

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

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Board Room, 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 and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Due to an out-of-town commitment, Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioner Waldhalm was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrero, Arecibo PR, a location open and accessible to the public.

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan welcomed the students and staff from the East Central Schools 9th grade government class. The class will spend the day at the courthouse learning about county government.

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

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2023 regular county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye, District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Committees and Correspondence

Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – March, 2023

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – March 9, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Committees and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren.

Commissioner Mohr inquired how the appraised values of timber was determined. Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder stated tree age, quality, and access to the timber are the considering factors.

A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Applications

A. Exempt Permit

- i. Approve the application for exempt permit for Disabled Outdoorsmen USA of MN to conduct lawful gambling on April 29, 2023 at Wings North, 19379 Homestead Rd, Pine City, MN (Pokegama Twp.) and authorize County Auditor-Treasurer to sign the application.

2. Sheriff's Chaplain Corp Accounts

Affirm the assignment of accounts 01-211-000-0000-5751 (Chaplains Corp Revenues) and 01-211-000-0000-6379 (Chaplains Corp Expenditures).

3. 2023 Timber Auction

Approve the timber auction tracts and the general terms and conditions of the sale.

4. New Dosey Town Road Easement

Approve Resolution 2023-20 granting a nonexclusive public easement for the purposes of utilities, roadway, and recreational trail use, over, under, and across as a built road in Sections 3 and 11 of Township 43 North, Range 16 West, and authorize the Board Chair and County Administrator to execute the quit claim deed conveying said easement.

5. 2023 State Boat and Water Safety Grant

Approve the 2023 State Boat and Water Safety Grant in the amount of \$5,471. The grant will be used for enforcement hours and annual maintenance. The grant period is January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

6. Donations

Accept the \$50 donation from Karen Nelson, to offset expenditures, to the Pine County Sheriff's Office K-9 Program.

7. New Hire

Authorize the hiring of the following:

- A. Two (2) part-time Hazardous Waste Recycling Attendants, Rick Gross and Jean Petersen, as non-union, Grade 1, employees at a wage of \$16.10 per hour, effective April 4, 2023, pending successful baseline medical examination for working with hazardous waste.
- B. Full-time Deputy Sheriff Carter Lagergren, effective April 17, 2023, \$28.60, Grade 10, Step 2.

8. **Training**

- A. Authorize Chemical Health Resource Coordinator Adriane Wimmer to attend the Helping Each Other Heal Conference, April 20-21, 2023, in Hinckley. There are no registration fees associated with attendance.
- B. Ratify Probation Agent Shawnesy Smith to attend Decision Points Facilitator training, March 28-31, 2023, in Austin, Minnesota. Training: \$500, Lodging: \$266.07, Meals: up to \$153. Total cost: \$919.
- C. Authorize Fraud Investigator Kari Rybak to attend the MN BCA Financial Crimes Task Force Criminal Investigation Conference, May 11-12, 2023, in Brainerd. Expenses associated with attendance at the conference are being covered by the MN BCA.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **University of Minnesota – Extension Update**

U of M Extension Regional Director D. Craig Taylor, replacement for Susanne Hinrichs as the Regional Director for Pine County, introduced himself and provided an overview of the role of extension in Pine County.

2. **Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program**

Lakes & Pines Emergency Services Program Manager Jennifer Erdmann provided information on the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (MHFA). This program provides assistance to low-income families and youth to prevent homelessness.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2023-23 Authorizing Administration of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency’s Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program for the period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign resolution. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hallan called a recess at 10:27 a.m.

County Board meeting resumed at 10:28 a.m.

3. **Nemadji Watershed Biennial Workplan**

Commissioner Matt Ludwig stated the Nemadji Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan has been implementing the first biennium implementation plan. A second biennium grant from the MN Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) is anticipated, and to be eligible for the grant, a biennial work plan is required. The workplan directs spending of a \$250,000 BWSR grant and includes forestry and farm planning, project development and engineering.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the 2023-2024 biennial workplan for the Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye; District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye; District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Clean Water Partnership Loan Amendment**

County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder provided an overview of Resolution 2023-22 to execute the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Load Agreement Amendment No. 2 which will increase the funding from the program from \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000. There is not an income-based requirement to be eligible for this program.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve 2023-22 authorizing County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder to execute the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment No. 2 and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign resolution. Second by Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan: District 3-Commissioner Lovgren/Aye; District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Aye; District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye, District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye; District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Commissioner Updates**

NLX - cancelled

Pine County Housing and Redevelopment Authority / Economic Development Authority:

Commissioner Ludwig stated there was discussion around and how to differentiate between housing management operations and HRA/EDA programming; child care was also discussed. A broadband update was given.

State Community Health Services Executive Committee: Commissioner Lovgren stated as of May 11, 2023 the COVID public health emergency is ending, and discussion was held as to whether over-the-counter COVID testing will continue to be paid by insurance.

Snake River Watershed Management Board: Commissioner Lovgren stated the county has provided a letter to the Snake River Watershed Management Board encouraging the management board to be dissolved. Governance continues to be discussed.

Pine City Fiber Optic Joint Powers Board Meeting: Chair Hallan stated the meeting was an informational meeting as to what fiber is available in Pine City.

Technology Committee - cancelled

Meeting with staff from Senator Smith's Office: Chair Hallan and Commissioner Lovgren met with Orion DiFranco, staff member from Senator Tina Smith's Office. Lovgren stated that Broadband grants are available, however larger counties are receiving the funds as they have additional staff available who have the time and expertise to fill out the complex applications.

Central Regional EMS: Meeting rescheduled.

Other

- a. Commissioner Ludwig/Commissioner Waldhalm discussed railway safety and emergency management in light of the recent train derailments throughout the country.
- b. Chair Hallan recently attended the AMC Leadership Summit training.
- c. Commissioner Ludwig recently participated in the CivicBrand interview.

6. **Other**

None.

7. **Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

8. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 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 Commissions



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