

**ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Pennington County Commissioners**

April 16, 2009

The City Council of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, met in adjourned session on April 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following Councilmembers were present: Cullen, Holten, Erickson, Kajewski, Schmalz and Mayor Nordhagen. Councilmembers Bendickson and Lee were absent. Mayor Nordhagen chaired the meeting.

Pennington County Commissioners present: Naplin, Swanson, Jensen, and Tveitbakk

Red Lake Water District representatives present: Myron Jesme and Delray Sparby.

City staff/consultants present: Jodie Torkelson, Mike Moore, Mark Borseth, Paul Ihle, and Dave Kildahl

Pennington County staff present: Mike Flaagen, Alan Rogalla, Ken Olson

Others Present: Nate Dalager with HDR Engineering, Kurt Dieter with Rinke Noonan, and Wally Sparby with Rep. Collin Peterson

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Naplin called the meeting to order. Mike Flaagen, County Engineer, gave the history of County Ditch #1. Flaagen then asked Nate Dalager with HDR Engineering, to talk about the current situation with County Ditch #1 based on the recently completed study conducted by HDR. Dalager also stated that the benefitted area does not match up with the drainage area and the benefitted areas aren't all paying for the benefit.

Kurt Dieter with Rinke Noonan then walked through the options available in dealing with the flooding problems along County Ditch #1. The options presented were:

- 1) Pennington County can remain the drainage authority and repair County Ditch #1.
- 2) Pennington County can transfer County Ditch #1 to the Red Lake Watershed District.
- 3) Pennington County can abandon the ditch. The County would then lose the easement.
- 4) If the City petitions for the portion of the ditch within city limits, Pennington County can transfer that part of the ditch to the City to urbanize with storm sewer. The easement would transfer to the City. The City would need to guarantee that any improvements done would still maintain the current outlet capacity for the areas outside of city limits as they had prior to the transfer.

Several county residents impacted by the ditch asked questions about drainage issues they experienced this spring. Various solutions were raised. Dalager stated that there are engineering solutions that can be done but they all come down to who will be the responsible entity and pay for the improvements. He stated that any solution should include a diversion outside of city limits.

Sparby said there may be money available in the state bonding bill and that Sen. Stumpf and Rep. Olin be contacted.

Dieter stated that he would summarize the discussion and get it out to all participants. He suggested that each entity meet within 30 days and then the group get back together again to discuss. It was also recommended that MnDot be invited to participate and Flaagen stated that he would contact them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Schmalz moved, being seconded by Councilmember Kajewski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned.

Steve Nordhagen, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jodie Torkelson, City Administrator