

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
May 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Other Commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson and Kevin Leininger. The agenda was unanimously approved (4-0), upon a motion by Salberg and second by Leininger, with the following additions: Angela Knowles will be appearing before the Board regarding her tax forfeited property; approval to hire for the Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position; and an inquiry about Waterfront Drive.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave the Board a department update. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger the board unanimously (4-0) approved to award SAP 078-705-003 (MCSAH 105) in Browns valley to Central Specialties, Inc. for \$506,292.31.

Discussion was held about opening up the County Park for fishing but no camping. Leininger made a motion to open up our public accesses for fishing but no camping at the County Park, second by Monson and approved unanimously (4-0). Gillespie will make sure there are no camping signs posted at the County Park; the rest rooms will remain closed.

There was an incident at the County Park where someone ran through our gate and damaged it, we need to replace the gate. Gillespie had not heard who was responsible for doing it as of yet.

Gillespie informed the board that they are starting to get reimbursement payments from FEMA for the 2019 Spring Flood repairs. The County Road 76 Bridge could possibly be open by the end of May to traffic.

Tax Forfeited Property

Angela Knowles appeared before the Board to discuss her tax forfeited property. The City of Wheaton has suggested that she can buy back the property under the condition that she tear down all the buildings on the property except the one shed/garage within six months of buying it back. Knowles said that she hasn't looked into to seeing how much it would cost to tear down the three buildings. She asked if she could find out and come back to the Board to discuss this option at a later date. The Board agreed to table it.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright and Brenda Bartz, Jail Administrator, appeared before the Board. Bartz presented the April jail report to the Board with the jail usage at 30.54% for the month. There is currently 1 inmate in the jail and they are not taking any new inmates in unless it is a public health or safety issue during the pandemic.

The following resolution was approved unanimously (4-0) upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg:

Resolution 20-08
A Resolution Approving the NG 9-1-1 GIS Federal Grant Funds

WHEAREAS, the Central Minnesota Emergency Service Board (CMNESB) was awarded \$638,298.84 for the NG9-1-1 GIS Grant through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Emergency Communication Networks; and

WHEAREAS, the final amount awarded to the County of Traverse is \$7,625.27 and with no required match; and

WHEAREAS, this grant is funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); and

WHEAREAS, the 9-1-1 Grant Program is intended to advance next generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) projects and initiatives administrated by state, tribal, and/or territories; and

WHEAREAS, 9-1-1 call centers nationwide will be able to upgrade equipment and operations so that citizens, first responders, and 9-1- call takers can use digital, IP-based broadband-enabled technologies to coordinate emergency responses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF TRAVERSE THAT:

- 1) The County hereby accepts the grant award of \$7,625.27
- 2) Sheriff Trevor Wright or his designee is hereby authorized to execute and submit any and all grant contract documents and invoices for payment directly to our vendors
- 3) Sheriff Trevor Wright or his designee will submit an electronic copy of the invoice to the City of St. Cloud along with a copy of the cancelled check or ACH information.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chairman

Wright informed the Board that we had a discussion with the Courts regarding how to do social distancing for jury and trials. Wright believes we can only get 12-15 people in the courtroom at one time with social distancing. There was discussion that our jury trials may need to be moved during social distancing but we are working on a plan so that we can keep them in our county. To move them would mean added staff and staff time, since we would need to staff the court room in another county, and added transportation costs. This would cause a hardship to those that have to attend court and for the jurors. Wright also asked the Board to think about the model of the new courthouse that we have right now, is it equipped for social distancing and that they should look at that for the future.

Wright informed the Board that he has ordered 300 masks and gloves per employee and he said a percentage of this expense should be reimbursed through FEMA.

Leininger asked about the burning ban and if it was the DNR's responsibility for giving out tickets or Traverse County's responsibility. Wright said that the Sheriff's office is responsible for issuing burning permits and our procedure for them is to call into the Sheriff's office. The fire must be attended or a ticket may be issued. The DNR does call and ask who has permits prior to issuing any tickets. Both the DNR and the Sheriff's Office have the ability to enforce it.

Soil & Water

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. The USDA Service Center remains locked to the public, business by phone/email preferred. Spring field work is underway. Max Tostenson will be the Conservation Corps Apprentice this summer.

The Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) program update; three permit applications have been received.

One Wetland Conservation Act project application was received for an Agricultural Exemption, it was approved and there are setbacks that will apply. The RV Park Project update; replacement plan application received, the notice of application will be distributed along with a comment period and then a decision by the County Board.

MPCA Feedlot Program update; there were four applications received for Federal EQIP funding for animal mortality disposal.

The Arsenic Remediation Grant submitted by Horizon Public Health for Traverse, Grant, and Stevens counties was approved but it is currently on hold due to funding restrictions by the Minnesota Department of Health. There are Weed ID booklets available that have been provided to the Highway Department.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the April 21, 2020 Board minutes, with a second by Monson, and approved unanimously (4-0). Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously (4-0):

AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS	\$2,181.49
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP	\$3,350.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,420.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,226.50
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	\$2,858.55
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CENTER	\$2,743.00
INTEGRATED NETWORKING INC	\$5,368.57
KRIS ENGINEERING, INC.	\$6,314.32
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	\$2,561.50

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 32, amounting to \$9,489.43.

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager, gave an update on COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently working on a reopening plan for the County buildings. PPE is still an issue; Siegel has put in a request to the State for more PPE for Law Enforcement. The State is working on alternative care sites; there are currently 7 in Minnesota.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, informed the Board that Tiffany Duhme has accepted the position of Veterans Administrative Services Office Manager and asked the Board for approval to hire for a Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position. This was approved unanimously (4-0) upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg.

Monson was asked if the Board could discuss Waterfront drive and find out if it is actually an easement or a road as traveled. Leininger said that it is owned by the Township so they would be the ones to discuss this. Monson said that the Township told this person to go talk to the County. County Attorney, Matt Franzese, said that it is a Township road; State Statute only allows counties to deal with county highways. Monson asked what needs to be done to vacate the road, Franzese said that Statue 164.07 deals with this and this person would need to go to the Township Board and ask.

Leininger asked if the property taxes are still due on May 15, Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, informed the Board that the State has not passed anything allowing the property taxes to be deferred so the due date is still May 15, 2020.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman