

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:30 a.m.  
County Boardroom and Via Teleconference

MEMBER PRESENT IN BOARDROOM: Commissioner Adee

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Commissioners Pavleck, Sjoblom, Skoe, McBride

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN BOARDROOM ATTENDANCE: Kathy LaFrance, Tom West, Dave Reimer, Trent Nicholson, Jaci Nagle, Matt Gouin and Nathan Heibel

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA TELECONFERENCE: Mark Lessard, Janelle Peterson, Lindsay Frank, Len Peterson, Kelly Meyers, Perryn Hedlund, Eric Olson, Lake of the Woods County Board, B93 Radio Reporter Randy Thoms, Journal Reporter Emily Gedde and KCCTV Reporter Darcy Sullivan

2020/03-17 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-18 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Skoe to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 regular meeting. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-19 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to add County Board meetings to be held March 31, April 7 and April 14, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Boardroom. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-20 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Skoe to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$29,254.77, approve Highway claims in the amount of \$14,302.72 and approve Public Health and Human Services claims as presented. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-21 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Pavleck to adopt the following resolution authorizing Koochiching County to advance two weeks sick leave to employees due to the COVID -19 Pandemic:

**WHEREAS**, The Koochiching County Board of Commissioners declares activation of this resolution consistent with a public health emergency declaration by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health; and

**WHEREAS** the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners approves the advancement of two weeks of sick leave to employees who meet a specific criteria; as follows

**WHEREAS** an employee is experiencing symptoms consistent with the public health emergency, or is caring for an immediate family member experiencing these symptoms; or

**WHEREAS** an employee has an immediate family member affected as a result when a school or place of care has been closed due to public health emergency and their presence is required to provide care for the family member; or

**WHEREAS** an employee has been directed by their Department Director to modify their work schedule; and

**WHEREAS** an employee has exhausted all their accumulated sick leave and compensatory time; and

**WHEREAS** all other provisions of the collective bargaining agreements remain intact, including but not limited to those pertaining to paid leave benefits.

**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners approves the advancement of two weeks sick leave for employees who meet the criteria of this resolution. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-22 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to fill the vacant Full Time/Part Time Laborer position. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-23 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to authorize the Board Chair's signature to a letter to the Minnesota Historical Society and copied to the chief of Rainy River First Nation (Manitou) Robin McGinnis requesting an update of the status of the Grand Mound. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-24 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to ratify the following resolution authorizing the Koochiching County Courthouse and Facilities closed to the public with exceptions:

**WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2020, the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime state of emergency pursuant to the issuance of Executive Order 20-01 due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19, also referred to as the Coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Gildea issued an order suspending nonessential court services and on March 18, 2020 Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, the Honorable Tamara Yon, issued an Administrative Order limiting Koochiching County District Court to remain open for only Super High and High Priority cases; and

**WHEREAS** the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners has taken action to temporarily close the County courthouse and facilities to the public effective March 17, 2020, with the exception of the District Court area for High and Super High Priority cases; and

**WHEREAS** Mn Statute 373.052, sub.1b allows a County Board to take this action and approve it retroactively; and

**WHEREAS** County services continue to be provided to the public as appropriate via email, telephone and mail delivery; and

**WHEREAS** safe staffing strategies have been enacted in an effort to keep County employees and the public safe;

**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** as a response to the uncertainty of the COVID – 19 pandemic the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners ratifies the closure of the Koochiching County Courthouse and facilities to the public with the exception of the District Court area for High and Super High Priority cases. Voting yes: Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-25 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to approve the Koochiching County Credit Card policy and the following credit limits for each department: Administration - \$2,000, Assessor - \$4,000, Attorney - \$2,000, Auditor/Treasurer - \$2,000, Complex - \$5,000, Environmental Services - \$3,000, Highway - \$5,000, Information Service - \$2,000, Land and Forestry - \$2,000, Recorder - \$2,000, Sheriff - \$3,000 and VSO - \$3,000. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

000 Discussion regarding large gatherings of people coming to the Rainy River every spring to fish. This event creates busy boat ramps, overflowing boat ramp parking and close public contact with park attendants and anglers. Lake of the Wood County Board joined the meeting via teleconference to consider closures of Koochiching County boat landings and parks along the Rainy River due to the COVID-19 virus and the risks of large gatherings after receiving multiple concerns from constituents. The discussion included writing a letter to Gov. Tim Walz and state lawmakers, encouraging them to close the fishing season completely, but commissioners opted not to include this language in the motion. There was discussion to contact the DNR to encourage them to close the two landings they manage on the Rainy River and the recommended length of a probable closure. Also, discussion of the County resources needed to patrol and monitor the landings if they remain open. Discussion also noted the City of Baudette had closed their landings the previous day for similar reasons.

2020/03-26 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to close the following County parks: Upper Sault, Nelson, Frontier Landing and Vidas Landing to vehicles until further notice due to public health concerns associated with the COVID – 19 pandemic and the potential high volume of use associated with early Rainy River spring fishing. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

000 The County Sheriff addressed the Board requesting they approve the declaration of a state of emergency for the next 30 days due to the COVID – 19 pandemic. The Sheriff stressed the action as not to cause panic, but to organize preparedness. It would also allow citizens to become eligible for any State and Federal emergency funding if it becomes available.

2020/03-27 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to adopt the following resolution declaring an emergency for Koochiching County:

**WHEREAS**, Koochiching County, MN is suffering from the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, extensive impact to individuals, businesses, schools, first responders, hospitals, and other services countywide; and

**WHEREAS**, Subject matter experts and local public health have determined that the protective measures that must be undertaken to reduce the impact of COVID-19 will be above and beyond local capabilities and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Koochiching County Department of Emergency Management has partially activated its EOC and is assisting in mobilizing resources, public information, and operational coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, Koochiching County Department of Emergency Management requests that the Koochiching Board Chair declares Koochiching County in a State of Local Emergency due to the ongoing COVID – 19 Pandemic.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Chair of the Koochiching Board of Commissioners hereby declare a STATE OF EMERGENCY in Koochiching County, Minnesota for the next 30 days, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which began, and requests coordination for the application of any state or federal assistance that may be available. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-28 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to approve the sponsorship of existing snowmobile, cross country ski and ATV grants for the International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club, RidgeRunner Snowmobile Club and the Polar Polers Ski Club in the MN Trails Assistance Grant-In-Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2020 covering the Blue Ox, Caldwell Brook and Lundstrom Trails and Hagerman, Voyageurs West and Loman Trails and the Tilson Ski Trail. Sponsorship by the County requires that a Club/County Agreement be in effect (Agreement on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office). As sponsor, the County is accountable to the State for expenditures charged to the State Grant-In-Aid program, but sponsorship does not require financial support or liability for cost from the County. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-29 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to approve the purchase of a video conferencing equipment with Pinnaca in the amount of \$8,524.24 for the Veteran's Service Office to be paid from Blandin Broadband Grant funds in the amount of \$6,600 and the remainder paid from the Veteran's Service Office Enhancement grant. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-30 Motion by McBride, seconded by Sjoblom to approve payment for Burial Case #225462 in the amount of \$1,400. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-31 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to accept the low bid for the purchase of a 2020 Ram 4x4 Classic ST Quad Cab Pickup Truck from Wherley Motors, Inc. in the amount of \$23,894.62 with a transfer of Unit #84 - 2011 Chevy 1500 Silverado-Extended Cab to the

Highway Department with a fund balance transfer in the trade in allowance amount of \$4,229. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-32 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to approve Board Chairs signature on the General Notice to Control or Eradicate Noxious Weeds as required by Mn Statute 18.83 to be published on or before May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-33 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to renew a one year contract with the Occupational Development Center for Transfer Station and Recycle Center work with an increase in the hourly rate from \$15 to \$18 per hour. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-34 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to approve a Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota, SWIFT Contract Number 172894 in the amount of \$87,500. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-35 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Sjoblom to approve the purchase of one Komatsu D65EX-18 Waste Handler Crawler Dozer in the amount of \$367,545.04 with reimbursement from the State of Minnesota of \$87,500 per the Grant Agreement and as budgeted in 2020. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-36 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to authorize the County Engineer to seek quotes for hired trucks, propane delivery and nuisance beaver services. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-37 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for County Project 2020-02 – CSAH 45 Sidewalk from the Good Samaritan to TH 11/71. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-38 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe to approve the purchase of Land and Forestry Unit #84 - 2011 Chevy 1500 Silverado-Extended Cab in the amount of \$4,229. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-39 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for SAP 036-620-020 – CSAH 20 Angled Parking. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-40 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Sjoblom to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for County Project 2020-01 – 2020 Striping. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-41 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to award the low bid for SAP 036 640 005 - CSAH 40 Mill and Overlay to Northern Paving Inc. in the amount of \$157,019.66. Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-42 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Sjoblom to award the low bid for SAP 036 703 001  
- CSAH 103 Road Rebuild to Bowman Asphalt Products, Inc.in the amount of \$2,594,490.  
Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.

2020/03-43 Motion by McBride, seconded by Pavleck to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.  
Voting yes by roll call: Pavleck, McBride, Sjoblom, Skoe Adee. Motion carried.