

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
March 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present were Jerrel Olson, Dwight Nelson, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. Upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson the agenda was approved 4-0. The February 20, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson.

**Highway Department**

County Maintenance Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board. He went over the explanation for the Township rate versus the County rate.

**Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board Manager Position Appointment**

Steven Schmidt's appointment is expiring on April 30, 2024. The Commissioners did not receive any other interest besides S. Schmidt. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson Steven Schmidt was reappointed for a 3-year term.

**Ottertail Energy Management**

Drew Martig, Ottertail Energy Management Representative appeared before the Board to present the Facility Turn-key Efficiency program. The County would pay \$500 towards facility assessment expenses, which is valued at \$2,500. We are then eligible for up to 50% bonus incentives for qualifying measures implemented within 12 months of assessment report delivery. Olson recommends this for the Traverse Care Center as it would save money. Olson made a motion to move forward with the assessment at the Traverse Care Center seconded by Nelson and approved 4-0.

**Law Enforcement Center**

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board, the jail occupancy for February was at 64.64%. Wright gave an update on the lighting project. He received two quotes to replace the light fixtures but they aren't apples to apples so the Board asked to table the discussion until we have the two similar quotes. Write attended a job fair in Alexandria that went well. Wright went over the year-end report.

**Courthouse Building Maintenance**

Courthouse Building Maintenance Supervisor, Chad Klindworth appeared before the Board. He looked into the cost of using the rug service compared to buying rugs and cleaning them himself. He believes we could save money by doing the rugs ourselves. The Board approved this switch 4-0 contingent on being about to cancel the contract upon a motion by Olson and seconded by Nelson.

**Attorney**

County Attorney Matt Franzese brought forward a proposed version of an Ordinance Regulating Cannabis Products in Traverse County. He is going to set up the public hearing for April 2, 2024. The public hearing will also include an amendment to the Peddlers Ordinance.

**County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Nelson and a second from Schmidt the following bills were approved 4-0.

ANDERSON LAW OFFICE, PA	\$3,825.00
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,920.03

HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,860.00
CEPT	\$5,295.60
CLAY COUNTY	\$6,000.00
DHS	\$4,520.25
LSS – ST PAUL	\$5,476.00
MENDED INC	\$2,886.02
OTTERTAIL COUNTY	\$2,400.00
PLACEMENTS	\$12,231.30
TRAVERSE COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER	\$2,500.00
WESTERN PRAIRIE	\$47,886.38

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 24 claims of less than \$2,000.00 totaling \$6,034.09.

There was interest from members of the Wind and Solar group to sit in on a Minnesota Energy and Electric Utility Regulation webinar. Schmidt made a motion for two members to attend, second by Nelson followed by a discussion. Franzese said he was planning to attend but he would pay for it out of his budget. Kayla amended her motion for one member to attend seconded by Nelson followed by a discussion. Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator mentioned that they have an on-demand option that would be available after the webinar for \$329.00. Schmidt rescinded her previous motion and made a motion to pay for the on-demand webinar seconded by Nelson and approved 4-0.

County Coordinator Lisa Zahl informed the Board that she has not heard back from Minnewaska regarding the walk-in freezer for the Traverse Care Center.

Upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson the quote from Amazon for a table and 10 chairs for \$1,139.69 for the new meeting room in the Courthouse was approved 4-0.

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer informed the Board that he needs two County Commissioners or their designee to Canvass the Presidential Nomination Primary. Schmidt volunteered and Gail appointed Erin Martinek, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer.

#### **Public Comment Period**

There was a comment regarding the ability to speak before Board action. The Traverse County Rules of Business allow for the public to speak prior to Board action.

#### **Commissioner Committee Reports**

Schmidt and Nelson attended the Western Prairie Human Services meeting. Schmidt attended the local water plan Soil and Water Conservation District and Rural Minnesota Counties.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Mark Gail, Chair