

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
February 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Kayla Schmidt. Other Commissioners present were Mark Gail, Dwight Nelson, and Jerrel Olson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the following additions: Data Practices for Elected Employees; Joint Powers Agreement for the County Attorney with the State of Minnesota; and the County Park discussion, upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson. The February 7, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon motion by Nelson and second by Gail.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, Traverse County Highway Engineer appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie provided the Board with the 2023 Annual Township Meeting Packet that outlines the agreements the highway department and the townships have for road maintenance, mowing, weed control and, road closures. Gillespie gave an update on the County Park parking lot designs he has been working on in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and indicated that by March there should be a firm design plan. Gail asked Gillespie if it would be possible for the Traverse County Sportsman's Club to set up a receptacle for the recycling of aluminum cans at the County Park, it was a general consensus that it would be acceptable.

Bois De Sioux Watershed District

The Board received one letter of interest for the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Manager Position. Allen Wold would like to be reappointed, upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson he was reappointed unanimously.

Zoning Administrator

Ben Oleson appeared before the Board and presented the 3 recommendations that the Planning Commission have for the Board's consideration. 1) Hire BJ Bonin, Hydrogeologist, to do aquifer testing and to conduct an analysis of Dollymount, Croke, and Leonardsville Townships and possibly add Tintah Township to find out the level of water. Schmidt suggested that we add Taylor Township as well since there are two dairy's close by. They had gotten an estimate for 3 townships at \$15,000. They didn't specify how much 5 townships would be. Nelson moved to table this until the next meeting so they can get more information, Olson second and the motion passed unanimously. 2) Hire an independent hydrologist and a geo-tech engineer to conduct a review of the site and the plans for the storm water basin at the 12-Mile Dairy. They were able to find a hydrologist, Dan Whitney but they are still looking for a geo-tech engineer. 3) Hire an independent engineer to review the plans for the manure digesters and make recommendations. A Riverview representative who was present reported that Riverview had contacted Oleson to withdrawl the application permit for the digester and the SWB because there were concerns about them being presented together in one permit application, they will resubmit them separately at a later date when more information is acquired. Olson moved to table any action on items 2 and 3, Gail second, discussion followed and the motion was passed unanimously. County Attorney Matt Franzese informed the Board that since the application permit by Riverview had been withdrawn, he recommended that the Board formerly vote to reject the application. Nelson moved to act on the recommendation of Franzese and Olson was a second, the motion passed unanimously. Oleson reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee is looking for direction from the Board regarding

windmill and solar power and, feedlot ordinance considerations in finalizing the ordinance updates. Olson moved to direct the Planning and Zoning Committee to research those specific areas and to assign sub-committees for these areas and to present their recommendations to the Board, Gail second and the motion passed unanimously.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson reported that there are 7 tax forfeited parcels 5 of which are in Browns Valley. Browns Valley City Council has contacted his office with interest in purchasing these parcels and presented a resolution for the purchase. Nelson moved to sell the parcels to the City of Browns Valley for the cost of \$150.00 each along with the associated processing fees, Gail was a second and the motion passed unanimously. Johnson’s department has been working on the 56 ditch system assessments with 3,215 ditch records. His office works with the Watershed District keeping track of which landowners are going on and off the ditch systems. Johnson is working on the 2023 taxes.

County Coordinator

Nelson moved to approve the following bills, Olson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Bremer Bank National Association	29,193.44
Cardmember Service	3,078.20
Counties Providing Technologies	5,315.36
Mark Hormann	2,000.00
Professional Training Services	2,000.00
Wilkin County	13,979.55
Karl Chevrolet Inc	49,169.74
Larson Oil Inc	21,991.05
Tri-County Coop Oil Association	7,069.71

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 52 totaling \$20,917.29.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, presented information on the Data Processes for Elected Employees. Franzese explained the details of the process which considers if elected officials are considered employees who would be protected under the Data Privacy Act and explained that it is a decision the Board can make. Olson moved to deem Traverse County Elected Officials’ employees for the purpose of Data Privacy Act, Nelson second and the motion was unanimously passed. The State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement with the Traverse County Attorney was approved upon a motion by Nelson, second by Gail and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments at today’s meeting.

Commissioner’s Reports

Nelson and Schmidt attended the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, the Horizon Public Health, the Building Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Schmidt at 11:19 am.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair