

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
June 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting 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, Tom Monson, Kevin Leininger and Mark Gail. Appearing via Zoom is Todd Johnson. Additionally, there are several members of the public listening in through Zoom. The agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions; the City of Wheaton will discuss rural garbage service and County Attorney, Matt Franzese, discussion for evaluation payment, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave the Board a department update.

Gillespie will be getting quotes for another graveling project; CP 20-02, this will be on CSAH 9 from CSAH 16 to North County Line (7 mile stretch). There was not a State Aid Graveling Project last year with the flood. Looking at previous year's maintenance to date, graveling projects, and allocations, this project will be close to using all our State Aid Maintenance. Quotes will be assessed once they are received to see if it makes sense to do it.

Dirt subcontractor got pushed back until next week on the bridge project.

There are two water issues on Co Rd 53 they are working with landowners and other government agencies. One has very high water by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owned land and the other has water running over the road by the US Fish and Wildlife land.

The County Park was discussed. The Governors Executive Order allows campgrounds to be reopened as of June 1, 2020, as long as there is a preparedness plan in place. Leininger would like to see it reopened as would Monson. The County Park Committee will work on the Preparedness Plan after the meeting today. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger the County Park will reopen per the Preparedness Plan that is put into place, this was approved unanimously.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright and Brenda Bartz, Jail Administrator, appeared before the Board. Bartz presented the May jail report to the Board with the jail usage at 31.81% for the month. The jail is starting to open up and we are taking all inmates now.

We received a part-time Communication/Corrections Officer's resignation letter, we are currently advertising for a replacement.

Wright informed the Board that because of the riots and protest that are happening currently the Traverse County Sheriff's office is on standby to assist other community Law Enforcement agencies. Wright let the Board know that he doesn't want to get caught unprepared in situations like these; he would like to purchase the needed equipment to protect our deputies if they are called upon. He is looking into getting riot gear such as helmets, knee and elbow pads, and batons for each deputy. Wright doesn't have the cost yet but would like the ok to purchase this personal protective equipment for the deputies. He will speak with vendors to get the best price. There was a general consensus of the Board to get the personal protective equipment needed.

Soil & Water

Sara Gronfeld appeared by Zoom with a department update. The USDA Service Center remains locked to the public, business by appointment only. Spring field work is underway; tree planning is complete for the season.

The Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) program update; one permit application has been received.

One Wetland Conservation Act project application was received; it was for the RV Park Project. Notice of application will be distributed along with a comment period and then a decision by the County Board on June 16.

Emergency Manager

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager, appeared by Zoom to give a COVID-19 update. Information is at a standstill because of the civil unrest. Big Stone and Wilkin Counties are open by appointment only, Grant and Stevens Counties are still closed but plan to open next week by appointment only.

City of Wheaton

Amy Olson, City Administrator, Dean Lampe, and Doug Wohlenhaus, City Council Member appeared before the Board to discuss Commercial Garbage Service. Olson explained that they are getting calls all the time for commercial and rural garbage service and their truck is at maximum capacity right now and they don't have the man power to keep up with all the requests and have to turn away business. The condition of their truck isn't good and it won't be around for much longer. They wanted to let the County know so that they could start thinking about other options at this point. Dustin Kindelberger, County Solid Waste Manager will contact surrounding counties and ask what they use for their rural garbage.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the May 19, 2020 Board minutes, with a second by Monson, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT	\$472,327.18
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC	\$3,240.00

HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,420.00
PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORP.	\$2,150.00
RAINBOW RIDER	\$2,000.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$59,091.00
WELLS FARGO BANK MINNESOTA, N.A.	\$5,461.25
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$2,743.00
BATTLE ARMOR DESIGNS, LLC	\$3,695.00
TRUE NORTH STEEL	\$17,257.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 31, amounting to \$8,627.89.

County Attorney, Matt Franzese, spoke to the Board about evaluations for inmates convicted of a sex offence. The Department of Corrections used to pay for these, they run between \$700.00-\$900.00, but as of April 1st, 2020 they are no longer paying for them. The County needs to pay and the clinics won't do the evaluations without a letter from our Auditor/Treasure stating the County will guarantee payment. Payment for these evaluations was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

The Flexible Benefit Plan is being amended to allow our FSA account to reimburse for over the counter drugs and menstrual products effective 1/1/2020 in response to the CARES Act. The amendment and the following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson:

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION

The undersigned authorized representative of Traverse County (the Employer) hereby certifies that the following resolution was duly adopted by Employer on June 2nd, 2020, and that such resolution has not been modified or rescinded as of the date hereof;

RESOLVED, the Amendment to the Traverse County Flexible Benefit Plan for the CARES Act (the Amendment) is hereby approved and adopted and that an authorized representative of the Employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Plan Administrator the Amendment and to take any and all actions as it may deem necessary to effectuate this resolution.

The undersigned further certifies that attached hereto is a copy of the Amendment approved and adopted in the foregoing resolution.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

In regards to the tax-exempt governmental bonds that the County is using for the ditch project there needs to be a Policy and Procedure put into place to cover the concerns and expectations that have been expressed by the IRS. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger the Post Issuance Compliance Policy and Memo were approved unanimously.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman