

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
May 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger, the agenda was approved unanimously with the following additions: Approval to change the May 21 regular Board meeting time to 9:00 and 2019 County Park rates.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, presented the department update. In order to efficiently repair flood sites the Highway Department would like to rent an excavator for approximately \$5,625 to \$6,300 per 4 weeks. While working on the CSAH or County Road system the reimbursement rate for using our backhoe is 43.86%. If Traverse is declared a disaster and we rent an excavator the whole cost can be charged out since it is not applicant owned. We will get more done at less cost. The rental of an excavator for flood repair was unanimously approved upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

The Board unanimously approved the hiring of three seasonal Highway workers upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger.

There is a FEMA preliminary damage assessment meeting immediately after this meeting.

Traverse county Highway department is the only highway department in the state that administers FEMA on behalf of the townships.

Unit 49 has not been picked up from the auction; the plan is to put it back up for auction on govdeals.com. We will be refunding the buyer the money we received and Govedeals will be responsible for collecting their 40% from the buyer.

Bid openings for CSAH 5 and Co Rd 76 Bridge will be Friday, May 10, 2019.

Law Enforcement

Brenda Bartz , Jail Administered, appeared before the Board and gave the jail update. The usage for the month of April was at 71.59%.

Southwest Region 4 Mental Health Consortium out of Alexandria coming tomorrow to do a training on helping our staff deal with inmates and the public with mental health issues. Received the proposed changes to the 2911 which covers what we can and can't do in the jail as far as relating to mental health issues.

Public Hearing – Tax Abatement

Philip Deal, General Manager at the Wheaton Dumont Co-Op Elevator, appeared before the Board. He explained that the proposed abatement will provide new employment opportunities within the County, expand the tax base in the county by constructing new structures, and the benefit of the abatement will exceed the costs. There was a motion by Monson to approve a

10 year up to \$50,000 abatement starting with taxes payable in 2022, second by Leininger, followed by discussion, and passed unanimously.

Soil and Water

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. Tree planting and field work begins today. The Conservation Corps apprentice declined the position; there will be no intern this year. A CREP easement has been completed for Stephan Berger. There were 22 notices of noncompliance for the buffer law for public waters; Ben Oleson will send these out along with the corrective action plan.

There were no new Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program permits approved in April. Grant funds for SSTS upgrades are still available.

A Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting was held and two site visits were completed; one was near Tintah and one in Browns Valley. An application was received from the Upper MN River WD for delineation and replacement of wetland impacts resulting from work on the Toelle Coulee Project. A decision is scheduled for May 21, 2019 at the County Board meeting.

The One Watershed One Plan steering committee reviewed draft prioritization of concerns and introduced land and water resources inventory section.

MCIT

Tom Suppes, MCIT risk management consultant, appeared before the Board to go over the 2019 Report. MCIT (Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust) is a joint powers entity where members pool resources to provide property, liability and workers compensation coverage, risk management services, and loss control services. 81 out of the 89 Minnesota counties are members of MCIT; the other 8 counties are self-funded. There are also 380 other entities that are members of MCIT such as Soil and Water, Fair Boards and other entities. Dividends reflect MCIT's past claim experience and the performance of MCIT's investments. Traverse county will receive a dividend of \$56,439 for 2018.

Suppes touched on the enhancements for 2019 that MCIT will offer such as data compromise/cyberone coverage, builders risk sublimit, liability coverage for drones, electronic data processing equipment and liability coverage for class III dams.

Additional services provided are consultation services, training for officials and employees, awareness and prevention materials, and the employee assistance program.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to approve the April 16, 2019 Board minutes, seconded by Salberg, the minutes were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Gail, the following bills were approved unanimously:

AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS	\$2,773.20
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,573.20
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,350.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,226.50

GOODHART EXCAVATING, INC.

\$18,990.00

WHALEY EXCAVATING, INC.

\$3,260.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 40, amounting to \$15,592.66.

Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Gail the Board unanimously approved to change the time of the May 21, 2019, Board meeting to 9:00 a.m.

The 2019 County Park rates were discussed. The Board would like to see the expenses vs. the revenues from past years and table it until the next meeting.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Todd Johnson, Board Chairman