

Traverses County Commission  
Special Board Meeting  
with the Wheaton City Council  
Wheaton Community Library  
May 30, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.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. The purpose of this special joint meeting with the Wheaton City Council was to discuss the proposed Law Enforcement agreement between Traverse County and the City of Wheaton. There was no conflict of interest. In attendance were the Wheaton City Council members, Sheriff Trevor Wright, Chief Jason Berning, County Attorney Matt Franzese, Law Enforcement staff from both the County and the City and members of the public.

The City of Wheaton approved the disbanding of the Wheaton Police Department. Discussion followed with a brief explanation of how these talks started. Sheriff Wright explained that he and Chief Berning started discussing it in February of 2023 when staffing levels for both law enforcement agencies dropped. They received three different contracts from counties that have done this. They modeled the proposed contract off of the City of Morris and Stevens County. There was further discussion along with a concern about being short staffed, Sheriff Wright has worked out a schedule and has talked to all the staff and they are confident that they can make it work.

The City of Wheaton approved the Law Enforcement Agreement between the City of Wheaton and Traverse County effective June 2023. There was a motion by Olson to approve the Law Enforcement Agreement between Traverse County and the City of Wheaton as amended by County Attorney Matt Franzese in a non-substantial manner, second by Gail and approved unanimously.

There were no further public comments.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Kayla Schmidt, Chair