

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
January 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Todd Johnson. Other Commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved, upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger, with the addition of Morris Electronics 2020 Contract, Ordinance on tobacco and electronic delivery devices, and list of County credit card users.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to elect District 3, Mark Gail, as Chair and District 4, Dave Salberg, as Vice-Chair, second by Leininger and approved unanimously. Gail took over the meeting as Chairman.

The following 2020 organization information for the County of Traverse was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson:

MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Traverse County Board of Directors shall be held on the First and Third Tuesday of every month. The first Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Any regular meeting that falls upon a holiday may be canceled or rescheduled. All meetings, including special and adjourned meetings, shall be held at the Annex Room, in the Social Services building, unless the County Commissioners decide otherwise.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: The official newspaper for the County of Traverse shall be the Wheaton Gazette.

OFFICIAL COUNTY DEPOSITORIES: Kit Johnson, Traverse County Auditor/Treasurer was designated authority to make the depositories for the County funds.

COUNTY BILLS: Kit Johnson, Traverse County Auditor/Treasurer was authorized to pay the County bills.

ANNUAL BROKER CERTIFICATION: Kit Johnson, Traverse County Auditor/Treasurer is the designated authority to obtain annual broker certification as needed.

BONDING: Officers and employees that are required to be bonded shall be bonded through Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT).

CORONER: The official Traverse County Coroner shall be Dr. Stanley Gallagher.

ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES COMMITTEE LIST:

Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee:	Todd Johnson
General Government Policy Committee:	Mark Gail
Health & Human Services Policy Committee:	Tom Monson
Public Safety Policy Committee:	Dave Salberg
Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee:	Kevin Leininger

2020 AMC Voting Delegate Appointments:

Todd Johnson Tom Monson

Mark Gail
Kevin Leininger
Dave Salberg

Rhonda Petersen
Lisa Zahl
Chad Gillespie

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS:

Mileage will be the current 2020 IRS rate of \$0.57.5/mile.
Per diem rate for meetings for Commissioners \$75.00.

HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMEBERS (HRA):

John Nerez – Term expires 10/4/2024
Matthew Smith – Term expires 10/4/2020
Monica Wilson – Term expires 10/4/2022
Jodi Hormann – Term expires 10/4/2021
Tom Monson – Term expires 10/4/2023 (unless someone else is appointed)

PLANNING COMMITION/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jerome Deal – Term expires April 2021
Steven Schmidt – Term expires April 2021
Doug Frisch – Term expires April 2021
James Kruger – Term expires April 2020
Dennis Zimbrick – Term expires April 2020

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jerome Deal – Term expires May 2022
Allen Wold – Term expires May 2020
Steven Schmidt – Term expires May 2021

UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER:

Jon Bork – Term expires August 2022

COUNTY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT OFFICER: Sara Gronfeld

BOARD MEMBER LIAISONS: Board Members shall serve as liaisons to the following specific departments/organizations. The Board discussed the Committee delegations list. The Board agreed to stay on the same committees this year that they had last year, with the following exceptions:

Added Regional Probation Board, the delegate is Salberg.
Soil and Water Conservation District, the delegate changed to Salberg, alternate is Monson.

With the above changes the 2020 Committee delegations list was set upon a motion by Salberg, seconded by Monson and approved unanimously.

Annex Room fee schedule was discussed, the Board would like to keep it at \$15.00 for non-county individuals, companies or any other entities who wish to utilize the annex room.

The 2020 Traverse County park fees were discussed; Monson would like to set a weekly rate of \$150.00. Leininger made a motion to set a weekly rate at \$180.00, stay 6 nights, get the 7th night free, second by Salberg and approved 3 - 2 with Monson and T. Johnson opposed.

A motion was made by T. Johnson to approve both the December 16, 2019 Truth in Taxation minutes along with the December 17, 2019 Board minutes, with a second by Leininger, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Leininger, the following bills were approved unanimously:

ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES	\$5,165.00
CITY OF WHEATON	\$2,000.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,350.00
MCCC	\$3,064.62
MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$2,582.64
MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION	\$2,476.46
NORTHLAND TRUST SERVICES	\$167,313.75
OTTER TAIL CO HOUSHOLD HAZARDO	\$3,326.46
PRO-WEST & ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$5,860.00
SEMCA	\$3,000.00
THYSSENKRUPP ELEVATOR CORP.	\$2,137.70
WHEATON-DUMONT ELEVATOR	\$2,926.06
KRIS ENGINEERING, INC	\$12,383.52
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	\$5,214.65

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 62, amounting to \$26,385.41.

There was a motion by T. Johnson, second by Leininger and unanimously approved to replace the Auditor/Treasurer office heater from Ellingson for \$5,866.00.

Upon a motion by Monson, second by T. Johnson the grade of 7 for the Jury Attendant position by Bakertilly and was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson the Morris electronics 2020 Network Support Contract was approved unanimously.

County Attorney, Matt Franzese, drafted an ordinance for the County, Tobacco and Electronic Delivery Devices: Retail Sale, which was requested by the Board. The Board would like to table this issue until they have a chance to look over the ordinance. They would also like Chere Rikimoto and Kelsey Peterson to return to discuss options. Zahl discussed a letter that the Commissioners received from Dan Posthumus, Superintendent of the Wheaton Area Schools, that states that the Wheaton School Board supports the T-21 initiative as well as the banning of all vaping products in our community. They would like the Traverse County Board to support the T-21 initiative as well as banning all vaping products in Traverse County.

The Board unanimously approved the Traverse County employee credit card list for 2020 upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson.

Traverse Care Center

Dylan Hanson, Executive Director and Sharon Thole, Regional Director, appeared before the Board to give an update on the Traverse Care Center. The current CMS 5 Star status is at a 3 Star overall. Resident satisfaction is at 86%, family satisfaction is at 100%, and employee

engagement is at 77%, the goal for employee engagement is now set at 80%. There were three open leadership positions that were all filled in December 2019. The yearly Gala fundraiser for the Traverse Care Center is set for January 25, 2020. Prairieview Place received an ordinance and a form regarding residential properties from the City of Wheaton. It needs to be signed by the property owner which is the County. The Board would like our Attorney, Matt Franzese, to look the form over first before signature.

Association of Minnesota Counties Award Presentation

Ryan Erdmann, Member Engagement Coordinator, appeared before the Board to talk about the Traverse County Substance Use Outpatient Treatment Program and the award that it received at the 2019 annual conference. Traverse County did not have a substance use treatment provider within the county. The closest programs were 35 and 40 miles away respectively. With the 2020 Substance Use reform came the requirement for Licensed Addiction Drug Counselors to provide the comprehensive assessments. Rhonda Antrim Petersen, Social Services Director, went back to school to obtain the Licensed Addition Drug Counselor credential and the County received the 245G Outpatient Treatment license. The program provides a local treatment option to residents and non-residents. It provides an option to attend Drug Court and integrate services with the criminal justice system, mental health providers, as well as social services. Overall, it provides a streamlined and efficient way for clients to access services in Traverse County. Fifteen clients have accessed the treatment program through October 31, 2019, with additional clients obtaining assessments and referrals for other services.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval to purchase a snow blower attachment for the skid steer for \$5,500.00. They would use it around the shop, the county buildings and intersections. Gail would like to see this in the budget before it gets purchased if it isn't needed right now. Leininger wondered how much it would get used, and if so then to look into a used options. Monson made a motion to purchase the snow blower attachment, second by Leininger and it failed 2 – 3 with Gail, Leininger and Salberg opposed.

Gillespie was contact by the City of Browns Valley to change a yield sign to a stop sign in Browns Valley on MUNI 105 by the school. This is part of an overall safety improvement for this intersection. The following resolution was approved by the Board upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson:

WHEREAS, Traverse County Highway Department has previously installed “Yield” signs on 1st St S at its intersection with Municipal State Aid 105;

WHEREAS, a crosswalk is located at this intersection within close proximity to a school.

WHEREAS, safety improvements are being proposed for this intersection including changing this “Yield” sign to a “Stop” sign.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The County Highway Department is hereby instructed to remove the existing “Yield” sign on 1st St S at its intersection with Municipal State Aid 105, and replace with “Stop” sign, as soon as possible, Weather and site conditions permitting.

Approved By: _____ Date _____
Chair, County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____ Date _____
County Coordinator

Gillespie thanked the landowners and operators that allowed them to make snow ridges in their fields to help with trouble areas.

The fee schedule for 2020 had no changes from 2019; it was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg.

Soil & Water

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. The Buffer Law overall compliance in Traverse County is 94.5%. Traverse County started with 1699 parcels affected by the buffer law. 91 parcels non complaint of which, 35 are along public water and 56 are adjacent to public ditches. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) signup is scheduled to be open again at the end of January. There are some areas in Traverse County along the lake that are eligible for a RIM Grasslands program and the SWCD has seen some interest in signup. Cover Crop Demonstration Grant funds should be available in February. They are working on annual reporting for all the programs.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright and Brenda Bartz, Jail Administrator, were unable to attend the meeting because of training. The December report was presented to the Board with the jail usage at 53.97% for the month. The 2020 Fee Schedule was presented to the Board with one change from 2019, the jail boarding rates increased \$2.50 to coincide with the Department of Corrections rate change. Upon a motion by Leininger, second by Monson and approved unanimously the 2020 Fee Schedule was approved for the Sheriff’s Office.

Zoning

Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, was unavailable by phone. The 2020 Hometown Planning contract was approved unanimously upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Leininger. The 2020 Fee Schedule was tabled until next meeting to go over it with Oleson.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman