

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
February 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present were Jerrel Olson, Dwight Nelson, Chad Metz, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the following additions: jail discussion, upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The February 6, 2024, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson the approval to award SAP 078-604-025 to Mark Sand and Gravel Co for \$2,038,302.84 was unanimously approved. Unanimous approval was given to advertise for bids for County Road 76 Bridge project SAP 078-598-038 upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Schmidt unanimous approval was given to advertise for bids for CSAH 15 SAP 078-615-011. A motion was made by Nelson to advertise for 4 summer seasonal employees, seconded by Schmidt, and approved unanimously. The Sandbag Policy was updated to reflect that residents do not have to pay for sandbags, this was approved unanimously upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson. Informational items discussed were the recap on the annual Township meeting, the DNR emailed and they seem interested in supplying a dock for Hall's landing again. Gillespie also informed the Board that they plan to be the middleman for dust control again this year.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. The 2023 County Feedlot Officer (CFO) Annual Report was approved unanimously upon a motion by Olson and second by Metz. The Traverse County SSTS Upgrade Grant Program Application for 2024 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson. Annual reports were submitted for the Wetland Conservation Act, and Sewage Treatment System. Gronfeld gave updates on the One Watershed One Plan, Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Plan, and Upper Minnesota River planning process.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Trevor Wright was on a call and unable to attend the meeting.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. He talked about property taxes, delinquent parcels, and elections. Nelson made a motion to approve the Golf Course's three liquor licenses; 3.2 Beer License, Wine License with a Strong Beer Authorization, and a Consumption and Display License, seconded by Metz and approved unanimously.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Schmidt and second by Olson the following bills were approved unanimously.

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	\$40,500.00
NELSON AUTO CENTER	\$3,394.18
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOCIATION	\$18,053.04
BREMER BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	\$29,497.51
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,539.72
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$5,630.23

ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC.	\$5,435.92
EPANIC BUTTON, LLC	\$4,000.00
GAZETTE PUBLISHING, INC.	\$5,809.00
OTTER TAIL CO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS	\$4,657.65
PENGUIN MANAGEMENT	\$3,180.00
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$4,777.00
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS (CENTRALSQUARE)	\$5,417.70

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 63 in the amount of \$25,357.46.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator explained that the Commissioners received a letter from the City of Browns Valley’s Attorney regarding Parcel ID No. 05-0159000 stating that it should be part of the City of Browns Valley and not Folsom Township. County Attorney Matt Franzese sent an email to their Attorney stating that this would need to go to the State and not to the County to resolve.

Zahl went over the items that will eventually need to be replaced at the Traverse Care Center, there are no quotes for these items yet. The two quotes for the walk-in freezer for the Traverse Care Center differed with their warranties so Zahl will reach out to Minnewaska and seek clarification. Schmidt made a motion to table this discussion, seconded by Olson and approved unanimously.

The following Resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson:

COUNTY OF TRAVERSE
RESOLUTION 24-08
OPPOSITION TO NORTH STAR ACT (SF2724, HF2860)

WHEREAS, a “Sanctuary State” is a jurisdiction that restricts state and local officials from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to establish all laws and rules regarding naturalization, and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1869, and granted citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States” are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside, and

WHEREAS, law enforcement in Traverse County is dedicated to protecting the communities they serve and promoting public safety requires the assistance and cooperation of the community, so law enforcement has the ability to gather the information necessary to investigate and deter crime, and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners supports all law enforcement officers, federal, state, county and municipal, upholding the Constitution of the United States and the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is reviewing approval of Senate File (SF) 2724 and House File (HF) 2860 effectively making Minnesota a “Sanctuary State” by prohibiting law enforcement, county employees, and schools from collecting information on immigration or citizenship status, prohibiting the sharing of any other information about individuals for the purposes of immigration or citizenship status, prohibiting the sharing of any other information about individuals for the purposes of immigration enforcement, and prohibiting the use of county resources for immigration enforcement, and

WHEREAS, SF2724 and HF2860 interferes with the County and its employees’ ability to perform current functions, imposes implementation hurdles and burdens upon the County, creates ambiguity and

possible conflicts with federal law, may subject the County and its employees to statutory violations, employment consequences, and possible civil and criminal liability; and

WHEREAS, Traverse County supports legal immigration and the positive impact it provides for our communities and the local and state economy; and

WHEREAS, Traverse County citizens should not be negatively impacted from results caused by illegal immigration and the North STAR Act on the budgeting of taxpayer dollars and public resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby urges our legislative delegation and the Governor to reject the North STAR Act proposals in Senate File 2724 and House File 2860, and give ample acknowledgment to public and local government input and the true impact of a "Sanctuary State" designation.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby urges our legislative delegation and the Governor to require support and adherence to applicable federal immigration law.

Adopted by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners on this 20th day of February 2024.

Traverse County

Mark Gail, Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

The Board unanimously approved to increase the per diem for the H.R.A Board from \$35.00 to \$75.00 per meeting effective today upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson.

The Commissioners asked Zahl to look into additional quotes for a table and chairs for the meeting room at the Courthouse. The Commissioners would like Zahl to continue reaching out to employees to find where the Commissioner's room table and chairs are.

Schmidt informed the Board that if we want to see a change in the reimbursement from other Counties to house their inmates we will need to get all counties with jails on board and all raise the rates. There was discussion, Franzese will draft a letter from the Commissioners to the other counties to see if there is any interest in forming a workgroup.

Upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson the Board unanimously approved the Law Enforcement Contract with the City of Browns Valley subject to final legal review.

Zahl discussed general updates.

Public Comment Period

Would like to be able to comment prior to the Commissioner's voting on an issue.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended Horizon Public Health, Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place meeting, and the Annual Township meeting. Schmidt also said that she reached out to Rebekah Petersen from West

Central Initiative and she would be willing to come meet and discuss what they do for Traverse County. Schmidt and Metz will meet with her.

Metz attended the Annual Township meeting and the Browns Valley City Council meeting.

Nelson attended the Horizon Public Health, Horizon Performance Committee, Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place meeting; and Bois de Sioux Watershed meeting.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair