

TRAVERSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013

START TIME: 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chair Kevin Leininger. Other Commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Jerry Deal, and Todd Johnson. Don Appel was absent. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Deal and second by Salberg.

**Brion Plautz/Sheriff-** Plautz presented a department update. The jail is averaging ten prisoners per day. Plautz updated the Board on the hiring process for the Deputy Sheriff. They have narrowed the position to four and are pursuing background checks. Proposed hiring should be completed by May. Plautz presented the West Central S.W.A.T. Team agreement for approval. Upon a motion by Deal and second by Johnson, the agreement was approved unanimously. Plautz also discussed the program for returning unused medications in Browns Valley. People may return unused medications on April 27, from 10 am - 2 pm, to Liebe Drug. Plautz also discussed the new communications system and challenges in dispatch with learning the new system. Plautz also received accolades from the Commissioners for his department's response to a recent accident.

**Sara Gronfeld/ Soil and Water/ Planning and Zoning Administrator-** Gronfeld presented her department update. There were five approved building permits, two with variances. Gronfeld discussed a permit extension request she received. This is the third request for an extension and there is currently no policy in Traverse County regarding the issue. Upon a motion by Deal and second by T. Johnson, the Board authorized Gronfeld to grant the extension one more time. All future permits may be allowed one extension and require reapplication after two years. The motion carried unanimously. Gronfeld discussed grants that are available for upgrades to septic systems for low income individuals. Anyone interested in applying or getting further information may contact Gronfeld directly. The Board also discussed reappointment of two members currently serving on the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment. Upon a motion by Deal, second by Salberg, Board members, Jerome Metz and Doug Frisch were reappointed unanimously. Gronfeld distributed the SWCD newsletter and discussed a new grant for drainage water management. Traverse and Wilkin counties went together to administer the program and it allows for new or retro-fitting of tile systems to manage water flow. Anyone interested in this grant may also contact Gronfeld directly.

**Trevor Wright/Chief Deputy Sheriff-** Wright presented a grant contract for mitigation planning dollars. The budget in the grant calls for a 75% federal share totaling \$27,911.00 and local share of 25% or \$9,304.00. Staff time may be utilized for the local share. Wright encouraged the Board to table the approval of the grant contract until our Emergency Management Director is hired and can oversee the project. Hiring is expected to be final by May. Wright then presented a grant contract for a Safe House in the Rosebud RV Park development and discussed the resolution from May 2011, to proceed with this project. Wright requested acceptance of this grant not be delayed. He explained that Mr. Binsfeld will pay all costs and provide receipts to us. Traverse will apply to Homeland Security Emergency

Management for the funds, and pass-through the dollars to Mr. Binsfeld to reimburse him for the expenses. Code and liability issues were discussed by County Attorney Matt Franzese. He explained that the Sub-grant agreement requires a competitive or sealed bidding process. Haukos agreed to take the lead on the competitive bidding process. Further discussion was had about the contract and Franzese stated that the contract would be between Binsfeld and the contractor. Franzese would draw up the contract and Traverse County is eligible for a 5% Administrative fee for maintenance of the grant. Haukos will present a bid date and an update at the next Board meeting. The Grant contract for a Safe House at Rosebud Park was approved unanimously upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Deal.

**Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer-** Haukos requested clarification around days when the court house is closed due to inclement weather and his department is working, how highway department employees should complete their timesheets. Salberg made a motion that when inclement weather requires the Sheriff to close the County offices on a regular scheduled work day those that work that day shall receive regular pay. The motion was seconded by T. Johnson. There was discussion around the issue and T. Johnson suggested the Department Heads invoke common sense, essentially not penalizing those that can't make it in but not rewarding those that do either. The motion passed unanimously. Salberg made a motion for a friendly amendment, to subject the current motion to any pre-existing union or bargaining group agreements. Deal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Haukos then requested consideration for use of County vehicle for the Highway Engineer. Salberg suggested our HR professional look at the issue with the personnel committee and the Highway Engineer and bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting.

There was also discussion around renting a mower for the summer. A motion was made by Salberg to accept a John Deere tractor, second by T. Johnson and carried unanimously.

**Rhonda Braaten-Antrim/County Coordinator-** The minutes from March 19, 2013 were approved unanimously upon a motion by Deal and second by Salberg. The schedule of events for Bond refinancing 2013A was distributed. Upon a motion by Deal, second by T. Johnson, the following Child Abuse Proclamation was approved unanimously:

#### **Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, child abuse prevention is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

**WHEREAS**, the effects of child abuse are felt by the whole community and need to be addressed by the entire community;

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention succeeds because of partnerships created between parents, practitioners, schools, faith communities, health care organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

**WHEREAS**, family-serving, youth-focused prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage parents and youth to develop strong ties to their communities;

**WHEREAS**, all citizens need to be more aware of child abuse and neglect and its prevention within the community, and be involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Traverse County and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Salberg made motion to reappoint Jerome Deal to the Watershed Board for 2013 through 2016 and T. Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was recessed for 30 minutes until the public hearing for the Five Year Road and Bridge Plan would be held.

The hearing was called to order by Chairman Kevin Leininger. Haukos distributed maps of the Bridge Program and Road Program. Haukos discussed the major bridges that need to be constructed and would likely be funded through bond money. The sufficiency rating needs to be below 70% to bond for them and 50% to receive Federal dollars. There are three bridges on Co Rd 6 that qualify for Federal money.

Haukos then discussed the Five Year Road Plan. Deal made a motion to accept the road plan and Salberg seconded it. Discussion included Leininger discussing the North end asphalt and public concerns that it is not being done. He expressed his desire to see existing asphalt not to go into disrepair. Haukos discussed maintenance on #3. Haukos also discussed the option of borrowing ahead on construction money if repair is needed prior to the completion of proposed road maintenance. Comments regarding on CSAH #11 included the mud and sliding into the ditch because of it and also the delays and length of time residents have been waiting for that road to be done.

The 5 Year Road and Bridge Plan passed unanimously. Haukos requested a motion to allow bid letting for project number S.A.P. 078 611 006 on May 7 at 10:00 AM . Deal made a motion to schedule the bid letting and T. Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

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Rhonda Braaten-Antrim/County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger/ Board Chair