

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
March 3, 2015

The regular meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion Salberg and second by Monson, with the following additions: refinancing of jail bonds, PERA vote update and MRCC update. The following updates were removed due to weather: Dustin Kindelberger, Dianne Reinart, and Sara Gronfeld.

**Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer-** Haukos appeared before the Board and presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:**

County Project No. CP 09-01, CO #3 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 in behalf of the County of Traverse and authorize final payment as specified herein.

It was approved unanimously upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson. He discussed the generator. It was in the 2014 budget, not 2015. Gail suggested waiting to budget it again in 2016. A recommendation for the Wheaton streets project was presented, SAP 078-707-001. The recommendation was to award the project to Central Specialties Inc. in the amount of \$854,488.60. The recommendation was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg. Matt Franzese, County Attorney, was directed to write the agreement between the County, City, and the Legion/Twin Tire. A request to approve the contract for SAP 078-611-007 to Central Specialties for \$3,677,337.48 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson. Haukos updated the Board on other projects that are in the works. There was also discussion about gravel crushing.

**Lynn Siegel/Emergency Manager-** Siegel shared that she completed her State Certificate for Emergency Management. She also reported that the Thira plan is complete. She's working on the emergency plan and also working on railroad and pipeline education. She would like to bring it to Traverse County and hold it possibly on a Wednesday night when the firemen already have training. Her target date is early April. She is also working on a weather spotter class to be brought in. She discussed her employment offer, which provided a pay increase upon completion of her certification. That issue was referred to the Personnel Committee.

**Trevor Wright/Sheriff-** Wright appeared before the Board to present a department update. Wright discussed the weather situation. He recommended reviewing the current policy on weather and closing of county offices. Public safety for residents is different than conducting county business, even if it is on a skeleton crew. Salberg and Gail agreed no travel means no travel, no matter where you live. T. Johnson discussed highway having to fight traffic when they are plowing. Wright's concern included the fact that the weather conditions are varied throughout the county and he makes the call based on

where he's at. If the Sheriff starts to declare no travel in the Northern or Southern part of the county, that would create more ambiguity. His purpose in calling advisories isn't to shut down county government. The Policy Committee will review the policy and make a recommendation to the Board. Wright also updated the Board that the Courts have directed, as of June of 2016, mandated use of e-citations and e-charging. Wright said they do have the equipment to do it. He also provided an aquatic invasive species (AIS) update. His preliminary plan includes installation of solar lights at the boat landings. One has been done previously. There is some discussion of a building on the Mustinka Access, which will house AIS inspection materials, the county's jet ski and boat. A lot of fishing tournaments begin and end there, which is why that location was chosen. He also mentioned that the March 17<sup>th</sup> training on Respectful Communication in the Work Place, is going to be very good. He had concerns that the training will result in overtime for his staff and wondered if that would come out of his budget for emergency services or if there is another fund it could come out of. Salberg suggested it come from the emergency services OT budget. Wright also discussed squad cameras that were approved in the 2015 budget. The estimate is \$15K for three cars. He has two quotes very similar in price with the only difference being a 16 inch view versus panoramic. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, authorization to purchase the cameras was approved unanimously.

**Bid Letting for CP-15-01** was completed. The Engineer's estimate was \$432,000.00. The following bids were received:

Central Specialties, Inc	\$456,000
Fridgen Excavating Tiling, LLC	\$600,000
H & S Contracting, Inc	\$616,800
Sibson Gravel, LLC	\$357,600
Wm. D. Scepaniak	\$321,600

**Bid Letting for CP-15-02** was completed. The Engineer's estimate was \$155,875.00. The following bids were received:

Central Specialties, Inc	\$202,925
Fridgen Excavating Tiling, LLC	\$165,000
H & S Contracting, Inc	\$299,695
Mark Sand & Gravel Co.	\$366,300

**Kit Johnson/ Auditor/Treasurer-** Johnson discussed the jail bonds and the opportunity to refinance them. Their call date is February 2017. The remaining average interest is approximately 4.15% and new refunding bonds could be issued with an average interest rate of 1.85%. This interest rate reduction would generate a total net savings of approximately \$118,500.00 over the remaining term of the bonds. An additional option could be to shorten the term, which could potentially save even more. The rates are at historical lows. He recommended having Springsted and Northland Securities attend a future Board meeting to discuss it. They could provide a couple of scenarios for alternative savings. K. Johnson emphasized that the closer you get to the call date, the more you save because you're not financing two bonds at one time. Northland Securities will buy the bonds so they will know what they're willing to pay. Springsted uses the open market so you could get better or worse rates.

**Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator-** The minutes from February 17, 2015 board meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion Monson and second by Salberg. The following bills were approved unanimously upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Gail:

AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS INC	2,867.00
INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORP	12,627.00
MAIN STREET MOTORS	3,494.82
MN STATE AUDITOR	3,380.00
MRCC	2,100.00
RAINBOW RIDER	2,000.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	4,611.73
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	4,393.19
Lyle Signs Inc.	9,776.85

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 26, amounting to \$8,409.63. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, continued support to pursue the process of hiring a full-time County Coordinator/Human Resource Director, was approved unanimously. Monson asked for clarification around the Coordinator role and T. Johnson explained the previous structure and the current structure. The proposed position would remove Antrim from the Coordinator role and combine that once again with the Human Resource Director. Wright commented that the new position would not alleviate the need for Justin Anderson, current Human Resource Professional. Salberg acknowledged there would be a need but it would be up to the new person hired as to who they want to utilize for that service as there is no commitment to Anderson. Antrim distributed a template of the proposed county flag, designed through Prime West. Antrim provided an update on the Correctional Officer Social Security vote as it relates to PERA. Antrim invited the Commissioners to participate in the March Madness Wellness Event through Lakes Country Service Cooperative. Antrim shared a newspaper article about a bill that was proposed that would allow the county the choice of elected versus appointed positions for Recorder, Auditor, and Treasurer. Antrim also distributed an update from Minnesota Rural County Caucus.

Attested to by:

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Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger/Board Chair