

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
April 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:58 a.m. by chairman Dave Salberg. The pledge of allegiance was recited. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to the Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means during a health pandemic by the governor of the State of Minnesota in Minnesota Statute Chapter 12. Appearing personally are Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, Kayla Schmidt, Tom Monson, and Todd Johnson. The following additions were made to the agenda; pest control quotes and Dewayne Groneberg, Public Access at Halls Landing discussion, with these additions the agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Gail and a second by T. Johnson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board. Gillespie provided the Board with a department update.

Gillespie asked the Board to approve the revised Safety Clothing Policy which increased the spending allowance for safety clothing from \$150 to \$250 per year. Upon motion from Monson and second from Schmidt the increase was granted unanimously.

Gillespie requested permission to proceed with the ½ truck State bid quote prepared by Wester Star. If action is delayed, the quote amount could rise 2%. We are penciled in with Towmaster for September 2022 build for the second ½. Upon motion by Gail and second from Monson and discussion, permission was granted unanimously.

Gillespie informed the Board he had received Dust Control and Flood Site quotes. The Highway Department is also looking at options to auction, trade, or sealed bids for the tire loader, backhoe and one truck to offset the cost of equipment purchases next year. Gillespie's last item was to inform the Board that preparations are in progress for getting items ready to crush gravel at Murphy's Pit and gravel and bituminous at Norsen's Pit.

DeWayne Groneberg

Groneberg appeared before the Board to inform them of an opportunity to acquire a parcel of land that includes Hall's Landing. A lengthy discussion took place with no action taken at this time.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with her department update. Her items included: Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program: 2 new permit applications. Low Income Septic System Upgrade: All 2021 funds allocated to Projects with 3 projects funded. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA): No new applications. Performance review completed. MPCA Feedlot Program: No new business. Other county business: One Watershed One Plan, planning for projects. Upper MN river 1W1P Planning Grant- Memorandum of Agreement was passed with a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson. Gronfeld gave a Geologic Atlas Update and BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)- report is complete. The SWCD Regular board meeting is April 8, 7:30 a.m. USDA remains locked with business by appointment only. The Conservation Corps Internship has been filled.

Bois de Sioux Watershed Appointment

The Board received one letter of interest, which was Steven Schmidt who is seeking to be reappointed. Upon a motion by Monson and seconded by K. Schmidt, the Board unanimously approved to reappointed Steve Schmidt for a three-year term.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with information regarding tax forfeited properties. Browns Valley would like to purchase 2 of the properties in their city. With a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson the motion passed unanimously.

Law Enforcement Center

County Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board with a department update. Wright provided the Board with occupancy rates for the month of March which averaged 63.45%. Staffing levels were discussed, as well as inmate accessibility to the Law Library. Schmidt will confer with the Law Library Committee to address concerns presented by Wright.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Gail with second from T. Johnson to approve the minutes from the March 23rd meeting. Motion to approve the bills was made by Monson with a second by Gail.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS	2,659.79
BROCK WHITE CO. LLC	6,150.00
Kibble Equipment LLC	5,950.00
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	2,419.38
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	2,021.35
TRAVERSE COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASUR	42,155.22
TRUE NORTH STEEL	40,154.88
Twin Valley Tire Wheaton, Inc.	5,563.00

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fleet Services	3,291.74
Hometown Planning	2,450.00
MCCC	2,415.00
MN STATE AUDITOR	13,733.00
OTTER TAIL CO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOI	3,087.89
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	3,249.69
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNE	19,114.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 47, amounting to \$16,263.36

Discussion took place regarding the Traverse County Coroner Investigator, Kathi Kremer. Kremer put in a request to have 2 continuing education course costs paid for by the county. No action was taken at this meeting.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator requested approval from the Board to revise and/or delete items from the policy manual for Traverse County Employees, there were redundancies and outdated information. She has already received approval from the Department Heads and the Personnel Committee. T. Johnson made a motion to approved the revised policy #303 – Benefits for Non-Union Employees and policy #990 – Electronic Funds & ACH Transfer Policy along with deleting policy number #305 – Holiday Schedule; #307 – Sick Leave Benefits; and #309 – Bereavement Leave and second by Gail. The motion passed unanimously to update the Employee Policy Manual.

Zahl asked the Board for approval to extend the Covid Sick Leave from April 1, 2021 until September 30, 2021. A motion was made by Monson and second by Gail, motion passed unanimously.

Preparedness Plan Update: Zahl is asking for approval to update the Covid Protocols outlined by CDC and MDH to reflect the change of vaccination and quarantine guidelines. A motion was made by Monson with a second by T. Johnson and approved unanimously.

Zahl provided the Board with a list of bids she received for dumpster services at the County Park. A motion was made by Gail and second by T. Johnson to go with Dakota Waste Solution who came in with the lowest bid. The vote passed by a 4-1 margin with Monson opposed.

Schmidt presented the Board with a Constitutional Rights Resolution to make Traverse County a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County. Schmidt put forward the motion to pass the resolution with a second by Monson, discussion followed. Salberg called for a rollcall vote; Monson and Schmidt voted in favor of the motion, Gail, T. Johnson and Salberg voted against the proposal and the motion was defeated.

Zahl informed the board that the Personnel Committee met with Social Services employees and Union representation to discuss concerns over the Social Services Director contract with Grant County. Zahl recapped the meeting and provided notes to the Board. Zahl also asked that Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director, would put together a list of services that Grant County provides to Traverse County along with the cost of contracting and the cost to do the services in house to present at the next Social Services meeting.

Zahl provided the Board with information regarding pest control quotes. The quote from Braness Pest Control unanimously passed upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail.

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman