

# County Budget Hearing and Cannabis Regulation on Thursday Agenda

## Pennington County Board to Hold Public Hearing on Cannabis Ordinance, Budget and Other Key Topics

**THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN** — The Pennington County Board will convene on Thursday, December 12th, for its regular meeting at the Justice Center Board Room in downtown Thief River Falls. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m., with a public hearing scheduled earlier in the day at 4:00 p.m. to discuss a proposed ordinance aimed at regulating cannabis businesses within the county.

This meeting, which will involve several key updates and discussions, provides a crucial opportunity for residents and stakeholders to engage with the board on a variety of topics, including cannabis regulation, the county's budget, and updates from local government officials.

### Public Hearing on Cannabis Business Ordinance

A significant item on the agenda is the public hearing on the proposed Pennington County Ordinance to regulate cannabis businesses. The ordinance aims to outline guidelines and restrictions for cannabis-related businesses operating within the county's jurisdiction.

The public hearing will provide residents and business owners an opportunity to voice their opinions on the proposed ordinance, which could have far-reaching implications for the local economy and community health. As Minnesota continues to navigate the complexities of cannabis legalization, local municipalities, including Pennington County, are looking to create frameworks that address zoning, licensing, and public safety concerns.

Though cannabis was legalized for recreational use in Minnesota in 2023, counties have the authority to adopt their own regulations, including the ability to restrict or permit cannabis businesses. This public hearing will be an important moment for the community to provide feedback on how cannabis commerce should be managed in Pennington County, including potential restrictions on the number or type of cannabis businesses allowed.

### Budget Hearing and County Updates

In addition to the cannabis ordinance hearing, the Board will also hold a budget hearing. The proposed county budget will be discussed, providing insight into the allocation of funds for various county services, programs, and projects for the coming year. This hearing will give taxpayers an opportunity to review and comment on how their funds will be spent in 2025.

The budget discussion will include updates from County Engineer Mike Flaagan, who will present on ongoing and upcoming infrastructure projects. With Pennington County's focus on maintaining and

improving roads, bridges, and other public works, Flaagan's presentation will provide key details about the county's infrastructure needs and plans for the upcoming year.

## **Sheriff's Office and County Department Updates**

Sheriff Seth Vettleson will also address the board, providing updates on law enforcement matters, including crime trends, resource allocation, and any changes within the Sheriff's Office. As law enforcement agencies across the state adjust to evolving regulations related to cannabis use and sales, Vettleson's comments may provide valuable insight into how the Sheriff's Office is preparing for potential challenges and changes.

Additionally, the County Auditor-Treasurer, County Coordinator, and County Attorney will each provide updates on their respective departments. These updates will likely include information on ongoing county operations, financial reporting, and any legal matters that are currently under review or have recently been resolved.

## **Open Forum: Opportunity for Public Input**

The Pennington County Board has set aside time during the meeting for individuals to address topics not on the regular agenda. This open forum allows residents to bring up concerns or suggestions about matters affecting the county that may not be explicitly listed on the agenda. The public is encouraged to participate and engage with board members on any issues of importance to the community.

## **Meeting Details**

The regular meeting of the Pennington County Board will begin at **5:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 12th** at the Justice Center Board Room, located in downtown Thief River Falls. Residents who wish to attend the public hearing on the cannabis ordinance or the budget hearing are invited to do so at the designated times, with the opportunity to speak or submit comments on these critical issues.

Residents are also encouraged to attend the regular session at 5:00 p.m., where the board will make decisions and discuss the various matters presented during the meeting. As the board continues to address the evolving needs of the county, citizen engagement will be key in shaping the future of Pennington County's policies and priorities.

## **A Crucial Meeting for the Community**

Pennington County's upcoming board meeting represents an important opportunity for local residents to stay informed and involved in the county's governance. With discussions on cannabis business regulations, budgetary decisions, and public safety, the meeting promises to address a range of pressing issues facing the community. Whether you have concerns about the county's approach to cannabis businesses or want to provide input on other local matters, this meeting offers a chance to engage with county officials and contribute to the ongoing development of Pennington County.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, December 12th, and attend the meeting at the Justice Center Board Room in Thief River Falls. The county board looks forward to hearing from residents and continuing its work to improve the community for all.

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