

Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting
February 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Don Appel, Jerry Deal, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, with the addition of drug court update, upon a motion by Appel and second by Deal.

Phillip Deal/Wheaton Elevator General Manager- P. Deal appeared with several of the Board members from the Wheaton Elevator to discuss the possibility of building a new dry fertilizer plant in Traverse County. He discussed the typical life span of a plant is 30 years and the equipment will last 15 years. He shared that the current Wheaton plant is 15 years old and equipment is being replaced now. The Dumont South plant 39 years old and the building is in poor shape. Dumont North Plant is 45 years old. It has no handling equipment. They use it for storage only. As a company they need to do something about the condition of the plants. P. Deal discussed the economics of handling dry fertilizer products, shuttles, Mega-fertilizer plants, and rail. It's hard to stay competitive. He explained how they have been reconsidering previous options such as in New Effington, ND and Big Stone County, MN. They are now considering building a 10,000 ton state of the art facility, built in such a way that its size could be doubled. It would be able to handle liquid fertilizers and bulk chemicals. Ultimately, this site would be developed into an agronomy campus, where a producer can obtain one-stop product and service. The proposed location for this plant is in Croke Township, on the NE corner of Section 15, in Traverse County. It is projected that a facility such as this would generate approximately \$5,280.00 in county taxes. The request before the Board is for a \$5,000.00 tax abatement for 10 years from 2016-2026. This could be an economic tool that a taxing authority can use to stimulate economic growth. P. Deal said they have a narrow window to consider this project and requested the county initiate the process for a public hearing, notice, and a decision to be made at a later regular board meeting.

Salberg commented that he wondered if they would get a letter to the editor with the loss of \$50,000.00 in tax revenue. He asked about Economic Development and if they would be hiring more people to offset that. P. Deal said Dumont supports three floaters and four tenders, a new facility could support 16 tenders. An expanded plant will require more jobs to support the facility. He also reiterated that with the service life of 30 years, these normally are followed by seed sheds, shops and other maintenance facilities. It would also preserve the two current jobs for Traverse County. T. Johnson discussed the reliance on local property tax and that \$5,200.00 was probably a drop in the ocean for the Elevator's total budget. His concern was that if everyone doesn't pay their fair share, it's shifted to the elderly on fixed incomes. Under good management, the elevator has done extremely well, and he believes the abatement is insignificant to whether they would move forward or not. He would welcome more input from the constituents in the county. J. Deal agrees with T. Johnson's points, but has other concerns that if Traverse doesn't get it, it will go up in Big Stone County and we don't want to lose it. T. Johnson cautioned creating abatements for some businesses and not others leaving those others to absorb the difference. Leininger stated we haven't turned anyone down that has requested it so far. P. Deal stated in ND it's an automatic. It's a boost. Freight spreads are an issue and if it isn't competitive we don't get

the business. Salberg asked about the building and if local contractors could be utilized. P. Deal said they are component built and assembled quickly in sections. He said the most local impact would be electrical and the use of local excavators.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Haukos presented a department update. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Deal, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

WHEREAS: County Project No SP 078-606-024 have in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED: That we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Traverse and authorize payment as specified herein.

Haukos was authorized to purchase an IPF Canon 765 MFP 36" Plotter/Scanner/Copier in the amount of \$8,555.00, from Mathison's, Fargo, ND, upon a motion by Appel and second by Deal and carried unanimously. He also discussed 2015 equipment needs.

Matthew Franzese/County Attorney- Franzese updated the Board that the Alliance Pipeline Settlement was received and 9.25% must be refunded including tax and interest according to the law. Appel made a motion to accept settlement and Salberg seconded it, and it carried unanimously. Franzese also discussed the possibility of the drug court. Wilkin County is not going to join it. He said Traverse County does not have a lot of drug cases and he's unsure how the cost is to be apportioned. He also discussed the training requirements and recommended that Traverse County not join it.

Dustin Kindelberger/Veteran Service Officer/Solid Waste/ Safety Director- Kindelberger announced that a new recycling attendant for the Wheaton site started this morning in the 28 hour per week position. He discussed another applicant interested in 12 hours per week. Previously the County had approved two 20 hour positions, so he requested with the 28 hour position that we hire an additional 12 hour position. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, Kindelberger was authorized to hire an additional 12 hour per week position. The motion was carried unanimously. He then discussed recycling at the County Park. Jordon Heck appeared before the Board to discuss a potential Eagle Scout project involving building recycling bins for the park. He discussed the pro's and con's of his building them. The total cost would be approximately \$1,000.00 and Horman's Recycling has agreed to pick it up. Upon a motion by Appel, second by Salberg, the recycling bin project was approved unanimously.

Kindelberger provided a Safety Department Update and requested formal approval of the safety committee, which includes Kindelberger, Larry Haukos, Lynn Siegel, Brion Plautz, Mike Neumann, and Rhonda Antrim. Upon a motion by Deal and second by Salberg, the Safety Committee membership was approved unanimously.

Brion Plautz/Trevor Wright/Office of the Sheriff- Plautz provided his monthly jail update and discussed 2013 dispatch calls. There were 2,447 calls into dispatch in 2013, plus 1,397 calls directly into the Sheriff's Office. This is an increase from 2012. He requested approval of the 2014 SWAT agreement. It was approved unanimously upon a motion by Appel and second by T. Johnson. The agreement costs Traverse County \$1,000.00 per year.

Wright discussed the Records Management System that was started in 2012. They received a proposal for mapping and time cards. Mapping will allow dispatch to track officers when they're on the road. They could add public vehicles on the system such as fire trucks and ambulances. The price for mapping is \$22,710.00. E911 Funds will cover the cost. The proposal was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Deal.

Deal/Horizon Update- The latest financing for a five county public health has been proposed to be population based. The first three years will be frozen and will be what we're paying now. The formula will be strictly based on population and not blended or tax capacity as discussed previously. The issue should not come up again, but the two Traverse Commissioners that end up on the Horizon Board will need to be aware of this.

Dianne Reinart/County Assessor- Reinart appeared to schedule the County Board of Equalization meeting. It is scheduled for Monday, June 16th, at 6:30 PM.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- The minutes from February 4, 2014 were approved unanimously, upon a motion by Deal and second by Appel. The following bills were approved unanimously upon a motion by Appel and second by T. Johnson.

AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS INC	2,529.80
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	3,357.52
COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS UNLIMITED INC.	3,473.81
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	2,009.77
INDEPENDENT EMERGENCY SERVICES	55,344.18
KRATOCHWILL & ANDERSON, P.A.	4,005.00
LEUTHNER LAW OFFICE	2,475.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	2,229.97
MRCC	2,135.00
TRI COUNTY COOP	10,227.07
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	6,117.62
HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC.	5,329.50
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	5,178.61
TRI COUNTY COOP	11,792.50
ZIEGLER, INC.	5,306.58

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 90, amounting to \$38,983.42.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) benefits to Traverse County were presented. Included was an increase to County Program Aid, County exemption for sales tax, and Statewide Health Improvement Program grants. AMC also provided training and development. A memo from Springsted, Inc. was distributed outlining the number of appeals received in response to the wage study project. The goal is to have a final report completed by February 28.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair

