

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
March 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commission Chair Mark Gail. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Kevin Leininger, and Todd Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger, the agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of Leininger will give update from a meeting in Parnell Township; Planning Commission recommendations; and Policy on Utilization of Paid Leave During a Public Health Emergency Policy.

COVID-19

The Commissioners discussed the COVID-19 situation with input from Rhonda Antrim-Petersen, Social Services Director; Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager; Dustin Kindelberger, Veterans Service/Solid Waste/Safety Director; and Lisa Zahl, HR Director/County Coordinator. We discussed the guidance for social distancing strategies recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in addition to the Governor of Minnesota and the Commissioner of Health. They acknowledged that we are responsible for the safety and well-being of our employees and customers. Lac Qui Parle County has closed their county offices to the public until further notice, but they are still providing their services through phone, email and online. Stevens, Grant, and Wilkin counties are waiting until there is a diagnosed case of COVID-19 in their respective counties, or a surrounding county, before they close their doors to the public. Gail said that we should follow the school's lead and shut the doors to the public. T. Johnson agreed with Gail that we should close our doors to the public, and if in six months people say we overacted I will say we did our job. Leininger said that if Stevens, Grant, and Wilkin counties aren't closing then he doesn't see why we should. Monson said that shutting our doors to the public at this time would be proactive, although he doesn't agree with doing it. Gail said he doesn't want to either, but once someone has been infected it's too late. Salberg said he is on the fence, and thinks we should wait until we have one in a county next to us, but to be safe we should probably close. There was a motion by Salberg to close the doors of our county building to the public and allow workers to continue to serve the public through phone, e-mail, and online services, with the exceptions of emergency and essential services made by appointment only, and then with screening questions given to the customer prior to entering the building, which would start today at 4:30 p.m. and last until at least March 27, 2020, and with the Board reassessing the situation prior to that date to see if the closing should be extended. The motion was seconded by T. Johnson and approved 4 - 1, with Leininger opposed. Salberg left the meeting.

Highway Department

Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, and Mike Doll, Engineering Technician, appeared before the Board with a Department update. Advertising for bids for 078-705-003 MCSAH 105 in Browns Valley was approved 4-0 upon a motion by Leininger and second by T. Johnson.

Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson it was approved 4-0 to advertise for up to 4 seasonal summer workers.

They have put into place a route marker sign program, they will replace the route markers on paved road intersections and eliminate the route markers on gravel roads.

Gail asked that the curbs get painted yellow behind the post office when it gets nice out. Leininger asked if they could put cones out around the hole in the street by the St. John Lutheran Church.

Traverse Care Center

Dylan Hanson, Executive Director, had to cancel because his attention needed to be at the Traverse Care Center during this health pandemic. He will reschedule when he is able.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board and gave a department update. The County credit card account has always been with the Courthouse, Social Services and Law Enforcement but the Highway department didn't have the option. We were offered a credit card with 2% cash back but we can only get 12 cards with the account. We would like to set up the Highway with this credit card and leave the other account as is. Monson made a motion to give authorization to Kit Johnson to set up the Bank of the West County credit card for the Traverse County Highway Department, second by T. Johnson and approved 4-0.

K. Johnson found out that the 0% USDA Loan for \$85,000 that we applied for in 2016 would cost approximately \$4,500 for us to obtain Bond Council, K. Johnson is afraid that this is just the beginning of the fees related to this USDA Loan. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson we will respectfully decline the USDA loan which was approved 4-0.

Gail mentioned that we own Prairieview Place and there is a soffit that is missing and it needs to be repaired. Leininger will get ahold of Wilson to see what it would cost to get it repaired.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger it was approved 4-0 to allow the Wheaton Golf Course the following: a Consumption and Display Permit, a Wine License with a strong beer authorization on it and a 3.2 license for 2020.

Public Hearing on Tobacco Ordinance

Chere Rikimoto said that they support the Tobacco Ordinance. With no other comments there was a motion by T. Johnson to repeal the existing Tobacco ordinance, second by Monson and approved 4-0. Monson made a motion to accept and approve the new Tobacco Ordinance, second by T. Johnson and approved 4-0. There was a motion by Leininger to approve the summary publication, second by T. Johnson and approved 4-0.

Bois de Sioux Watershed District Manager Appointment

We received interest from two individuals, Allen Wold who serves currently as a manager and Chad Bruns. Wold appeared before the Board and spoke on his own behalf; he has served 2 terms for a total of 6 years. Doug Dahlen, Manager, mentioned that they can't afford to lose him. Linda Vavra, President of the Board, said that it isn't a good time to replace with someone

new. Joe Murphy said that the current Board is working great and everything is very positive right now. Chad Bruns spoke on his own behalf. Leininger made a motion to reappoint Allen Wold, second by Monson with the following discussion. Monson said that he thought Wold had served on the Board for over 10 years and was ready to appoint someone else but since he has only served 6 years and the President of the Board is supporting him my mind has been changed. The motion was passed 3 – 1 with T. Johnson opposed.

Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment Appointment

We received interest from the two individuals who are currently serving, Jim Kruger and Dennis Zimbrick. Zimbrick did say that if there was other interest he would step down. With no other interest there was a motion by Leininger to reappoint both Jim Kruger and Dennis Zimbrick, second by Monson and passed 4-0.

Zoning Administrator

Dawn and Chad Schmidt request the construction of a 14 x 14 addition to an existing dwelling. The Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment unanimously recommends the approval of the requested conditional use permit with 2 recommended conditions of that approval. T. Johnson made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit with the conditions and findings of facts as were recommended by the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments, second by Monson and approved 4-0.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to approve the March 3, 2020, Board minutes, second by T. Johnson, the minutes were approved 4-0. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by T. Johnson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

CARDMEMEBER SERVICES	\$3,120.46
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,857.37
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC.	\$2,487.60
ELLINGSON PLUMBING, HTG & AC	\$5,866.00
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	\$2,924.81
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$7,769.81
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$4,364.64
SGTS, INC.	\$3,394.83
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$7,500.00
VALLEY OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC.	\$7,033.87
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$2,743.00
WEX BANK	\$2,076.45
STURDEVANT'S AUTO PARTS	\$3,282.60
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$8,387.54
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$2,522.95
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING	\$15,740.29

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 61, amounting to \$17,784.15.

The 2019 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report was approved 4-0 upon a motion by Leininger and second by T. Johnson.

Leininger went to a Parnell Township meeting regarding a proposed dairy. The Township Board approved to do a moratorium so that any new dairies that come in have to do an Economic Environmental Impact study prior.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger the Board approved 4-0 to put the Utilization of Paid Leave During a Public Health Emergency policy into place.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman