



THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA 56701

COUNTY ENGINEER QUALIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 163.07 subdivision 1 requires the county board of each county to appoint and employ a county highway engineer; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 163.07 subdivision 2, the county highway engineer must be a citizen and resident of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40% of Minnesota counties border adjacent states and/or countries, and northern border counties such as Kittson County, in particular, borders both an adjacent state and country, thereby eliminating otherwise qualified individuals from employment as a county highway engineer due to their non-resident status; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with private industry for the services of registered highway or civil engineers; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 163 does not provide Minnesota counties the same flexibility afforded to other local government units in acquiring the services of a registered highway or civil engineer, even though engineering services are readily available to make and prepare the surveys, estimates, plans, and specifications as required pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 163.07 subdivision 1; and

WHEREAS, the combination of these conditions and limitations has resulted in direct negative impacts to the citizens of border counties by increasing property taxes and reducing funding for highway construction and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennington Board of Commissioners Support the Kittson County Board of Commissioners efforts to amend Minnesota Statutes section 163.07 subdivision 2 by striking the fourth sentence of the subdivision, thereby eliminating residency requirements for the position of county highway engineer.

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF PENNINGTON

I, Neil Peterson, Pennington County Board Chairman, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution moved by Commissioner Tveitbakk, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

Date: February 23rd, 2021

Neil Peterson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

“Equal Opportunity Employer”