

Traverse County Commissioner  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Board 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, upon a motion by Deal and second by Salberg, with the following additions: Brion Plautz/ hiring replacement, Deal/ cemetery upkeep, Appel/Rainbow Rider update.

**Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer-** Haukos provided a department update. Authorization to purchase temporary slope easement from Grimes and Brinks for replacement of Bridge No. 78501 in Dumont on CSAH #6 over Twelve Mile Creek, SP 078-606-025, was approved unanimously upon a motion by Deal and second by T. Johnson. Authorization was approved unanimously to pay an application fee of \$400.00 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, for a general storm permit for construction, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Appel. Authorization was granted to purchase a Walk “n” Roll Ridge Mulcher from Ziegler Cat to \$19,000.00 plus freight. The motion was made by Deal and seconded by Salberg. Discussion included questions around need and usage. Commissioners voting yes included Deal, Appel, and T. Johnson. Those opposed were Salberg and Leininger. Authorization was granted to contract Mahler and Associates for a final design of the Safe House for Rosebud Park. A motion was made by Appel and seconded by Deal. Included in the motion was a request to invite Dan Binsfeld to the next Board meeting to discuss the budget and the overall project expectations. The motion was approved unanimously. Authorization was given to advertise for Dust Control. A preliminary quote was 2.7% higher than last year. The authorization was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Appel. A letting date was established for SAP 078-618-003, for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. This is for bituminous surfacing and shouldering from TH9 to West side of Charlesville Beet Dump. The letting was approved upon a motion by Deal and second by T. Johnson, with Salberg, Appel, Deal and T. Johnson in favor and Leininger opposed. Leininger also requested a date as to when the yellow house adjacent from social services would be moved and why the generator purchased was not working during the ice storm.

**Ben Anderson/University of Minnesota Extension-** Anderson was before the Board to discuss the Traverse County Extension Committee membership. The committee is looking for one or two new members. The purpose is to guide the work of the Extension department in terms of setting the agenda, identify needs, budget, programs and resources as needed. The meeting dates are typically the second Monday at 5:00PM and they meet quarterly. The dates are adjusted as needed. If anyone in the County is interested they can contact Rhonda Antrim, County Coordinator, or their local commissioner, or the Extension office. Anderson also discussed the Farm Family Recognition program and if anyone has nominations for that award, they can also contact the Extension Committee. Anderson also distributed a summary of information to better understand what they do within each county.

**Brion Plautz/Sheriff-** Plautz announced that one of his long-term employees was going to retire. They are looking at filling the full-time position with a current part-time employee and hiring a part-time replacement. Motion to advertise for part-time CCO was made by Deal and second by Appel and carried unanimously. Salberg requested guidance be provided from the Human Resource Professional as well.

**Kit Johnson/Auditor/Treasurer-** Johnson provided a department update. He's working on record retention as there is getting to be a space issue for storage. He is working with someone from the state historical society. Their department is also working with Minnesota County Intergovernmental Trust on risk assessments and required annual reporting. This is done, in part, to determine our insurance rates. They are also working on the delinquent tax property process and required notices have been published. Tax statements have been sent. There have been issues with the printing company out of Fargo so the Co-op is going to be looking for another possible vendor. K. Johnson also discussed elections. There will be a May conference that will address legislative updates. The voting machines have been serviced using grant dollars and there may be new grant dollars available. Candidate filing is May 20 through June 3. There are new reporting requirements for commissioners. Johnson also discussed his meeting with a benefit vendor and the requirement to pursue bids every five years when offering core benefits to employees that are funded by the county. There may also be a new a property tax and payroll system that our county co-op will require county contribution of approximately \$10,000.00 per year starting in 2015 for five years. He also discussed a question that was raised regarding the tax rate in the county. Traverse is on the low end for responses received thus far, but he will put together a comparison once more counties respond.

**Marv Bach/Wheaton Senior Citizen Center-** Bach appeared before the Board to discuss the Wheaton Senior Center. They're having problems paying the food bill. Fuel was pretty expensive this year and cash flow has been an issue. They serve 15-19 meals on wheels and about 15-30 meals at the diner. They average about 40 meals per day. They are requesting \$3858.00 to pay their food bill. Equipment has been around \$28,000 over the last couple of years so the equipment is relatively new. By consensus, the Auditor's office will issue 2014's allocation early to help with the cash flow and Rhonda Antrim will meet with the Senior Center committee to review their budget and needs and make a recommendation to the Board on what the annual need might be and whether there is available funding within the social services budget to accommodate the request.

**Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator-** The Board minutes from April 1, 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 Solutions for Business	2664.23
Cardmember Services	2033.58
City of St Cloud	3850.98
Computer Professionals	9967.70
Gazette Publishing	3221.07
Morris Electronics	2219.60
Rainbow Rider	2000.00
State Bank of Wheaton	12899.67
Tri County Coop	2404.78
Tyler Technologies	4183.99
Computer Professionals	2635.55
H & Mesabi	4798.68

Larson Oil	4143.35
Tri County Coop	5439.02
Ziegler, Inc	5902.10

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 73, amounting to \$24,258.08.

Antrim reported propane for the courthouse, during this current winter season, has taken approximately 14,000 gallons. This calculates to approximately \$42,000.00 per season to heat. During the coldest month it cost roughly \$18,000 to heat. Electricity was approximately \$29,902 for one year and ran higher in the winter months than the summer months. It was also reported that the windows are now so old you can't get new parts if they break. The custodian has been using parts from existing windows that are not used to circulate fresh air. Pictures of the attic were distributed with bat guano and all of the books that are stored up there. A quote for cleanup was \$20,000.00 without cleaning the books or reinsulating. It would be an additional \$5,000.00 to clean the books. By consensus, the Board directed the Coordinator to put together all of the issues and cost factors of maintaining the current courthouse. May 6<sup>th</sup> they will decide on one of the three plans presented by Engan, Inc. and try to get a measure on the ballot for this year regarding building or remodeling. It was also decided that Kevin Leininger will take the lead on buying air purifiers for the courthouse offices. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Appel, the final appeals and implementation plan for the Springsted wage study was approved unanimously. Deal provided an update on the Horizon five-county Public Health process. The unions are posing difficulties with integration and proposed legislation is also making it difficult, although the pending bill has allowed January 15, 2015 as an effective date to allow completion of this endeavor. Deal also made a motion for Salberg to be appointed to the new Horizon Public Health Board, representing Traverse County. T. Johnson seconded it and the motion carried unanimously. Deal also reported back on the cemetery maintenance issue from last meeting, that maintenance is the responsibility of the townships. Appel provided an update on Rainbow Rider's request to update all of their old busses with security cameras and equipment. This would be an additional cost to counties of 20% of the overall cost, so he is voting against it, unless anyone felt differently. No one did.

Attested to by:

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Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger/Board Chair