and County Auditor-Treasurer to sign the 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
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. Donations

Accept the following donation:

- A. \$200 donation from New Horizons Thrift Store for the Operation Community Connect event

3. Contracts / Agreements / Grants

Approve the following:

- A. 2022 State of Minnesota Emergency Performance Grant and 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant–American Rescue Plan Act and approve Resolution 2023-39 authorizing Pine County Deputy Director of Emergency Management Denise Anderson to sign the grant agreements. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign the resolution.

3.1 Consent Agenda Item 3.1: Personnel / Promotion

Approve the lateral transfer of Angela Boelman to the vacant case aide position in the Aging and Disabilities unit in Health & Human Services, effective August 2, 2023. Hourly wage will remain unchanged.

4. New Hire

Approve the hiring of:

- A. Full-time Corrections Officer Kurt Olson, effective August 2, 2023, \$26.00 per hour, Grade 7, Step 3

- B. Full-time Corrections Officer Chantal Schumacher, effective August 2, 2023, \$25.05 per hour, Grade 7, Step 2
- C. Full-time Corrections Officer Zachary Yerke, effective August 2, 2023, \$24.11 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1
- D. Part-time Corrections Officer Jackson Workman, effective August 2, 2023, \$25.05, Grade 7, Step 2.
- E. Part-time Corrections Officer Kailyn Bethke, effective August 2, 2023, \$24.11 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1
- F. Part-time Corrections Officer Henry Randa, effective August 2, 2023, \$24.11 per hour, Grade 7, Step 1
- G. Full-time Deputy Ellena Sundet, effective on or before October 1, 2023, at \$27.19, Grade 10, Step 1, contingent upon successful completion of license test

5. **Training**

Approve the following:

- 1. Human Resources Manager Jackie Koivisto to virtually attend the 2023 Minnesota Public Employer Labor Relations Association (MPELRA) Summer Conference, August 9-11, 2023. Registration: \$150

REGULAR AGENDA

0. **Recognition of County Surveyor and County Surveyor Week**

The board thanked Pine County Surveyor Robin Mathews for his hard work and dedication. County Engineer Mark LeBrun commented on the benefit of having a land surveyor on staff. The week of July 31, 2023-August 4, 2023 has been proclaimed County Surveyors Week within the State of Minnesota.

1. **Osprey Wilds Presentation**

Executive Director Bryan Wood stated Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is one of five outdoor school providers within the state of Minnesota and requested support for the Outdoor School for All Minnesota program. Osprey Wilds is advocating for the establishment of a statewide grant program to support immersive, multiday, accredited overnight outdoor education program experiences for students in grades 4 to 8 to ensure that all Minnesota students have a chance to benefit from outdoor education. The annual cost is estimated at \$25 million.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to draft a letter and adopt resolution 2023-41 in support of the proposed Outdoor School for all Minnesota legislation. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Land Advisory Committee Report**

Commissioner Lovgren stated the Land Advisory Committee met on July 24, 2023. The Land Advisory Committee made the following recommendations:

- A. Approve the public land sale terms and conditions and parcel listing, the adjoining landowner terms and conditions and parcel listing, and the township conveyance requests. Approve the following Resolutions and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign:
 - i. Resolution 2023-35: 2023 Pine County Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Sale Terms and Conditions.
 - ii. Resolution 2023-36: Resolution for Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Limited to Adjoining Property Owners.

- iii. Resolution 2023-37: Arna Township Conveyance.
- iv. Resolution 2023-38: Pokegama Township Conveyance.
- B. Authorize the demolition of the Henriette Gas Station at a cost of up to \$20,000 and to continue to solicit interest in a sale or partnership on the Finlayson Creamery and not demolish at this point.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the recommendations of the Land Advisory Committee and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign the following:

Resolution 2023-35: 2023 Pine County Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Sale Terms and Conditions;

Resolution 2023-36: Resolution for Tax-Forfeit Land Auction Limited to Adjoining Property Owners;

Resolution 2023-37: Arna Township Conveyance;

Resolution 2023-38: Pokegama Township Conveyance;

and authorize the demolition of the Henriette gas station at a cost of up to \$20,000. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Cannabis Update – Public Use Ordinance

County Administrator David Minke reviewed that at the July 18, 2023 county board meeting, County Attorney Reese Frederickson gave an update on the new cannabis law and provided options available to local governments to limit the use of cannabis in public places. Cities would need to adopt an ordinance to limit use within their jurisdiction. Also discussed was policy changes for cannabis use on county facilities and properties.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to set a public hearing for September 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, to consider an ordinance regulating the use of cannabis and cannabis-derived products in public places. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

It was the consensus of the board that the Personnel Committee review and recommend possible policy changes for limiting use of cannabis at the courthouse or North Pine Government Center.

It was the consensus of the board that the Land Committee review and recommend possible ordinance changes for use of cannabis on county memorial forest.

4. Joint Powers Agreement for the Implementation of the Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Commissioner Lovgren stated the Snake River Watershed Management Policy Committee voted 5-3 to recommend the proposed Joint Powers Agreement for implementation of the 1W1P be sent to the eight partners for consideration, with Aitkin County, Kanabec County and Mille Lacs County opposing.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Implementation of the Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P) and authorize the board chair and county administrator to sign the JPA. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Presentation of Employee Survey Results

County Administrator David Minke reviewed the employee survey results.

6. Summary of Conclusions of County Administrator Performance Evaluation

The annual performance review of County Administrator David Minke took place during closed session during the July 18, 2023 county board meeting. Minnesota statute 13D.05, Subd 3(a) states that at the next open meeting, the county board is to summarize its conclusions

regarding the evaluation. Chair Hallan stated that County Administrator Minke has received an excellent rating by the county board.

7. Commissioner Updates

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe meeting: Commissioner Lovgren stated the casino will not allow the use, or growing of cannabis on tribal grounds.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Discussed at Regular Agenda #4 above.

Snake River Policy Committee-1W1P: Discussed at Regular Agenda #4 above.

Land Advisory Committee: Discussed at Regular Agenda #2 above.

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership: Chair Hallan stated this is a large group that works well together, focusing on making the Lower St. Croix watershed better. An event will be held at the Hinze Farm in Pine City on September 17, 2023, demonstrating some of the projects that have been implemented there as a direct result of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership.

Technology Committee: Cancelled

NLX: Cancelled

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

Commissioner Ludwig stated it was a standard meeting. Security cameras were discussed. The potential purchase of North Court apartments was discussed; a purchase agreement has been sent to Accord for their review; this can be sold in 2024.

Schools-County-PTCC meeting: HHS Director Becky Foss gave a presentation on Family Recourse Center. Pine Technical and Community College Present Joe Mulford gave a programs and student housing update.

Other:

Commissioner Ludwig attended a meeting regarding the ongoing high-water level concerns on Sturgeon Lake. Houston Engineering gave a presentation and options to lower the water level.

8. Other

Chair Hallan stated that the House Appropriations Committee has selected Bridge 58510 replacement on CSAH 61 over the Snake River for inclusion in the House Appropriations Reported Bill Language.

Chair Hallan called for a recess at 11:46 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

9. Closed Meeting – Labor Negotiation

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies and development, discussion, and review of labor negotiation proposals, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 179A.01 to 179A.25. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting closed at 11:50 a.m. Present in the meeting room were Commissioners Hallan, Mohr, Lovgren, and Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke, Human Resources Manager Jackie Koivisto, and IT Manager Ryan Findell.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to open the closed meeting. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 4-0.

The open session reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

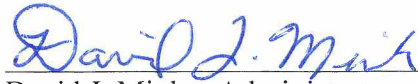
10. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 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

Terry Lovgren, Vice Chair



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