

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
June 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 Statute Chapter 12. Appearing in person are Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, Kayla Schmidt, Todd Johnson and Tom Monson. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail the agenda was approved unanimously.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie informed the Board that road grading training is scheduled for August 3-5, 2021, he added that the instructor indicated the importance of having Supervisors and Commissioners attend at least the half day of the classroom portion of the training. They are currently working on County Road 11 Mitigation Project, work has started from the damage caused from the 2019 flood, \$64,191 was received from FEMA for the project. Two accesses will be graveled and be reimbursed by the DNR; 100 yards at Fish Camp and Browns Valley Landing. Gillespie has fielded quotes for Gap Mastic to be applied to the depressed cracks on CSAH 15 from CSAH 6 to Highway 27. Commissioner Gail asked when work will begin on the river access road, Gillespie informed the Board that the project will begin in mid-June and that the river access road will be the last item to be completed beginning sometime in July.

**Law Enforcement Center**

Brenda Bartz appeared before the Board with a department update. The May jail usage was 60.34% with 3 of the inmates being wards of Traverse County. The jail has hired one full-time and 3 part-time employees and they all will have started training by next week.

**Soil and Water Conservation District**

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. There were 2 new permit applications for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Program. The City of Tintah is looking at options to regionalize a wastewater treatment system. An engineering report has been completed and has identified regionalization with Tintah and Campbell for a stabilization pond wastewater treatment system as the most feasible option for both cities. The State Historic Preservation Office requires archeological studies to be completed. Once that is complete they will resubmit the plan to rural development for funding. Gronfeld has been in communication with Ben Oleson who has been working with permit applications and referring them to Gronfeld for review to make sure everyone is up to date with their septic permits.

There are no new applications for the Wetland Conservation Act. Gronfeld is working with the cities within Traverse County on resolutions to have them accept delegation of the program and ask to see if they wanted to transfer program administration to the County. Gronfeld has heard back from 3 cities, Browns Valley, Dumont and Tintah and all 3 have agreed to transfer delegation of the program to the

County. Gronfeld had the resolution ready to present to the Board for approval. Gronfeld informed the Board that she was waiting to hear back from the city of Wheaton and the Board decided to delay any action until such time as the city of Wheaton has responded.

Upon motion by Gail and second by T. Johnson the Fiscal Agent Agreement for the Bois De Sioux Mustinka Comprehensive Water Management Plan was approved unanimously. The Upper Minnesota River One Watershed One Plan is planning to embark on a planning grant application, a staff meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2021 to continue to move forward in a similar fashion as the Bois De Sioux planning process did in Traverse County.

Gronfeld presented the Board with information regarding a letter of agreement for pursuing the Geologic Atlas Update, the University of Minnesota is looking at getting well log information geo-referenced with specific addresses, the SWCD is willing to head up that project. The letter of agreement was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Schmidt.

Gronfeld informed the Board that the USDA service center is still locked and taking business by appointment only. The Conservation Corps apprentice has started and will be contacting landowners for the weed management grant for the poison hemlock in the northern part of the county, tree planting is completed, and grass seeding is underway.

#### **Kayla Schmidt/District 2 Commissioner**

Schmidt presented her update on the Second Amendment Dedicated County Resolution. She presented the Board with the additions of new Second Amendment Dedicated counties and states, including Texas, Utah, South Carolina and Tennessee. Schmidt offered additional testimony in favor of passing the Second Amendment Dedicated County Resolution and made a motion to pass said resolution with a second by Monson. Discussion followed with some questions regarding the revised edition of the original resolution Schmidt presented. T. Johnson made the motion to change the wording of the resolution, there was not a second. Further discussion took place. There were several county residents attending the meeting, and the Board fielded comments in favor of passing the resolution. T. Johnson again put forth the motion to change the wording of the resolution with a second by Gail, the motion failed, 2 – 3, with Monson, Gail and Schmidt voting in opposition. Schmidt again put forth a motion to approve the Second Amendment Dedicated County Resolution with a second by Monson the motion again failed, 2 – 3, with Gail, T. Johnson and Salberg voting in opposition. Schmidt then made a motion to change the wording of the resolution with a second by T. Johnson. The motion failed, 2 – 3, with Monson, Gail and Salberg voting no.

#### **County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Gail to approve the May 18, 2021 Board minutes, with a second by Monson, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Monson and a second by Schmidt the following bills were approved unanimously:

BROWNS VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$ 5,000.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$ 2,450.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$ 6,226.50
MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY	\$30,451.65
PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORP.	\$22,688.34
ROBINSON MASONRY, LLC	\$ 3,900.00
VIKING LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$35,497.00

WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR           \$ 2,356.66

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 30, amounting to \$9,769.53.

Lisa Zahl informed the board that the Park Committee approved opening back up the restrooms at the County Park, all areas should now be opened including the shelters and the playset.

Zahl presented the Board with the retirement notice of Leann Peyton, County Recorder. County Attorney, Matt Franzese informed the Board of the details surrounding the notice. Monson made a motion to accept Peyton's retirement notice, second by Gail and approved unanimously. The Board gave Zahl the permission to advertise for the Deputy Recorder position.

Zahl informed the Board that the Building Committee met and identified, and discussed various building issues, the items they identified that are in need of repair and or attention were; the sidewalk and steps, a hole under the cement at the entrance to the Veteran's Services office, tiling is crumbling by both back doors, the floor by the elevator on the courthouse level, leaking garage roof, the wood on the boarded up windows on the third floor is rotting, and an a/c unit is needed in the server room were a few examples. Options were discussed for some of the items. During Zahl's update a lengthy discussion was held regarding options for funding for a new courthouse that included the possibility of earmarks that will be coming available under the new federal infrastructure bill and bonding opportunities. The Building Committee agreed that the next steps would be to obtain quotes for repairs and bring to the Board for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Dave Salberg, Chairman