

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
April 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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. Schmidt requested the addition of Traverse Care Center and Prairie View Place Update and the Windmill Work Group, Zahl requested the addition of Representative Backer visit to Traverse Care Center, and Association of Minnesota Counties presentation invitation. With those additions the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson. No conflicts of interest were expressed for the meeting topics. The March 21, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Olson and second by Metz.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, Traverse County Highway Engineer appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie requested signatures for contract 078-620-020 CSAH 20 project. Gillespie requested approval to put Traverse County on the list for the potential purchase of 1 or 2 used snowblowers that can be used for both front and rear PTO's, the used purchase price is less than a 1/3 of the cost of new. Discussion took place. Nelson moved to approve the potential purchase, Metz second and the motion was passed unanimously. Gillespie informed the Board that he has requested quotes for CSAH Maintenance Gravel Project that includes CSAH 11 from U.S. Highway 75 to State Highway 27 which runs 5.5 miles.

Law Enforcement Center

Trevor Wright appeared before the Board via zoom with a department update. Wright provided the Board with a jail occupancy report for March of 63.98%. At the time of the meeting Wright was assessing road conditions in the county.

Wold Architects and Engineers

Jonathan Loose and Allison Timmins appeared before the Board with detailed information on the progress of the building study. Loose presented 4 scenarios with associated costs for consideration. Option A. referred to as a 'Do Nothing Concept' or deferred maintenance which would bring the current courthouse up to code, repairing the structural deficits and mechanical systems. Loose pointed out that although such updates and repairs wouldn't need to be addressed immediately the costs will continue to rise, this cost estimate was \$15,487,764. Option B. outlined the prospect of the REA campus; moving the Government Services offices to the metal shed, Buildings and Grounds moves out to the small garage and the Justice Center moves out to the Electric Co-op Building, Social Services and the Annex remains in place, this cost estimate was \$11,483,751. Option C. outlined the prospect of the REA campus with the Government Services moving to the metal shed, Buildings and Grounds moving to the small garage, Social Services moving to the Electric Co-op Building, and the Justice Center moves to the Social Services building with the Commissioners Room remaining in the Annex, this cost estimate was \$12,085,350. Option D1. outlined the cost associated with building an addition to the Social Services/Annex building which totaled \$13,962,807. Discussion took place. The Board consensus was to pass on all REA options. Further discussion including bonding options took place. It was agreed that Loose will provide Zahl with dollar amounts so that she can pursue seeking bonding requests from the State Legislature.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. Gronfeld reported that her office has received one new grant application for the Septic System Program. She provided updates on One Watershed One Plan and included a Secretary Report from the Bois De Sioux-Mustinka Plan and a progress report from the Upper Minnesota River Planning Process. Gronfeld informed the Board that Jeff Pederson has been appointed to the SWCD board replacing David Rinke who has retired. Gronfeld reported that Soil Health Grant Applications are coming into her office as a result from information shared at regular meetings earlier in 2023. The Geo-Locating Project for locating wells has been completed and submitted to the state for their Geologic Atlas. Her department is preparing equipment in anticipation of spring work , working on project development for erosion prevention across the county and training new staff members.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson appeared before the Board and requested permission to issue licenses for beer, wine, and set-up to the Wheaton Golf Course. Gail moved to approve the request, Metz second and it was approved unanimously.

County Coordinator

Gail moved to approve the following bills, Nelson second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Fleet Services	7,167.50
Forum Communications Printing	2,349.99
Pictometry International Corp.	2,125.00
Tritech Software Systems (Central Square)	2,365.02
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	8,049.00
Kris Engineering, Inc.	14,955.44
Little Falls Machine, Inc	6,115.77
North Central International, LLC	8,339.34
Serocki Excavating, Inc.	2,605.00
Sturdevant’s Auto Parts	2,140.94
Twin Valley Tire Wheaton, Inc	15,251.55

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 42 totaling \$13,893.40.

Schmidt attended the Law Library Committee meeting and they are requesting approval for an increase from \$10 to \$15 per ticket. Nelson moved to approve the increase, Olson second the motion and the increase was approved unanimously. Zahl was asked to reinstate the Traverse County Food Shelf Board to the Commissioner’s Committee List. The addition of other committee assignments; the Opioid Task Force and, the Traverse County Wildlife Committee was also discussed. Gail moved to add all 3 committees to the list, Nelson seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. The Traverse Care Center and Prairie View Place updates yielded that no RFP’s have been received. Discussion regarding the Windmill Workgroup resulted in the Board deciding that 2 Commissioners, 2 members of the Planning and Zoning Committee and 3 members of the public will comprise the Windmill Workgroup. Zahl reported that Sharon Thole from HDG was contacted regarding Representative Jeff Backer coming to Traverse Care Center for a meeting to discuss the challenges of rural nursing homes and funding. Thole asked if Schmidt and Nelson, who sit on the TCC/PVP Committee would like to attend, they agreed. Ryan Erdman from the Association of Minnesota Counties contacted Zahl to see if the Board

would be interested in a presentation outlining the services they provide. The Board asked Zahl to arrange the presentation.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments at today's meeting.

Commissioner Reports

Schmidt reported on the Building Committee, Central Minnesota Emergency Services, Minnesota Rural Counties meetings she attended. Metz gave an update on Rainbow Rider and Nelson also attended the Building Committee meeting.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair