

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
November 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 upon a motion by Deal and second by Appel.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Haukos provided a department update. He indicated that they have started strength testing on CSAH #6. Braun has agreed to run preliminary analysis using the road sections provided. The Safe House is moving along with the goal to be completed before January. Crushing continues at the Wendell Pit. Salberg asked about the status of the tower. Court is scheduled for December 17. Salberg also asked about the status of the permit application for the Dumont Bridge, between him and the Watershed. Haukos indicated the Watershed Engineers wanted the bridge larger and there was no way to get funding for it. The County would have had to pay the difference. The bridge is sufficient for the channel there. If it were larger, then down flow would have issues. The third set of flow rates they wanted were impossible. The culverts are also being downsized 20% so a larger bridge makes no sense. Haukos will continue to work on the permit.

Kit Johnson/Auditor/Treasurer- Johnson introduced Lisa Siegel to the Board as the new Deputy Auditor/Treasurer. He discussed a recount in Browns Valley for a City Council position that their office will administer this afternoon. Final election certificates and reports will then be filed. They've also been working on tax payments for agricultural taxes. They also sent out 350 late notices. He also discussed W-2's and the need to include benefits on them. The question was raised again regarding the cost to board inmates. K. Johnson wanted specific parameters from the Board on what to include, such as depreciation, bonding, snow removal, salary and fringe, utilities, as well as variable costs for the inmates. He distributed the jail budget. Salberg said there are so many numbers out there he just wanted a clear idea of what to use. T. Johnson suggested they call other jails in the state so they can compare as to what we are charging. Another question raised was what the budget was before having a jail and what it is now, which is another issue. The consensus was drop the issue.

Ben Anderson/Extension- Anderson appeared before the Board to discuss planning for the vacancy of Melissa Persing. The first issue was moving ahead with an interim employee and options for that. Anderson indicated that it may not be a full-time position so there would be some savings during that time. He also discussed the difference in Persing's level of Extension Educator, versus a 4-H Coordinator position. Appel made a motion to move ahead with an interim 4-H Coordinator. Salberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next issue was moving ahead with a full-time position of 4-H Coordinator. The potential savings in the position would be approximately \$19,000.00, given Persing's current level versus the replacement level. They discussed utilizing that \$19,000.00 savings toward a student from the University of Minnesota to provide additional hours and programming. The

Extension would partner with the Center of Small Towns so the County would provide the match. The student would be \$1,750.00 per semester. Appel made a motion to hire a full-time 4-H Coordinator and Salberg seconded it. Appel amended his motion to include the student intern as well and Salberg again seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Sara Gronfeld/Planning and Zoning/Soil and Water- Gronfeld appeared before the Board to present the Soil and Water Conservation District Joint Powers Agreement and the Traverse County Draft 2015 Programs Administration Plan. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Appel, the Joint Powers Board agreement was approved unanimously.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- The minutes from the November 4, 2014 Board meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Deal and second by T. Johnson. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Appel, the following bills were approved unanimously:

MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	3,887.21
TRI COUNTY COOP	14,311.76
Twin Valley Tire Wheaton, Inc.	4,974.00
COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS UNLIMITED INC.	5,870.81
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	3,802.19
LEUTHNER & HUETHER, LTD	2,561.00
LSS OF TRAVERSE, LLC	3,890.00
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	2,411.40

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 70, amounting to \$36,098.38. Future agenda items for the December 2 Board meeting will include setting per diems and salaries for elected. Information on the Minnesota Rural Caucus Committee meetings was distributed. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, Matt Franzese was authorized to proceed with small claims court against Lubben Construction and Boehnke Waste Management for unresolved issues. Traverse County was notified that the new Horizon Public Health was nominated and received the Association of Minnesota Counties, "County Achievement Award." A table will be reserved for county personnel at the annual conference.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair

