

TRAVERSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013  
START TIME: 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chair Kevin Leininger. Other members present included Commissioners Todd Johnson, Jerry Deal, Don Appel, and Dave Salberg. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Deal and second by Salberg, with the addition of a committee appointment for State Auditor meeting and per diem.

**Larry Haukos/County Engineer-** Haukos provided a department update. Board Approval Items Included:

1. A request for authorization to purchase a Swing Hitch for the Shulte Mower in the amount of \$17,539.04. Haukos explained the advantage of this hitch is that you can extend a full twelve feet into the ditch. Upon a motion by Salberg, second by Deal, the authorization for the purchase was approved unanimously.
2. A request for authorization to purchase three portable ARMER radios and power supply for the sign shop radio in the amount of \$5,344.55. Haukos explained these were already approved in the 2013 budget. Upon a motion by Appel and second by T. Johnson, the authorization for purchase was approved unanimously.
3. A recommendation to increase equipment rental rates for Townships, of 7.5%. Rates were supposed to increase in 2011 by 5% but that never happened. Upon a motion by Deal and second by Appel, the recommendation of 7.5% increase was approved unanimously.
4. Letting Date of March 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM for five Box Culverts: SAP 078-613-008, SAP 078-598-33, SAP 078-598-34, SAP 078-598-36, SAP 078-599-057 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson.

**Brion Plautz/County Sheriff-** Plautz distributed his jail report noting an increase in January compared to last year as well as an increase in female inmates. He also reviewed the annual offense summary report which showed a slight decrease from last year. He updated the Board as to the application process for the Deputy Sheriff position. They had 53 applicants and narrowed that down by half for the written test. He also noted permits to purchase and carry a handgun have increased.

**Trudy Determan/ District Admin Assistant Traverse SWCD-** Determan presented to the Board in place of Sara Gronfeld, their department update. Upon motion by Appel, second by Deal, the 2012 County Feedlot Program report was approved unanimously.

**Missy Becker-Cook/ West Central MN Community Action-** Cook presented the annual report from the WCMCA. She distributed a summary of the program services provided within Traverse County for FFY2012. The total number of clients served was 783 and the total expenditures were \$642,972.00. She discussed the Frail and Elderly Grant program and the fact that the grant has been discontinued. There is a possibility through the Department of Human Services to apply for a new grant, which she will follow up on.

**Kit Johnson/ Auditor/Treasurer-** Johnson presented bond information and a few possibilities that could be done with refinancing. He also requested a transfer of funds from Fund 50, Traverse Care Center account to Fund 51, Prairie View Place, in the amount of \$30,000. This was to avoid a negative balance at the end of the year. The request was approved unanimously upon a motion from T. Johnson and a second from Appel.

The issue of the Traverse Care Center was then discussed. Deal indicated that he contacted LaVern Hoffman, from St. Francis. They are interested in possibilities and are willing to attend the next Board meeting in February to discuss options. The attraction for them now is that the TCC does not have a union, whereas when the leasing option was explored in 2009, a union was in the works. Their other facilities are not unionized so there would have been personnel conflicts. Deal expressed that they run a quality program in their other two homes they manage in Morris and Browns Valley. Deal expressed concerns he's heard about quality under current management structure and the requests he's received by constituents to not extend the lease. He's heard morale is poor, staff are working double shifts, and they are short staffed all of the time. He was told the quality has impacted the census. He also was told they've had three managers in two years which has made stability for staff difficult. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Appel, and carried unanimously, the meeting was closed for Attorney/Client privilege. The County Attorney had to leave the meeting so upon a motion by T. Johnson, second by Appel and carried unanimously, the motion to close the meeting was rescinded.

A letter to the editor was shared with the Board, authored by Roger Schmidt. Present for the Traverse Care Center discussion was Richard Lundquist and Julieann Fromke. Lundquist's initial concern expressed to the Board was that the nursing home is short of help. He indicated that the staff are stretching between departments to cover all of the needs. The care he receives has been excellent and the staff are going above and beyond to provide quality services. Another concern was the lack of a local voice with the management company. His third concern centered around the financial situation. He questioned why we were short on money, why we entered into the lease, why when we have such wealth in the County we cannot find alternatives to financing, including a possible mill rate to assist. Deal explained the financial condition three years ago, the depreciation situation and the fact that the County owed more on the building than what fair market value would allow for a company to buy and finance it. The lease agreement was intended to assist in managing with an option to buy down the road. Lundquist also commented that if we were to put money into it, maybe we should run it. He closed stating the County owed it to the residents to consider all options.

Upon a motion by Appel and second by T. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the meeting was again closed at 10:20 AM, to discuss confidential information. Matt Franzese, County Attorney returned to the meeting. The information discussed included Attorney/Client privilege. The subject to be discussed was confidential information regarding the Traverse Care Center lease.

Upon a motion by Appel, second by Salberg and carried unanimously, the meeting was re-opened at 11:12 AM. The result of the discussions included that Franzese would send a letter to Health Dimensions clarifying a modified lease payment of \$29,849.00 per month. This amount represents the actual bond payment the County is paying for the building. No further action would be taken at this time.

**Rhonda Braaten-Antrim/County Coordinator-** Upon a motion by T. Johnson, second by Deal, the minutes from the Board meeting of January 22, 2013 were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Appel, second by Deal, Dave Salberg was appointed to the Economic Development District, EDD, Board unanimously. Deal's term on the Board had expired. Upon a motion by Salberg, second by Appel, the AFSCME 2012-2014 Final contract was approved unanimously. By consensus vote, the Board agreed to allow Justin Anderson, Labor Attorney, to send out the RFP's regarding the wage classification study, without further review from the Board. Upon a motion by Salberg, second by T. Johnson, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

#### **Resolution 02-01-2013**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 244.19 subdivision 6 outlines a process for state reimbursement to participating counties of 50% of the previous year's expenditure for their probation officer salaries, and

**WHEREAS**, 27 County Probation Officer counties and 28 Department of Corrections Contract counties participate in this process, and

**WHEREAS**, appropriations from the state have steadily decreased from 50% in 1996 to an all-time low of 31% in FY 2012, and

**WHEREAS**, the 55 counties participating in this process have been forced to absorb the \$2,963,000 deficit in the FY 2012 reimbursement funding for their probation officers, and

**WHEREAS**, the 2013 legislative session will be establishing the FY 14 and FY15 appropriation for probation officer salary reimbursement for these 55 counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers has been working with the Department of Corrections and legislative staff to ensure that an accurate FY 14 and FY 15 appropriation amount is determined, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners strongly requests the 2013 Minnesota Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to reimburse the 55 participating counties for the full 50% of the cost of their probation officer salaries.

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Attest To: Rhonda Braaten-Antrim/County Coordinator

Antrim also distributed the projected County Program Aid proposal in the Governor's Budget for FY 2014-2015. Traverse County's share would increase by 15% or \$16,554.00. Association of Minnesota County legislative highlights were also discussed. Upon a motion by Deal and second by T. Johnson, Dave Salberg was also appointed to meet with the State Auditors on February 11, 2013 and receive a per diem. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Attest to:

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Rhonda Braaten-Antrim/County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger/Board Chair