

P O P E MINNESOTA
C O U N T Y

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OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Pope County Board of Commissioners
April 24, 2019

The April 24, 2019 duly noticed Special Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Cody Rogahn with the following Board members present: Commissioners Paul Gerde, Gordy Wagner and Larry Lindor. Kersten Kappmeyer, County Coordinator, was also present. Representatives from other Pope County government entities were also in attendance by invitation, including those from the Minnewaska Area School District; the Cities of Long Beach, Lowry and Starbuck; and Ben Wade, Gilchrist, Glenwood, Grove Lake, Leven, Minnewaska, and Westport Townships.

Before the work session begun, introductions were made by the members in attendance.

The following topics came on for discussion among the members present.

A presentation on Census 2020 Complete Count Committees was made by Coordinator Kappmeyer. Volunteers were solicited from the body from those interested in serving on such a Committee, the appointment of which will be taken up at a future County Board meeting.

The topic of Economic Development Generally in the County was introduced by the Chair. The role of the HRA-EDA in this area was discussed as well as potential projects in the community. Discussion among the members included proper focus of economic development efforts and encouragement of working together among the units of government, sharing of capital plans among the units, and use of technology.

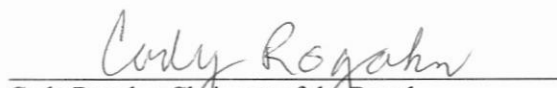
The topic of Broadband access in the County was raised by the members. Participants in the County's Broadband Committee discussed the County's efforts to lobby for greater access to Broadband in the areas of the County that remain unserved or underserved after the last Border-to-Border grant project awarded to Hanson Communications of Starbuck. There was discussion of a common, model resolution in support of the State's continued support of Broadband projects within the County, which the County will develop and take up for distribution to the local government units at a future Board meeting.

The topic of City-Township Fire Department Contracts was raised by the members. Attendees from various Townships expressed concerns with increased rates from some department, which has resulted in the shifting of some service areas based on contract decisions made by the Townships. It was agreed among the members that increased communications between the Cities, their departments, and Townships was warranted on this topic.

Attendees also discussed plans for future meetings, with the sense that such meetings were valuable and should be planned in the future, but actionable items on topics raised at such intergovernmental meetings as this would help keep the meetings viable in the future.

After other updates were shared with the attendees, Chair Rogahn adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.


Kersten Kappmeyer, County Coordinator


Cody Rogahn, Chairman of the Board