

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the agenda was approved unanimously with the following additions: Permit report from Ben Oleson.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, presented the department update. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson the following Resolution was approved unanimously:

**WHEREAS:** County Project No. SAP 078-605-006 have in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

**NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED:** That we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the county of Traverse and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Gillespie informed the Board that they have the authority to change the Township Annual Distribution Formula. The current formula meets the requirements stated in the Statute. Gillespie shared a list of Counties that shared their formulas for their current distribution. Leininger would like to see what formulas Grant, Big Stone, and Stevens are using since theirs were missing from the list. Gillespie said he can contract those counties and see.

The Bridge Inspection Reports are turned in. Traverse County Highway is responsible for 141 Bridges. It is very important that we get these done as they are looking at compliance issues and the consequences can be as extreme as withholding State Aid Funds.

Gillespie shared that last year at this time the total amount of snow was 3.9", we are at 29.1". The last time it was this snowy in the Wheaton area was 2010-2011. Brian Koch, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, said that they are continuing to work on clearing the snow on the roads.

**Auditor/Treasurer**

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer gave a department update. We received the audit engagement letter from the State Auditors which needs to be signed so that they can start the 2018 audit.

Minnesota now has 4 major parties: Democrat, Republican, Grassroots- Legalize Cannabis, and Legal Marijuana Now. Under the current law the County will have to mail 4 separate ballots representing all 4 parties to all voters in our 14 mail ballot precincts plus the polling places will have to stock 4 different ballots. Legislators assured the counties that they would be made whole financially. Under current law the State would reimburse a fraction of the total cost, resulting in another unfunded mandate to the counties.

Salberg mentioned that the Governor is talking about getting the County Program Aid (CPA) back to the amount it was in 2001. Kit said that in 2001 the CPA was \$586,000 which was 24% of our gross levy, in 2019 the CPA is \$436,432 which is 7.2% of our gross levy.

**County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Gail to approve the February 5, 2019 Board minutes, seconded by Leininger, the minutes were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

CARDMEMBER SERVICES	\$3,960.90
BORDER STATES COOPERATIVE	\$2,236.01
L&S GRAFIX	\$2,932.00
LARSON OIL, INC.	\$9,830.00
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE, INC.	\$2,055.03
BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS	\$10,779.81
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$2,857.62

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 59, amounting to \$20,279.54.

Lisa Zahl presented the Board with Ben Oleson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, report. There was one variance approved in January.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Todd Johnson, Board Chairman