

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
March 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Kevin Leininger and T. Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved, upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Salberg, with the addition of Morton Building quote on New Courthouse.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave the Board a department update. They are continuing to work on the last items for MCSAH 105 in Browns Valley.

Advertising for bids for 078-615-015 on CSAH 15 from CSAH 4 to CSAH 6 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger.

Gillespie asked for approved to pre-buy Base One Stabilizing agent for CSAH 15 project from Team Laboratory Chemical Corp for \$66,000, the original cost is \$79,200 but we will save \$13,200 if we pre-buy the product. The purchase was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg.

Monson questioned the solar lights on CSAH 9, he was told that it isn't working. Gillespie informed the Board that Otter Electric would be coming to look at all the solar lights this week. Leininger asked about the county road signs, either we need to replace them or take them down if they are faded and can't be read any longer. Salberg suggested that they work on a program to get them replaced, Gillespie will work on that.

**Veterans/Safety/Solid Waste**

Dustin Kindelberger, Veterans Service Officer/Safety/Solid Waste, appeared before the Board. He informed the Board that after 25 years of service Patty Peyton is retiring at the end of May 2020 as the Administrative Services Office Manager. Kindelberger asked the Board's permission to advertise and hire to replace Patty; this was approved unanimously upon a motion by Leininger and second by Salberg.

**Planning & Zoning**

Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, appeared before the Board by phone. There was one application for a conditional use permit submitted by Adam and Sherry Jipson to begin operation of commercial agricultural chemical/seed storage and sales business out of an existing pole shed on the applicant's property. The Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment, on a unanimous vote (4-0), has recommended approval of the requested conditional use permit with the following recommended conditions of that approval: That the applicant maintains a valid emergency response plan and that a copy of that plan be submitted to the County's Emergency Manager if it is ever replaced or amended. Salberg made a motion to approve the

conditional use permit with the conditions and the findings of facts as were recommended by the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment, second by Monson and approved unanimously.

Jim Kruger's and Dennis Zimbrick's terms on the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment will expire in April. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise for one week as they have in the past.

### **Law Enforcement Center**

Sheriff Trevor Wright and Brenda Bartz, Jail Administrator, appeared before the Board. The February report was presented to the Board with the jail usage at 66.18% for the month. The jail is full right now. Bartz is working on revenue recapture and have received a few thousand dollars from that program. We hired our 7<sup>th</sup> full-time Communications/Corrections office.

Wright presented a letter to the Commissioners from Judge Charles Glasrud, Eighth Judicial District Court of Minnesota, regarding the security and space in the current court facilities. If there is no new facility constructed in the immediate future they would highly recommend the remodeling and expansion of the waiting area as this would create a space safer and more suitable for members of the public, parties and attorneys as well as assisting the Commissioners in improving security. Wright understands that he would need Board approval to move forward with pricing this project out. Wright is sending a letter of support to Senator Westrom and Representative Backer for the Bonding project that we have applied for. Salberg urged the other Commissioners to do the same as Representative Backer does have a bill supporting the Traverse County Courthouse bonding project, we need Senator Westrom to do a companion bill to support it as well.

Wright would like to close the meeting to discuss a private issue. At 9:37 a.m. Gail moved that the meeting be closed to discuss an active law enforcement investigation pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13.82, Subd.7, second by Monson and approved unanimously.

The meeting was re-opened at 9:50 a.m., the result of the meeting was that the County Board was given information pertaining to the active law enforcement investigation.

### **Soil & Water**

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. On Thursday, March 12, the SWCD office is hosting a workshop about cover crops and soil health and the Board is encouraged to attend. The SWCD position opening has been filled and they have hired Brock Pearson who will be starting in April 2020.

A meeting is scheduled with the City of Tintah to discuss their plans for a new wastewater treatment system to replace individual septic systems within the city limits. Gronfeld gave the Board information on the revision of the low income SSTS upgrade grant criteria and funding levels. The Board unanimously approved option 1 for 2020. Qualifying applicants in the very low income bracket would receive reimbursement of 95% of new system expenses, low income would receive 75% and moderate income would receive 50% reimbursement upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson. The income eligibility criteria changed minimally for 2020.

One Wetland Conservation Act project application was received for an Agricultural Exemption.

The resolution to extend the current Water Plan expiration date has been submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for approval.

The Upper Minnesota River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) and report review meeting will be March 27<sup>th</sup> in Ortonville and a local meeting with full Boards to review the draft Bois de Sioux and Mustinka 1W1P plan contents will be March 25 at 1:00 p.m.

### **County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the February 18, 2020 Board minutes, with a second by T. Johnson, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS	\$10,779.81
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,420.00
MAIN STREET MOTORS	\$2,194.07
MCCC	\$2,385.00
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	\$2,858.55
MN STATE AUDITOR	\$4,166.50
NORTHLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC	\$2,205.00
NOVA FIRE PROTECTION, LLC	\$6,200.00
RAINBOW RIDER	\$2,028.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$5,606.94
TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL, LLC	\$66,000.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 28, amounting to \$9,704.07.

Allen Wold's term as Bois de Sioux Board Manager will expire on April 30, 2020. It was general consensus of the Board to stay consistent and advertise for all open Board position for one week to see if there is any public interest. Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, will put the advertisement in the paper.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson the new, one page, Employee Performance Evaluation was approved unanimously, this will replace the previous 5 page evaluation.

There was discussion about replacing the 9 tables in the Commissioners room as the current ones are 20 years old and they are cracking and warping. Gail would like to wait and see it in the budget for the following year. The quote from Valley Office Products for 9 new tables with lifetime warranty for \$6,876.00 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Leininger and second by Salberg.

Monson spoke with Morton Buildings and if we moved the current new courthouse drawing off site their cost estimate would be \$3.5 and \$4 million, to build it in the current location it would cost the same as what Engan Associates cost estimate was, \$5.1 million. Monson asked the rest of the Board if they would like to move forward with Morton, they will come talk with the Board but from now on there will be a fee with what Morton does for us. Salberg said that it may be \$1 million less to build off site but it would still cost \$1 million to tear down the old building so it would be the same cost either way. T. Johnson said we would lose work flow to

move the courthouse off site. Leininger said that we first need to find a way to fund it. Salberg said that we need to get ahold of Westrom and urge him to support our bonding request. The consensus of the Board is to table this discussion.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Mark Gail, Board Chairman