

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
March 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, Jerrel Olson and Chad Metz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. With the addition of Resolution 23-07 regarding the West Central Minnesota Community Action's, 'Supporting the Family Homeless Assistance and Prevention Program' grant application the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Gail. No conflicts of interest were expressed for the meeting topics. The March 7, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson.

**Highway Department**

Traverse County Highway Engineer, Chad Gillespie appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie asked for the Board's approval to proceed with mailing letters to homeowners informing residents that the county will not be handling any aspect of dust control this spring due to preparations for flood damage mitigation. The letters will include contact information for the dust control companies for the residents to contact the vendors themselves. Gail moved to approve the request, discussion took place, and it was also agreed that the Highway Department will place an advertisement in the county newspaper to provide homeowners with an additional notification. Nelson provided a second to the motion and it passed unanimously. Gillespie informed the Board that he is in the process of appealing FEMA's Category B Emergency Measures decision to deny reimbursement because they state the county did not attain the \$3,500.00 threshold. FEMA states we completed \$3,118.53 worth of work and the County totaled \$3,544.41. Gillespie informed the Board that his department has hired trucks to assist with flood repairs along with some normal maintenance, so they don't fall behind completing spring work. Gillespie presented the Board with a County Comparison Chart that included "Miles Per Blade Route" and "Snow Removal Miles Per Route" data. Gillespie reported that Traverse County is the highest number of miles per blade route at 160 with Steven County coming in at second with 101.8 miles per blade route. Gillespie reported that Traverse County is third highest in Snow Removal Miles Per Route at 57 which includes the township roads. Gillespie presented monetary totals for snowplow routes in the amount of \$16,000 with county roads accounting for approximately \$4,370, CSAH \$6,130 and townships \$5,500. Gillespie noted that when meeting with the township board there was discussion of raising rates in 2024 and that 2018 was the last rate increase. Gillespie presented the Board with various scenarios for improvements of blading and plowing with the costs associated with each improvement, the Board and Gillespie discussed several options. Gillespie concluded with a reminder that Spring Weight Restrictions will begin March 22, 2023.

**Horizon Public Health**

Amy Reineke, Community Health Strategist/Accreditation Coordinator, appeared before the Board with an update on the Opioid settlements from Teva, Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, and Allergan. The Mallinckrodt Settlement is close to completion and Minnesota will be receiving \$10,000,000 to \$14,000,000 over multiple years. Associated with this settlement was the following Resolution which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Gail and second by Metz:

**Resolution 23-05**

**Resolution Authorizing Traverse County Staff to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure Traverse County Participation in the Multistate Settlements Relating to Opioid Supply Chain Participants, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement.**

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and numerous Minnesota cities and counties are engaged in nationwide civil litigation against opioid supply chain participants related to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Attorney General has signed on to multistate settlement agreements with several opioid supply chain participants, but those settlement agreements are still subject to sign-on by local governments and final agreement by the companies and approval by the courts; and

WHEREAS, there is a deadline of April, 18 2023, for a sufficient threshold of Minnesota cities and counties to sign on to the above-referenced multistate settlement agreements, and failure to timely sign on may diminish the amount of funds received by not only that city or county but by all Minnesota cities and counties from the settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Minnesota's local governments, the Office of the Attorney General, and the State of Minnesota have reached agreement on the intrastate allocation of these settlement funds between the State, and the counties and cities, as well as the permissible uses of these funds, which will be memorialized in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, as amended (the "State-Subdivision Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the State-Subdivision Agreement creates an opportunity for local governments and the State to work collaboratively on a unified vision to deliver a robust abatement and remediation plan to address the opioid crisis in Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Traverse County supports and agrees to the State-Subdivision Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Traverse County supports and opts in to all future multistate settlement agreements with opioid supply chain participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Traverse County authorizes county staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure Traverse County participation in the multistate settlement agreements, including the Participation Agreement and accompanying Release, and in the State-Subdivision Agreement.

Adopted by the Traverse County Board of commissioners this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2023.

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Kayla Schmidt, Board Chair

ATTEST:

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Reineke discussed with the Board the Traverse County Opioid Task Force and explained that this task force would like to be able to make decisions and spend opioid funds for Traverse County and presented the following resolution for approval. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson the following resolution was approved unanimously:

**TRAVERSE COUNTY RESOLUTION 23-06  
ESTABLISHING THE TRAVERSE COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, Traverse County has or will be entering into settlement agreements related to civil litigation over the effects of opioid use and abuse, and the actions of various opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other sector participants; and,

**WHEREAS**, the terms of these current and future settlement agreements do or will include terms requiring the County to establish a working group to guide efforts to address current or future effects of substance use and abuse in the Traverse County community; and,

**WHEREAS**, Horizon Public Health, in its role as facilitator and organizer of Traverse County's community response related to opioids, recommends, after consultation with County stakeholders, the formation of a Traverse County Opioid Task Force, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Traverse County Task Force is intended to be the body evaluating initiative proposals and making recommendations and decisions related to use of funds awarded to the County related to these opioid litigation settlement agreements; and,

**WHEREAS**, having reviewed these recommendations and supporting materials, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners wishes to form and empower such a task force for this purpose, consistent with the directives contained in this Resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes on this date the Traverse County Opioid Task Force, a working group charged with making decisions and recommendations on the use of current and future settlement funds received by the County in connection with opioid-related civil litigation; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the initial membership of the Task Force includes the following community stakeholders, listed by position:

- *Horizon Public Health Director, (as Traverse County Public Health Director), or the Director's designee*
- *Western Prairie Human Services Director (as Traverse County Human Services Director), or the Director's designee;*
- *Traverse County Coordinator, or the Coordinator's designee;*
- *Traverse County Attorney, or the Attorney's designee;*
- *Traverse County Probation Director, or the Director's designee;*
- *Traverse County Sheriff, or the Sheriff's designee;*
- *Traverse County Veterans Service Director, or the Director's designee;*
- *Traverse County Board Chair, or the Chair's designee;*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Task Force may appoint and remove additional members to the body by majority vote of the initial membership as defined by this Resolution; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Task Force is delegated the following powers by the County Board, subject to modification by further Resolution of this Board:

*By majority vote of all members, the Task Force shall:*

- *Approve and direct payment of initiative proposals requiring opioid fund expenditures to the Traverse County Board;*
- *Make a recommendation to the Traverse County Board on any joint contractual proposals requiring participation of multiple parties and requiring opioid fund expenditures.*

*The Task Force shall also maintain records for and provide reports to the Traverse County Board upon request regarding opioid fund use and response activities related to Task Force approvals or actions, and regarding any changes in Task Force membership.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the membership, powers, and actions of the Task Force remain subject to modification by further Resolution or other action of the County Board.

**ADOPTED** by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.

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, County Board Chair

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly passed, adopted, and approved by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.

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, County Coordinator  
Traverse County, Minnesota

#### **Auditor/Treasurer**

Traverse County Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson informed the Board that tax statements were being mailed the day of the meeting. Johnson's department has recently published the first-year delinquent tax listing and filing with the courts. In another 2 weeks his office is required to publish an updated delinquent tax listing. Johnson reported that in April his office will be publishing a list of parcels that are entering the Expiration Redemption Phase, the final phase before the parcel is forfeited. Johnson reported he is filing the 2022 Probation Reimbursement with the Department of Corrections for the five-county area. Johnson reported that department inventories are taking place for loss prevention purposes.

#### **County Attorney**

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the Board with an update from the University of Minnesota Geologic Atlas Project regarding hydrogeological testing, the project isn't projected to get done for roughly four years. Nelson moved to approve the quote from BJ Bonin from AECOM for mapping aquifers in Leonardsville, Croke and Dollymount townships for \$16,000.00, Olson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

#### **Zoning Administrator**

Zoning Administrator Ben Oleson appeared before the Board to discuss recommendations from the Traverse County Planning Commission meeting that was held March 8, 2023. The Board had requested the Planning Commission discuss Wind Power Management Ordinances. The Planning Commission recommended an interim ordinance prohibiting new commercial wind projects for up to one year. They also recommended a subcommittee to study the issue of wind power regulations and asked whether the subcommittee should be determined by the Planning Commission or the County Board and who the subcommittee would report to. There was a consensus from the Board to hold public hearing to discuss the interim ordinance prohibiting new commercial wind projects for up to one year; a date was not able to be set at the time of this meeting pending the arrangement of a venue. Representatives from the wind tower company were present at today's meeting and fielded questions from the Board. It was

agreed that the Board will appoint the sub-committee members representing various affected areas in our county.

**Traverse County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Position Appointment**

There remains one position open on the Traverse County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Position. Schmidt reviewed the position description and responsibilities. The Board received 4 applicants, Jonathan Mathias, Dave Salberg, Jim Kruger and Cynthia Lichtsinn. Schmidt read letters of recommendation that had been submitted on their behalf. Salberg and Mathias gave brief statements. Nelson moved to appoint Jonathan Mathias; the motion was not seconded; motion failed. Olson moved to reappoint Jim Kruger, second by Nelson and approved unanimously.

**County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Nelson and second by Gail the following bills were approved unanimously.

Kris Engineering, Inc	4,810.56
Larson Oil, Inc	10,703.00
Schultz Welding	3,106.81
Tri County Coop Oil Assoc.	3,984.71
Card Member Services (Elan)	6,398.24
Counties Providing Technology	5,235.36
Election Systems & Software, Inc.	3,360.00
Mark Hormann	2,000.00
Morris Electronics	22,164.20
Ottetail Power Company	4,456.37
Tri County Coop Oil Assoc.	4,484.00
Wold Architects and Engineers	3,758.07

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 53 totaling \$23,063.87.

The Board discussed a request from a Social Services employee for a public meeting to discuss the Western Prairie Social Services Contract. Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, provided the Board with the County Labor Attorney recommendation that the Personnel Committee sit down with each employee one on one with a list of questions, discussion took place. Leah Krauth, Traverse County Social Worker, addressed the Board. Krauth stated that she and others had met with the Personnel Committee the last time the new contract was discussed and they didn't feel the feedback got back to the full board so they would like to speak with the entire Board. Western Prairie Social Services will have options available for Traverse County Social Services on April 7, 2023. A special board meeting date was set for April 11, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Traverse County Commissioner's Room. Zahl provided the Board with a copy of the Requests for Proposals for Traverse Care Center and Prairieview Place that have been issued and are due by April 14, 2023. The Traverse County Working Group for Area Wildlife Management Plans was discussed after the Board received an invitation from Dave Bauer, President of Traverse County Pheasants Forever. A meeting will be held on March 30, 2023, at the Sportsman's Club at 1:30 pm, Olson said he would plan to attend. Missy Becker-Cook from West Central Community Action requested the approval of the following Resolution, which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and second by Gail:

Traverse County, Minnesota  
Resolution No. 23-07

**Motion by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seconded By** \_\_\_\_\_

