

P O P E MINNESOTA
C O U N T Y

Enhancing quality of life by providing innovative services for our community every day.

POPE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 201532

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE PRISON IN APPLETON

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

WHEREAS, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-\$8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pope County Board of Commissioners declares its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

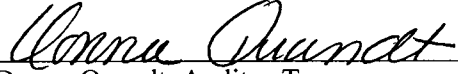
ADOPTED this 20th day of October, 2015.



Larry Kittelson, Pope County Board Chair

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly passed, adopted, and approved by the Pope County Board of Commissioners on October 20, 2015.



Donna Quandt, Auditor-Treasurer
Pope County, Minnesota

Seal

ITEM # 8
 REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
 * Required Fields

P O P E MINNESOTA
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*Person Responsible for Request ▼	*Department Administration ▼	*Board Meeting Date		
		Oct ▼	20 ▼	2015 ▼

***Subject Title (as it will appear on the agenda, keep brief):**
 Resolution in Support of Reopening the Prison in Appleton

***Background (provide sufficient detail of the subject):**
 A request came from Swift County asking for support of a request to the Legislature to reopen the prison in Appleton with the State leasing and operating it, instead of the State constructing new correctional facilities.

***Financial Consideration:**

***Legal Consideration:**

***Other Consideration:**

***Resolution (wording should reflect the intent of the Board vote):**
 On motion by ____, seconded by ____ and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution 201532 in support of reopening the prison in Appleton.

ADMINISTRATION USE (DO NOT FILL BELOW)

Carbon Copy RBA to the following individuals/groups (If Applicable):

Date Received:

Comments:

Board Action:

Comm.	Motion (First)	Motion (Second)	Vote				Vote Result
			Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Gerde		X	X				Passed X
Kittelson			X				Failed
Lindor			X				
Rogahn	X		X				Tabled
Wagner			X				

ATTEST: Donna Quandt, Pope County Auditor-Treasurer *Donna Quandt*

A Solution to Minnesota's Overcrowded Prison System

Overview

According to the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity. The DOC is currently housing 560 inmates in county jails and seeking \$141.5 million in state bonds to expand its Rush City prison by 500 beds to accommodate projected growth of Minnesota's prison population.

As an alternative to building new prison facilities, Swift County proposes that the State of Minnesota lease and operate a vacant, modern 1,600-bed prison in Appleton with State of Minnesota public employees. The region offers infrastructure that is highly capable of providing rehabilitation services for inmates and a great quality of life for working families.

History

1990: Construction of 500-bed Appleton prison begins.

1993: Appleton prison opens.

1997: Appleton prison sold; 1,100-bed expansion begins.

2010: Appleton prison closes.

Economic impact

- 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy in payroll alone.
- When it was in use, the Appleton prison generated a total of more than \$1.3 million in property tax revenue for state, county, city, school, and special tax districts.
- The Appleton prison currently contributes more than \$530,000 of the City of Appleton's \$1.433 million property tax levy and generates a total of \$800,000 for local taxing districts.

Regional infrastructure

- 11 hospitals
- 5 universities and colleges
- 23 Pre-K-12 school districts
- 700 homes currently for sale in Swift County and adjoining counties, 100 in the City of Appleton alone
- 1 VA clinic
- 6 airports
- 5 state parks and endless hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreational activities

Fiscal impact

Rush City prison expansion

- Provides 500 additional beds.
- Costs \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds, plus interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs.
- Increases DOC capacity to 10,059 – roughly 700 beds short of projected inmate population growth through 2022.

Appleton prison lease

- Provides 1,600 additional beds.
- Costs projected to be \$6 million-\$8 million per year, plus annual operating costs.
- Increases DOC capacity to 11,159 – roughly 400 beds above projected inmate population growth through 2022.