

**MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, Courthouse, 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 out-of-town commitments, Chair Steve Hallan and Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioners Hallan and Waldhalm were seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at locations open and accessible to the public, and participated from 14511 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola, Florida, and 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrero, Arecibo PR, respectively.

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:

Consent Agenda Item 4.C: Changing Gaits' Grant Pass-Thru Application

Consider approval of the Waiver of Variable Pass-Thru Percentage/Minnesota Public Safety-Office of Justice Programs 2023 Federal Byrne JAG Criminal and Juvenile Justice Intervention Grant Funds.

Consent Agenda Item 8.F: New Hire of Corrections Officer

Consider approval of the hiring of Corrections Officer Arianne Grubbs, effective February 8, 2023, Grade 7, Step 1, \$23.16 per hour.

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

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2023 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. 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.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – January 12, 2023

Pine County Zoning Board Minutes – December 19, 2022

Pine County Surveyors Monthly Report – January, 2023

Hinckley Annexation Correspondence – January 20, 2023

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Notice of Comment Period – January 24, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. 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 Ludwig to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Applications**

Disaster Abatements

Approve the following 2022 local option disaster abatements:

- i. Matthew Beal, PID 46.0060.000, Sturgeon Lake City, fire 6/20/22 to house and garage and did not become habitable in 2022
- ii. Dr. Chris Ketchmark, PID 45.5315.000, Sandstone City, fire 1/20/22 to office building, did not become habitable in 2022
- iii. Shannon Logue, PID 43.0599.000, Rock Creek City, fire 2/19/21 to house, moved back in March 1, 2022
- iv. Jimmie & Anita Sparks, PID 28.0516.000, fire 11/6/22 to house, did not become habitable in 2022
- v. Janice Swanson, PID 29.0210.001, Royalton Township, fire 9/24/22 to house, did not become habitable in 2022

2. **Commissioner Expense Claim Form**

Approve Chair Hallan's expense claim form.

3. **Donations**

Approve a \$50 donation from Dennis Gottschalk designated to the Veterans Service Office for veterans outreach.

4. **Grant Agreements**

Approve the following grants and authorize the Board Chair/Vice Chair and County Administrator to sign:

A. **2023 MN Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant**

2023 Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant in the amount of \$2,450. The grant will be used to purchase 10 inflatable life jackets. The grant period is January 1, 2023 – August 1, 2023. There is no match requirement.

B. **FY 2023 State of Minnesota SSTS Program Grant Agreement**

- i. FY 2023 State of Minnesota SSTS Program Grant Agreement in the amount of \$18,600. The grant will be used toward funding for the 2023 Pine County Zoning Department budget. The grant is effective upon being fully signed and the Grantee having been notified of same, and expires December 31, 2024.

- ii. Appoint the County Auditor-Treasurer to serve as the County’s authorized representative for the grant.

C. **Changing Gaits’ Grant Application**

Waiver of Variable Pass-Thru Percentage/Minnesota Public Safety-Office of Justice Programs 2023 Federal Byrne JAG Criminal and Juvenile Justice Intervention Grant Funds. The waiver acknowledges any grant funds provided to local government that are directed to this program will pass through to the program should Changing Gaits obtain the grant.

5. **Septic Fix-Up Special Assessment**

Approve Resolution 2023-04 extending a special assessment as follows, and authorize Board Chair/Vice Chair and County Administrator to sign: Daniel and Jamie Hendrix, PID 06.0259.000, \$20,000; Thomas and Traci Dubois, PID 13.0424.001, \$18,750; Gregory and Lisa Larson, PID 04.0134.001, \$19,000; Samuel and Nicole Lewis, PID 10.0088.000, \$26,200; Lewis and Shannon Brockette, PID 17.0208.004, \$19,650; Patrick and Patricia Reicherts, PID 21.0241.000, \$20,000; Brent Jones and Kelly Petricka, PID 26.0219.000, \$23,132; Raghad Dhahad, PID 06.0154.000, \$17,700.

6. **Operation Community Connect Accounts**

Approve committing accounts 12-481-486-0002-5761/Operation Community Connect donations, and 12-481-486-0002-6802/Operation Community Connect expense, to the purpose of the Operation Community Connect events.

7. **Personnel (Promotion)**

Approve the internal promotion of Case Aide Lisa Stoffel to Community Support Technician, effective February 8, 2023, Grade 7, \$26.16 per hour.

8. **New Hire**

Approve the hiring of:

- A. Office Support Specialist Amber Kopyy, effective February 8, 2023, Grade 2, Step 3, \$17.98 per hour.
- B. Eligibility Worker Ashley Spencer, effective February 13, 2023, Grade 6, Step 1, \$20.90 per hour.
- C. Family Resource Center Coordinator Kala Roberts, effective February 21, 2023, Grade 9, Step 6, \$30.23 per hour.
- D. Eligibility Worker Jami Newlin, effective February 13, 2023, Grade 6, Step 1, \$20.90 per hour.
- E. Deputy Sheriff Eric Gruninger, effective February 21, 2023, Grade 10, Step 2, \$28.60 per hour.
- F. Corrections Officer Arianne Grubbs, effective February 8, 2023, Grade 7, Step 1, \$23.16 per hour.

9. **Training**

Approve the following training:

- A. Environmental Technician Lukas Olson to attend the Advanced SSTS Design and Inspection course, October 2-6, 2023 in Alexandria, Minnesota. Registration \$570, Lodging \$500, Mileage \$199, Total cost \$1,269.

- B. Fraud Investigator Kari Rybak to attend the Minnesota Fraud Investigator’s Association 35th Annual Spring Conference, May 3-5, 2023 in Cohasset, Minnesota. Registration \$185, Lodging/Meals \$391. Total cost: \$576.
- C. Social Workers Ashley Gnat, Deanna Williams and Esther Sereti to attend the Minnesota Social Services Association (MSSA) Conference, March 15-17, 2023 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Registration \$792/total for 3, Meals \$108/total for 3, Travel \$450 total/rideshare. Total cost: \$1,350.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Technology Committee Report

Commissioner Josh Mohr stated the Technology Committee met January 24, 2023. The Technology Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. Continue to allow public comment at regular meetings. Request advance notice for public comments made remotely, IT will forward the meeting link to the requestor; this will commence February 21, 2023.
- b. Continue to post livestream address on the county website.
- c. All other items for county board meetings, currently including the live stream and recording on YouTube, will remain the same. Meetings that are not live streamed, or if technology is not available, will continue to operate as is current procedure.

2. Facilities Committee Report

Commissioner Ludwig stated the Facilities Committee met February 1, 2023. The Jail study/plan update, jail camera/door integration project, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) project, and ventilation for the drying room at the Sandstone sheriff’s office were discussed. Commissioner Ludwig stated the cost for the jail project may be approximately \$3,000,000 and encouraged commissioners to reach out to our local legislative representatives for state bonding for this project.

3. Department of Natural Resources Parcel Acquisition in Rock Creek

Joshua Koelsch, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, was present to answer questions regarding the proposed land acquisition of 160 acres located at 10806 550th St., Rush City. This is a private land sale to Pheasants Forever East Central Spurs Chapter, which land will then be transferred to the DNR. Annual real estate tax received is approximately \$2,300; upon transfer to the DNR, the land will be eligible for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments from the state as Wildlife Management Lands. The PILT calculation is based on the greater of \$5.133 per acre or 0.75% of the appraised value of all wildlife land within the county. Koelsch estimates next year’s PILT payment at \$2,400.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to send a letter of support to the Department of Natural Resources for acquisition of the 160 acres located at 10806 550th St., Rush City. Second by Commissioner Lovgren.

A **motion to amend** was made by Commissioner Waldhalm to remove 160 acres of comparable, tax-forfeited county land and place it for sale, to offset the 160 acres located at 10806 550th Street, Rush City.

Motion to amend died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Lovgren stated the Land Advisory Committee could review that request. Chair Hallan called for a Roll Call vote on the original motion: District 5-Commissioner Ludwig/Aye, District 1-Chair Hallan/Aye, District 2-Commissioner Mohr/Aye, District 3-

Commissioner Lovgren/Aye, District 4-Commissioner Waldhalm/Nay. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Waldhalm opposing.

4. **Revolving Loan Fund**

County Administrator David Minke stated the Pine County HRA-EDA is eligible to apply for grant funds to create a revolving loan fund and receive technical assistance for the initial implementation. The HRA-EDA intends to match the request for a \$100,00 grant from the Rural Business Development Grant program using \$19,099.70 from the county's revolving loan fund.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the transfer of Pine County Revolving Loan Fund funds to the Pine County HRA-EDA, in the amount of \$19,099.70. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. 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.

5. **2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Program**

Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson provided an overview of the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Plan with proposed activities. Funding includes AIS control, monitoring, youth, prevention, education and administration. The total funding available for the 2023 AIS plan is \$267,607.34 consisting of \$144,794.34 unspent from previous years and \$122,810 in 2023 funding. The 2023 AIS Plan, compiled from all requests, is budgeted at \$200,747.51.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2023-05 adopting the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Plan and budget and authorize Board Vice Chair and County Administrator to sign. 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.

6. **East Central Energy Broadband Project**

East Central Energy (ECE) Vice President-CIO Ty Houglum provided an overview of ECE's Border-to-Border grants received, and unserved or underserved areas ECE intends to fund for the expansion of broadband to these areas. The county has committed \$11,000 for the county portion of the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program previously allocated from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2023-03 supporting East Central Energy's Broadband Project to provide fiber broadband internet to its service area and provided \$11,000 towards the project from previously identified ARPA funds, and to provide a letter of support for broadband to these unserved/underserved areas. Second by Commissioner 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.

7. **Establish Dates for Special Meetings**

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to set the following two Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole meetings: (1) March 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse for the purpose of discussing and considering action related to recycling and solid waste management, considering an update on the I-35 Traffic Study and Tribal Economy Business Park and Feasibility Study and other topics that are included on the meeting agenda; (2) April 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the North Pine Government Center, Sandstone for the purpose of

discussing and considering action related to county highways and public works and to conduct a road tour of county highways. 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.

8. **Commissioner Updates**

Arrowhead Counties Association: Commissioner Ludwig stated Chair and Vice Chair were re-elected. There is a case before the United States Supreme Court out of Hennepin County regarding who should receive the proceeds from the sale of tax forfeited property. If the cases prevails, the money would be given to the previous owner who lost the property because of tax forfeiture.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails–Legislative Update: Chair Hallan unable to attend due to technology difficulties.

Snake River Watershed Management Board - cancelled

Snake River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee: Commissioner Lovgren stated the Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the comprehensive water management plan.

Discussion took place as far as the organization structure and whether Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) should be considered as voting members. Pine County's position is that SWCD members should be allowed to vote.

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council: Chair Hallan stated bills were paid, grants were awarded, and introductions were made of the new members.

Lower St. Croix Partnership (1W1P): Chair Hallan stated one of the grant projects that is proceeding forward is a project in the Rock Creek.

NLX: Commissioner Ludwig unable to attend.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority: Commissioner Ludwig stated two members will be attending the MN Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Day at the Capital. The HRA-EDA approved a request to authorize an application to the Rural Business Development Grant program to establish a Pine County Revolving Loan Fund by providing up to a match up to \$100,000 including the \$19,099.70 which was awarded to the HRA-EDA at Regular Agenda #4 above. Redpath and Company will perform the 2022 audit.

Pine County Education Leadership Network: Commissioner Lovgren stated a presentation was given on Family Resource Centers; discussion was held as to additional funding sources for the costs of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the schools.

Central EMS: Commissioner Ludwig said the funding for the Central EMS was discussed.

GMPT Legislative Action Day: Commissioners unable to attend.

East Central Regional Juvenile Advisory Committee: Commissioner Ludwig stated five new counties have joined the group. The county has one bed; at some point there may be a bed shortage.

Minnesota Community Awareness Emergency Response (MNCAER) Pipeline Safety Program: Commissioner Lovgren stated pipeline/ditch safety was discussed. Chair Hallan stated that members of our highway department should attend this training.

AMC Probation WorkGroup: Commissioner Ludwig stated the information in the board packet provided information as to the probation delivery systems and their method of funding. Pine County is a County Probation Officer (CPO) county, which per statute, is reimbursable up to 50% from the Department of Corrections.

Other

NACO Telecommunications and Technology Committee: Commissioner Lovgren stated one of the most important resolutions to be considered is getting cell phone coverage to unserved/unserved areas so that broadband can be used in those areas. Also of importance is getting rid of hidden fees on bills.

US Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Disasters: Commissioner Lovgren stated this highlighted how other areas of the country are preparing for possible disasters.

Internet for All telecommunication: Commissioner Lovgren stated counties and cities addressed their needs in their area and how these jurisdictions can help each other.

Project RISE: Commissioner Lovgren stated there is great teamwork between the probation/courts/schools. Fishing for Youth taking place in Pine City. Verbal abuse at schools has increased/vaping is down.

Legislative Update: Commissioner Lovgren stated there are a lot of funds available for broadband and mental health.

9. Other

None.

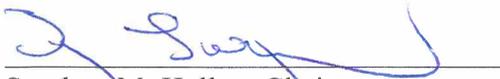
10. Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

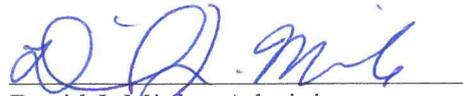
11. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota.



Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Terry Lovgren, Vice Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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