

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
June 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, with the addition of Social Service Annex roof leakage and general updates, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, unanimous approval was given to purchase Class V gravel from Sibson Rock Products for \$5.50/ton, Mark Sand and Gravel \$3.80/ton, and Wagner Co. Inc., \$6.75/cu. yd. Also approved within the motion was approval to purchase approximately 5,000 cu. yds of Class V gravel from Wagner Co. Inc., for \$6.75/cu. yd and \$95.00/hr trucking with belly dumps, to be spread on designated roads. Additionally, approval was given to hire two belly dumps for hauling gravel with Highway forces at \$95.00/hr. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail, low bids were unanimously granted to hire Ryan Nelk Construction for roofing the Tintah Shop and Wilson Construction for roofing the Dumont Shop. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, letting dates were granted unanimously as follows: CP 15-04 on township #49 for salvage and relay, 10:00 AM on July 21, 2015 and SAP 078-598-030, replacement bridge 92546 on CR 78 with new bridge 78526 at 10:05 AM on July 21, 2015. Haukos also updated the Board on other engineering projects and administrative duties. Haukos also addressed the wages of Orville Kohls and Abby Peterson. Kohl's hours are minimal but critical with more responsibility. Peterson's wage started at the regular summer temporary wage scale. By consensus, the Board approved the wages for the temporary seasonal wages with Orville Kohl's at \$12.50 per hour and Abby Peterson starting at \$10.50 per hour.

Lynn Siegel/Emergency Manager- Siegel discussed the Traverse County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg, the resolution adopting the plan was unanimously approved as follows:

RESOLUTION OF TRAVERSE COUNTY
ADOPTION OF THE

TRAVERSE COUNTY ALL-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Traverse County has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a framework for the development of a County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act as part of the planning process requires public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Plan includes a risk assessment including past hazards, hazards that threaten the County, an estimate of structures at risk, a general description of land uses and development trends; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives and an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Plan includes a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of the plan into other planning documents and how Traverse County will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been shared with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will make the county and participating jurisdictions eligible to receive FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grants; and

WHEREAS, this is a multi-jurisdictional Plan and cities that participated in the planning process may choose to also adopt the County Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Traverse County supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the Traverse County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the County Board Chair and attested to by the County Coordinator/Clerk for the Board this 2nd day of June, 2015.

Siegel also discussed rail safety on June 17th at 6:00 PM in Wilkin County. Siegel will be going to Wilkin County to assist with the State Conference in Wahpeton, ND, for NDSU students as well.

Sara Gronfeld/Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning- - Gronfeld presented five new land use permits. She updated the Board regarding a Redpath Teleconference on Monday, June 8, at 3:00 PM. She updated the Board regarding the initial stages of ordinance development for the ice house situation and summarized some correspondence from a neighboring county. Winners were announced for the SWCD poster contest. County IT staff is also going forward with installing the GIS software on the server, so within a month county staff should be able to access the initial GIS and parcel data.

Browns Valley City Council- Tom Schmitz, City Administrator, Mayor Harold Hansen, and Council Member Ken Warren appeared before the Board to discuss the Law Enforcement contract between Browns Valley and the County. They indicated that they will need to adjust the contract or find a solution of their own. They need more protection. They questioned the spending of abatement money and whether they could use that to hire another officer. Wright said it's not his decision on where abatement money goes. Monson asked how the contract reads. Schmitz clarified it's upon the Sheriff's discretion and with no set hours. In 2009 under Marts, the police in Browns Valley were hired, which was two staff and the county could use the old Tahoe and purchase one new vehicle. In 2010 the wording was the same but the language changed regarding the amount of coverage, and it was added that it is upon the sheriff's discretion. The city believes \$130,000.00 for 8 hours per day of coverage is steep. Before their cars lasted 5 years and now it's new every 3. They are seeing more problems in Browns Valley, with slow response time. The Mayor questioned one incident where there were two deputies and a highway patrol on the scene, and someone jumped out of window and still got away. Wright indicated that since the inception of the contract, nothing has been changed. In fact they give more coverage to the City of Browns Valley than the rest of the county. Knowing there's high traffic in Browns Valley, they give them more. He discussed the proposed additional deputy request from last year and the proposal was to provide more daily coverage in Brown Valley, and it is needed. It's not a situation that "I want a deputy" it's "I need a deputy," said Wright. Sometimes response time is slower but we are there within 15 minutes. Wright also stated that by no means has the Sheriff's office neglected Browns Valley. Schmitz supported having another officer so the policing is done better for the county. T. Johnson supported the proposal to reallocate the abatement money to add an officer. The Mayor said they are trying to clean up the town, hire inspectors for their rental property, and get some of this taken care of. Salberg questioned that we've went without the officer since 2011 so why is it an issue now? Wright said it's always been a problem. T. Johnson stated that Browns Valley contracting with the county is an efficient use of revenue and services. The Mayor said there are other areas in the county that are safer than Browns Valley. Leininger asked what they expect, a full-time employee in

Browns Valley? Wright clarified that the contract is \$143,000.00 per year and has an out clause they could exercise. They will not get a healthy and efficient department for that. They're trying to get the best bang for the buck. He'd love to provide it with a little more than what they're doing now. T. Johnson asked if they could coordinate coverage better with an additional deputy. Wright said his true need include an additional deputy as well as a float to cover vacations. Leininger asked what the real cost would be for another deputy and car. Speculation was that it would be approximately \$75,000.00 with benefits per year, plus a car. T. Johnson said if the position is under the county, then Wright can manage the work flow better. Salberg asked if that isn't why they contract, because it becomes a training ground and retention is a challenge for Browns Valley. The Mayor repeated that they are working on the housing end of it and maybe that will help. Salberg asked how we are going to keep the levy at zero if we hire. T. Johnson said needs change over time and we need to assess them as they occur. Wright discussed a grant where the feds pay for the first 3 years and then the county can budget the fourth year for themselves. He doesn't want to apply if the Board isn't serious. It's a mountain of paperwork and due June 19th. He will either do the paperwork or adjust coverage. Monson is in favor of applying for the grant, as more help is needed, bottom line. He asked about expanding coverage over the summer months until we get this done.

Trevor Wright/Mary Theisen/ Sheriff's Office- Theisen presented the jail report. Wright returned to clarify the grant is for 75% of a new hire for first three years including benefits, up to \$125,000.00 per officer. He said with increased issues with child protection, adult protection and positive pay, it will be difficult to meet the needs without losing coverage. Wright also expressed concerns with the officer's mental health and high caseloads. By consensus, Wright will apply for the grant to fund an additional officer.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- Upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson, the Board minutes from May 19, 2015, were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	12,209.20
KRATOCHWILL & ANDERSON, P.A.	2,015.00
LSS OF TRAVERSE, LLC	3,980.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 30, amounting to \$10,313.53. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

Transfer of Duties Pursuant to MN Statute 375A.11

WHEREAS, Traverse County is responsible for processing real property transfers within its jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Traverse County Department Heads to find efficiencies within their offices that are in the best interestsof the public; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Auditor-Treasurer, Traverse County Recorder, andTraverse County Assessor agree that it is in the best interests of Traverse County, in terms of workflow, procedures, and documentation, that the Traverse County Recorder and Traverse County Assessor be granted the authority to process real property transfers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners, as follows:

1. The Traverse County Recorder shall have the authority and responsibility to receive funds regarding the processing of functions of examination, and verification and certificate of transfer.
2. The Traverse County Assessor shall have the authority and responsibility to update taxpayer names and addresses, and to update parcel information, including splits, legal descriptions, tax payer IDs, and parcel numbers within the tax database.
3. For each of the duties granted to their respective offices for each real property transfer, the Traverse County Recorder and the Traverse County Assessor shall maintain all necessary documentation related to each transfer, and perform all of the administrative duties required.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June, 2015.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

Stepping Up Initiative Resolution

“Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Traverse County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Traverse County will provide outpatient mental health services as needed; and

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up Initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging counties to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I Kevin Leininger, Traverse County Board Chair, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals’ needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making..

- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the needs and prevalence assessment data and examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Gail, the Joint Powers Board Agreement for Rainbow Rider was amended unanimously. The Board reviewed a letter from the Roberts County Sheriff’s Department regarding space in their detention center. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Salberg, the Board unanimously approved replacing the HR Technician/Legal Secretary position with a HR Technician/Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position. The Personnel Committee will meet with the Auditor/Treasurer and County Coordinator, to finalize the job description and supervision requirements. The Board discussed the remaining balance of a 2003 grant that was received for Communities United in Partnership (CUP.) The grant was sponsored locally by the Blandin Community Investment Program, Traverse County, the University of Minnesota Extension Services, and the West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. The priority projects under the grant were enhancing retention and expansion by establishing a Traverse County EDA, promoting tourism by providing ‘At Your Service’ training, and improving the physical environment. Discussions from previous meetings involved cleaning up the tax forfeited property that doesn’t sell, within the county. T. Johnson suggested dividing it among the cities. Consensus was to table the discussion and reach out to the local organizations involved in the initial development of the grant to get their approval before spending. Monson brought up the leaking roof of the social service annex. Consensus was to call a local roofer to have it inspected. Antrim discussed the tour of the Kremer office building to meet additional social service space needs. An inspection will be done before further discussion. Antrim reminded the Board of the Association of Minnesota Counties regional meeting in Wadena on Friday and county updates that would be provided.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair