

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
February 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting be conducted by telephone or other electronic means during a health pandemic by the governor of the State of Minnesota in Minnesota Statute Chapter 12. Appearing personally are Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, Kayla Schmidt, Tom Monson, and Todd Johnson. Members of the public are appearing via Zoom. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave the Board a department update.

Gillespie informed the Board that the resolution for the CSAH 6 Local Road Improvement Program Grant will be given at the next meeting. The grant is in the amount of \$1.25 million.

Gillespie was contacted by the City of Wheaton Engineer, Moore Engineering, and they would like Traverse County to sponsor their Local Road Improvement Program grant application. Cities and Townships need a county to sponsor them in order to apply for the grant. There might be another application from Eldorado Township (Stevens County) and Dollymount township (Traverse County). Gillespie explained that most likely Stevens county would sponsor this grant application since most of the project is in their county. These applications would not be competing against ours since it is a City and Township.

The Townships are not having their annual meeting this year so they asked for the Department Heads to write a report summarizing 2020 and they will send out a packet to each township. Gillespie will give the Commissioners his report when it is finished.

Currently they are working on their bridge inspections, there are 52 and they are half way through, they are due February 15 of each year.

Monson asked why we don't buy a used excavator instead of renting one. Gillespie said he would look into it.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright and Brenda Bartz, jail administrator, appeared before the Board with a department update.

Bartz presented the January jail report to the Board, the usage at the jail was 47.5% for the month. Full house, 10 inmates getting back to normal.

Sheriff Wright presented his 2020 annual report. Wright gave an overview of their PowerPhone product that they currently use for answering 911 calls. They have used PowerPhone since 2014 and this particular product is at the end of life. Wright explained that he did not budget for this type of needed upgrade. He presented two options; the first one would be to go with a

standalone system utilizing a separate computer, this process adds extra steps to the 911 answering process. Information would not be going to officers or emergency services in real time in their vehicles and the time stamps for these calls would be off because the information is not through the RMS/911 computer system, this system would cost \$2,000.00.

Wright recommends going with a system that can integrate into the current RMS/911 system, it is approximately \$44,000.00 plus \$12,000.00 for the integration for a total of approximately \$56,000.00. This would be a great tool to have, it is more reliable and easier to use because it would be one system, it would be an easy transition for the staff and emergency services would have real time information in the computers in their vehicles. Currently we have funds in the E911 fund of \$97,000.00 but they have known expenditures in the amount of \$75,000.00 for 2021. We do receive monthly revenues of \$6,100.00 into the E911 fund. Wright would like approval to move forward to buy the integrated system and he will find an area to take the money out of. Monson made a motion to go with the integrated system, seconded by Gail and approved unanimously.

City of Browns Valley Landfill

Tony Serocki, City of Browns Valley, appeared before the Board via Zoom to discuss the Browns Valley Landfill. Serocki explained that the landfill gets used by all Traverse County residents, especially from Lake Traverse. Right now, they take limited materials and a lot of the unacceptable items comes from County residents. These unacceptable materials have to be taken to the Roberts County landfill. In the past the County would give the City of Browns Valley \$2,000.00 for the use of the landfill and for years there hasn't been any subsidy given. Serocki is here to ask for additional funding again otherwise they will have to turn County Residents away. Dustin Kindelberger, Solid Waste Manager, also appeared by Zoom, he informed the Board that he suggests making an allocation to the City of Browns Valley in the amount of \$1,500.00 annually since it is used by all Traverse County residents. T. Johnson would like to give Browns Valley the subsidy since all residents are using it. Gail asked where the \$1,500.00 would come from and Kindelberger said the Solid Waste budget. T. Johnson made a motion to make an allocation of \$1,500.00 annual to the City of Browns Valley for the landfill, there was no second. T. Johnson asked Kindelberger if we allocate money to the City of Wheaton to get rid of things in the landfill, he said yes, we do. T. Johnson thinks that we should do the same for the City of Browns Valley. T. Johnson amended his first motion to allocate \$1,000.00 annually to the City of Browns Valley for the landfill, seconded by Monson and passed unanimously.

Soil & Water Conservation District

District Manager Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update.

Gronfeld informed the Board there were no new permit applications for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) program. Annual Grant reporting is complete. Gronfeld presented a draft of the Septic System Upgrade Grant Funding Eligibility Criteria and Application Form and requested approval. Gronfeld mentioned receiving several calls from property owners interested in the grant funding. She discussed options for board consideration including modification to funding levels to stretch funding yet allow eligibility qualification for families

meeting moderate income criteria. A motion was made by Monson to remove the current very low-income funding level and retain the low-income and moderate-income funding levels with the suggested income criteria for 2021 and approve the SSTS Upgrade Grant Program amended application form, seconded by Schmidt and approved unanimously.

Gronfeld received one new application for wetland delineation review and no-loss request for the Dollymount Township 730th Ave. Road Improvement Project. Comments are due by February 19, 2021.

Annual grant reporting is completed for the MPCA Feedlot Program. And the annual review with MPCA staff will be February 11, 2021.

The Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was presented to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Agency approved the plan. A budget was completed and approved by the Policy Committee last week. Gronfeld is seeking approval for the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka River Watersheds Joint Comprehensive Watershed Plan Implementation Agreement and for the County to name a representative as the primary contact for Traverse County. Gronfeld explained that Lynn Siegel has been the staff person that has been serving on the steering committee and she would be willing to serve the primary contact role. T. Johnson made a motion to approve the agreement and assign Lynn Siegel as the primary contact, seconded by Gail and approved unanimously.

Gronfeld discussed a Local Water Management Fund Project to repair erosion in a Dollymount Township road right-of-way. Designs have been completed by County Engineer Chad Gillespie and construction is scheduled for 2021. The County needs a group spokesperson for the cost share assistance contract and Gronfeld suggested Salberg as the Chairman of the Board. Upon a motion by Gail and seconded by Monson, Salberg was named the spokesperson for the project.

The USDA Service Center remains locked with business by appointment only.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Gail to approve the January 19, 2021 Board minutes, second by Monson, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Schmidt, the following bills were approved unanimously:

ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES	\$2,200.00
FLEET SERVICES	\$3,291.74
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,450.00
MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$2,532.00
NORTHLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC	\$2,315.25
RAINBOW RIDER	\$17,238.81
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$53,367.00
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS	\$6,727.84
KRIS ENGINEERING, INC.	\$2,085.48
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE, INC.	\$3,685.73

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 35, amounting to \$11,007.18.

The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by T. Johnson and seconded by Monson:

Resolution
Extend Deadline for up to 80 hours COVID-19 Leave

WHEREAS, the Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act (FFCRA) required covered employers to provide up to 80 hours of paid emergency sick leave, and

WHEREAS, the requirement to provide said leave ended on December 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 provides the option for covered employers to extend the deadline for eligible employees to use any unused hours of leave defined in the paid emergency sick leave through March 31, 2021,

BE IT RESOLVED, Traverse County shall extend the deadline for eligible employees to use any unused hours of the FFCRA paid emergency sick leave now known as COVID-19 Leave, according to the guidelines outlined in the FFCRA, beginning January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Board Chairman

County Coordinator

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman