

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
July 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Commission Chairman Todd Johnson. Other Commissioners present were Dave Salberg, Mark Gail and Dwight Nelson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. With the addition of Resolution 22-26 State Senior Meal Program, the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Nelson. The minutes from the June 21, 2022 Board meeting were approved unanimously upon motion by Gail and second by Nelson. There were no public comments.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval to sign the County State Aid Highway Latex Pavement Marking Project. Gail made that motion, second by Salberg and approved unanimously, 4-0. Gillespie went over some information items beginning with County Road 76 Bridge BR. 89658, 1-mile west of Wheaton. This is on the current 5-year bridge program and they are currently on track to be eligible for State Bridge Bonding Funds. The Courthouse sidewalk is on track and finishing up this week. CSAH 6 project is currently scheduled to start the morning of Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> on the east county line.

**Law Enforcement**

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board. He gave the jail update for June; the average occupancy was 78.98%. Wright updated the Board on the Jury Trial that was held the previous week that had rumors of a potential protest. Wright and his department had an operation plan in place but nothing transpired from the threat. A new Communications/Corrections Officer was hired.

**Drug Court**

Karon White, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Treatment Court Coordinator, appeared before the Board with an update. They have been in operations for 8 years as of July 1, 2022. In 2017 they wrote a grant to specifically develop a partnership with the Center for Small Towns to evaluate their intake process and to add a full-time probation officer to oversee the drug court caseload in the Northern Assignment Area which consists of Grant, Traverse, Stevens and Wilkin Counties. They received the grant which was just over a quarter of a million dollars. In 2019 they received that report back and there were 7 recommendations. At this time 5 out of the 7 recommendations are either implemented or being implemented. Using this federal grant money, they decided to hire a compliance officer. This person's sole responsibility is to go out into the community and see/work with participants. Since 2018 no graduate of Drug Court has been charged with a new major criminal crime. Also, since 2018 they have no known relapses for those individuals who graduated from the program. White explained that they would like to continue to improve on their current success but this isn't possible without the continuation of the Compliance Officer position who works 20 hours per week at \$29,920.00. Based on population, felony filings and current participant percentages they are requesting \$7,500.00 annually from Traverse County to continue the compliance officer position. The Board is going to table the decision and add it to the budget discussion coming up in August. White also explained that they hired Peg Kuschel, who will be the Treatment Court Coordinator for the Northern Assignment Area. Karon will continue to be the Treatment Court Coordinator for Kandiyohi and Meeker County's.

**Auditor/Treasurer**

Kit Johnson, County Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board. He explained that in 2021 the State Legislature passed MS 275.065 subd 3b. The law calls for a one page insert to be added to the current mailing of the Truth in Taxation Statement. K. Johnson explained that Traverse County itself would have 8 different stuffers, some counties would have 40. There is a group of 30 counties that want to avoid multiple inserts and place one insert that gives the basics and each county would put on the bottom of the statement “to see their county website for detailed budget information that is required by the statute or call the Auditor’s office and they will mail it out”. The Board agreed with just doing a basic statement with the option to get more information on the website or to call. K. Johnson also asked for approval for the wage of elections judges. The decision was to start at \$15.00 up to Grade 13 step 1, \$20.60 with discretion from Kit Johnson on where to start them based on experience. The Board agreed that they would like the department budgets by August 16, 2022. The Board asked that K. Johnson send out letters to those entities that the County gives allocations to each year and ask them to submit a letter requesting that allocation or come in front of the Board to discuss it.

**County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Gail and a second by Salberg the following bills were unanimously approved.

BROWNS VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$5,000.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,520.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$2,291.94
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, INC	\$3,202.93
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNE	\$15,389.80
TRAVERSE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASS	\$12,500.00
US BANK	\$14,427.50
VIKING LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$36,384.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$13,643.00
BROCK WHITE CO. LLC	\$8,100.00
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, LLC	\$5,937.50
KELLEN/RYAN – 54K LLC	\$8,645.00
SCHMITZ/TODD	\$9,685.00
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$27,703.70
WAGNER COMPANY	\$16,790.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 47 in the amount of \$19,096.72.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, explained that the Association of Minnesota Counties is launching a Cybersecurity Taskforce and they want to know if there are any Coordinators, Commissioners, or IT Directors that would be interested in sitting in on it. The Boards consensus was to ask Morris Electronics, our IT consultant, if they are already planning on sitting in for any other counties or if they would be interested in sitting in. Zahl gave the Board the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) current proposals to look over. The following resolution was approved upon a motion by Salberg, second by Nelson and approved unanimously (4-0):

**RESOLUTION**  
**Traverse County Board of Commissioners**

Date July 5, 2022

Resolution No. #22-26

Motion by Commissioner Salberg \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by Commissioner Nelson \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION**

Supporting legislation to add \$5 million in critical funding to the State Senior Meal Program for FY 2023.

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, older adults face increasing food insecurity, and the senior meal programs that can help them are severely underfunded; and

WHEREAS, older adults' food shelf visits have increased by 31.2% from 2019 to 2020 ([Hunger Solutions](#)), and one in two older adults is at risk for malnutrition ([Defeat Malnutrition Today](#)); and

WHEREAS, funding for meals for older adults has stayed mostly flat over the past decades as the population of older adults has grown exponentially and food costs have skyrocketed.; and

WHEREAS, SF4208/HF4688 would enact legislation for additional appropriations needed to address the costs of meeting the growing nutritional needs of our older adults with a goal to combat malnutrition and prevent the expense of nursing home care by helping seniors to stay in their homes, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners supports the effort to pass this vital legislation for the benefit of our senior population.

**VOTING AYE**

Commissioners T. Johnson  Schmidt  Salberg  Gail  Nelson

**VOTING NAY**

Commissioners T. Johnson  Schmidt  Salberg  Gail  Nelson

**ABSTAINING**

Commissioners T. Johnson  Schmidt  Salberg  Gail  Nelson

**County of Traverse**

I, Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator for the County of Traverse, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Traverse County Board of Commissioners held on the 5th day of July, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

**Commissioner Reports**

Salberg gave updates on Counties Providing Technology, West Central Community Action, and Western Prairie Human Services.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Todd Johnson, Chairman