



GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA

TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR RESIDENTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA COUNTY BOARD ROOM GOVERNMENT CENTER RED WING, MN

NOVEMBER 16, 2021
8:45 A.M.

Virtual Meeting Notice

Due to concerns surrounding the spread of COVID-19, it has been determined that in-person meetings or meetings conducted under Minn. Stat. 13D.02 a are not practical or prudent. Therefore, meetings that are governed by the Open Meeting Law will temporarily be conducted by telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.

The Goodhue County Board of Commissioners will be conducting a Committee of the Whole meeting pursuant to this section on November 16, 2021 at 8:45 a.m. in the County Board Room. The County Administrator and/or County Attorney will be present at the meeting location. All County Commissioners attending will appear by telephone or other electronic means. The public may monitor the meeting from a remote site by logging into <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/633548373> or calling 1 877 309 2073 OR 1 646 749 3129 any time during the meeting. Access Code: 633-548-373

Election Equipment - Poll Pads

Documents:

[Elections Equipment - Poll Pads Memo 11-16-2021.pdf](#)



Brian J. Anderson
Goodhue County Auditor/Treasurer
Goodhue County Finance & Taxpayer Services

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509 W. Fifth St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone (651) 385-3040

TO: County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Brian J. Anderson, Goodhue County Auditor/Treasurer
SUBJECT: Election Equipment – Poll Pads
DATE: November 16, 2021

BACKGROUND:

The Finance Department recently received a request from the City of Pine Island to acquire Poll Pads, a piece of election registration equipment. The City of Pine Island has voting precincts in both Goodhue and Olmsted County. Olmsted County started utilizing Poll Pads in 2019. The purpose of this document is to provide background and funding options for the purchase of Poll Pads. Staff would like to purchase and put the equipment in use starting in 2022 and is seeking County Board direction at this time.

DISCUSSION:

KNOWiNK has a product called Poll Pad, which is currently being used in 59 of the 87 Minnesota counties. Poll Pads are a secure Apple iPad application that replaces the paper roster by providing an electronic voter check-in and verification process for election authorities. The Poll Pads will allow the voter to view only their data on the screen for verification. If the voter has a notation on the roster (such as “felony”), only that voter will be able to see it. If a voter is not currently registered, the Poll Pad will assist the judges in registering the voter by showing them the steps that need to be done and what proofs of residency may be used for that voter.

A voter’s Minnesota driver’s license, containing current information, can simply be scanned into the Poll Pad to upload the data and register the voter. The Poll Pad will print a Voter Registration Application to be signed by the new voter. It will also print the Oath to be signed by each voter. Finally, the Poll Pad will print the voter receipt and indicate what ballot each voter should be given.



ADVANTAGES:

1. Poll Pads talk to the other Poll Pads within the precinct, ensuring that no one can check in twice or vote in person if they already have an absentee ballot recorded.
2. Election judges can process both registered and non-registered voters on any Poll Pad.
3. Staff can upload and process voter election history in a shorter time period. Currently, the process takes multiple staff many days to input voter election history. One county we spoke with stated that one staff member can now input all voter history in one day.
4. Staff no longer have to decipher unreadable voter information from VRAs. Poll Pads ensure that accurate information is entered into SVRS, which leads to fewer corrections.
5. There is no need to split voting lines by A-L and M-Z. This allows for a reorganization of polling location layout with the potential to add more voting booths, which will increase voting speed.
6. County staff will continue to print rosters and accepted absentee reports as a backup.
7. County staff no longer need to cover roster notations with Post-it notes.
8. Options with connecting the Poll Pads to WIFI.
 - a. Connected – The County no longer needs to call the polls on Election Day and can push the Absentee Ballots to the Poll Pads.
 - b. Not connected – Citizens can continue to vote while rosters are updated for Absentee Ballots.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Additional training requirements and equipment to test and certify.
2. Election judges have additional equipment to transport.

COSTS:

We have received an estimate based on the option of having 1 Poll Pad for every 400 voters with a 2 Poll Pad minimum by precinct.

Poll Pad Items	Qty	Unit Price	Total Amount
Poll Pad Package	96	\$ 1,280	\$ 122,880
Cradlepoint	39	310	12,090
Data Acitvation - Annual	39	15	585
ePulse Live Connectivity Initial License	1	5,000	5,000
Subtotal			\$ 140,555

Additional Software	Qty	Unit Price	Total Amount
iSync Drive	1	\$ 65	\$ 65
Lightning Cable - 9'	96	15	1,440
Poll Pad Annual License - Year 2	96	125	12,000
Poll Pad Annual License - Year 2	96	125	12,000
ePulse Live Connectivity Annual	1	1,000	1,000
Data Plan - Election	39	30	1,170
Subtotal			\$ 27,675

Total			\$ 168,230
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In addition to the initial purchase, the County would purchase shelving to store the cases. KNOWiNK recommends having an iPad charging station set up to automatically charge the iPads when not in service. The charging station is separate from shelving to store the cases. This would increase the estimated cost to approximately **\$200,000**.

FUNDING OPTIONS:

Option 1: The County could use ARPA money to purchase all units for all the precincts.

Option 2: The County could apply for the Voting Equipment Grant Account (VEGA) grant. Grant applications are due December 17, 2021. These funds are available for the purchase of electronic rosters (Poll Pads), but the priority will be given for optical scan electronic voting systems and assistive voting equipment. Per statute, VEGA funds provided through OSS require a matching contribution by the receiving county; 75% state/25% county for Poll Pads. However, there is only \$750,000 appropriated each year of the biennium and ARPA funds could not be used as the County's matching contribution.

REPLACEMENT:

KNOWiNK recommends that Poll Pads be replaced every 6-8 years. At the time of replacement, often it is replacing the carrying cases and possibly the iPads, but not the whole system. That results in far less expense than the initial investment.

RECOMENDATION:

Staff is recommending the County Board approve the purchase of Poll Pads up to the amount of \$200,000 using ARPA funds. Staff is also recommending operating the Poll Pads not connected to WIFI.

Attached:

- Letters of Support (2)



City of Pine Island

250 South Main Street
P.O. Box 1000 • Pine Island, Minnesota 55963
Telephone 507-356-4591
Fax 507-356-8230

November 5th, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the use of poll pads elections in Goodhue County. For the past two years, the City of Pine Island has had the privilege of using this equipment for our elections for Olmsted County. There has been an abundance of support for poll pads from not only our election judges but from residents as well.

From a user perspective, poll pads are efficient and easy to use. I only work elections a few hours per day on election days to cover breaks and busy periods. It was very easy for me to come into elections with only my required training and be able to use the poll pads accurately and with ease.

When comparing the Olmsted County elections process to Goodhue County elections process, there is a visible difference in flow of voters through the voting lines. Olmsted County's use of poll pads creates a smooth and quick process to not only check-in voters, but also to register new voters or check polling locations for those who reported to the wrong voting precinct.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth R. Howard", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth R. Howard

City Administrator

To Whom It May Concern,

November 5th, 2021

The City of Pine Island has been fortunate in the ability to use the Poll Pads for Olmsted County Elections.

Election year 2020 was the first year Olmsted County introduced the poll pads to our city and staff. They held a training for election clerks and administrative staff. Staff found them to be very user friendly and were excited to send our election judges for training.

Election judge staff completed the training and proved the ease of use during elections. Please review the following key points:

- ✓ New Voter Registration is fast and easy with little to no errors when using the poll pad.
- ✓ Voter Check in is fast and easy, with little to no lines or back ups as voters could go to any poll pad rather than alphabetical lines. This would be very helpful when you have check in lines backed up in the A-L line and the M-Z line is empty. We have even tried splitting the alphabet into 3-4 binders to help with congestion, however it always seems there is a backup in one line.
- ✓ Curb side voters were able to be checked in without removing a binder or page from the check in line. We found in 2020 we had more curb side voters with Goodhue County and the process to check them in seemed unorganized and held up the line. With the Olmsted County poll pad, curbside was fast, clean, and did not interfere with the check in process inside.
- ✓ Poll Pads free up space as we do not need as many tables for check in or registration, which allows staff to reconfigure the layout of the precinct and creates more voting booths which in turn reduces wait times for voters, increasing the voters satisfaction on use of time and ease of voting on election day.
- X The only con to the Poll Pad in our precinct was that election judges preferred working the Olmsted County side of elections because the Poll Pads were so fun and easy to use.

As a City Clerk and Election Official I highly encourage Goodhue County to consider utilizing Poll Pads. The City of Pine Island is in full support of Poll Pads. Please note that we did not experience any difficulties with the Poll Pads during our 2020 elections. The machines were easy to use, secure, safe, and I cannot stress this enough, user friendly. We have judges who might not be very tech savvy but were able to work with the Poll Pads without issues.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to using Poll Pads for future elections in Goodhue County.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Stephanie Pocklington

City Clerk

City of Pine Island, MN

(507)356-4591

stephaniepocklington@ci.pineisland.mn.us