

Traverse County Commission
Special Board Meeting
January 25, 2018

A special meeting was held to go over the contract with Wilkin County for temporary assistance with County Highway Engineer, approval of the 2018 Pay Equity Report, and to discuss the proposed ambulance contracts. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg and Todd Johnson. Tom Monson came to the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m., and Mark Gail was absent due to illness. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Lisa Siegel, County Coordinator- Discussion was had regarding the contract with Wilkin County for temporary assistance with County Highway Engineer. County Attorney Matt Franzese said that the Wilkin County Attorney is still reviewing it. The main areas he drew the commissioners' attention to were the fee for services and contract term. We are looking at paying an hourly wage for a period of 4 months, with the possibility to renew every 4 months. There was a motion by T. Johnson to approve the contract, with the rate of pay equal to what Wilkin County is paying their Highway Engineer. Franzese was given authority to make any needed de minimis changes, but any substantive changes will need to be brought back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Salberg and approved unanimously, 3-0.

There was unanimous approval, 3-0, to accept the 2018 Pay Equity Report upon motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson.

In discussing the proposed ambulance contracts, Franzese explained to the Board that by statute we can't donate money to an ambulance service. We can, however, have a contract with all four ambulance services that service Traverse County. By doing it this way we may be able to get some reimbursement from the State paying it through the Social Services budget. The Board agreed that they would like to have contracts with each ambulance service. But this has caused some confusion with the City of Wheaton and the Townships, who felt that the County entering into a contract with Sanford Ambulance would take the place of their contracts with Sanford, and feel that the citizens are being double taxed for the same service if the County doesn't do so. Wheaton City Administrator Kris Krenz said that the County should take over the contract from the City. Her suggestion would be for the County to collect the money from the City and the Townships and then negotiate the contract with Sanford on behalf of all of them, which would be the most fair for the taxpayers of the County. Krenz would be willing to help the Board negotiate the contract. But if the Board isn't interested, then she would like to see it go back to the way it always has been with no County contract, but contracts with the City and the Townships, so that there are not two contracts for the same services for Wheaton and the Townships. There is also the possibility of some type of reimbursement if it is paid through Social Services. Leininger suggested tabling it to see if they could get their contract funds reimbursed. T. Johnson agreed to table this discussion until next meeting, and asked Siegel to find out from Rhonda Antrim what amount of reimbursement we can get back if paid

out of Social Services. The other members agreed to table the issue for further discussion at the next meeting.

Lisa Siegel, County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger, Board Chairman