

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
July 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson and Todd Johnson. Mark Gail was absent. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, with the following additions: Jim Guy to discuss ditch mowing, bids for a new air conditioner/furnace for the annex, and correspondence from the Southern Minnesota Tourism Association.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg, the Final Contract Voucher and following Board Resolution for SAP 078-707-001 and the City of Wheaton Streets Project was approved unanimously:

WHEREAS: County Project No. SAP 078-707-001 have in all things been completed and the county Board being fully advised in the premises

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED: That we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Traverse and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Haukos discussed a ditch mowing situation and a situation where a windshield was broken, including an allegation it was caused from a County Truck. MCIT is working on it. Haukos also provided an Engineering and Administration update, as well as a Maintenance update.

Sara Gronfeld/Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning- Five land use permits were approved in June. There is a variance hearing regarding a storage building within a platted access road (ROW) later this week. They are planning a Buffer workshop on Wednesday, July 13, at the Wheaton Legion at 1:00 PM.

West Central Initiative/Tom McSparron- McSparron reported an annual update to the Board. They are celebrating their 30th Anniversary. They hope to continue their relationship with Traverse County and are requesting a commitment of support in the amount of \$1,400.00 per year for 5 years beginning in 2017.

Trevor Wright/Sheriff- Wright presented the jail statistics. There was a 75.76% capacity for the month. Most of the inmates are Traverse County's at this time. Soil and Water Districts are working together to coordinate a regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) educational event. Wright is recommending a \$500.00 donation from the AIS grant to contribute to this education for youth. They will also be interviewing deputies hopefully this week or next for the replacement position. Wright also sought out consultation from Wilkin County Sheriff and his Chief Deputy, for a review of speed responses to an accident that brought some controversy earlier this year. Sheriff Rick Fiedler believed the response was appropriate under the circumstances. Monson asked how fast he was going through town and Wright responded that the GPS said 57 MPH.

Stacy Hennen/Grant County Social Service Director- Hennen presented an overview on the contract for child protection services. She discussed the additional hiring of another worker and they recruited from Traverse County. She will be in the office in Traverse three days per week. She discussed the utilization of two supervisors Traverse workers have access to. Traverse County statistics for 2015 included: Intakes of 177, Assessments of 81, and ongoing open workgroups of 23. Adult protection Intakes were 43, with 14 Assessments. The first half of 2016 is showing an increase in numbers for child protection but a decrease in adult protection. Hennen discussed the new requirements for child protection intakes and

assessments and the increases in those areas, but the ongoing caseloads are remaining consistent. Regarding Adult Protection, the statewide reporting requirement may be leading to less reporting. Statewide statistics were also discussed and trends are similar with Traverse County. Traverse was allocated \$60,000.00 in new money for child protection in 2015, with \$15,000.00 held in reserve based on performance measures. The final allocation was \$92,803.00 due to meeting both performance measures. There was also a bonus because some counties did not make their performance measures. Under the contract, Traverse County accesses 10 staff and two screening teams. Also discussed was the 24/7 on-call issue and the possible need to include an on-call system. By law, there will be a need for a multi-disciplinary team or supervisor's approval on screening. Another issue discussed was the difficulty in finding placements for kids statewide. This is in part, due to the increase in criteria of screening but not the building an adequate infrastructure to support it, such as recruiting foster homes.

Jim Guy- Guy appeared to discuss ditch mowing. He had hired a guy to mow his ditches for hay but the county mowed them before he had the chance. His understanding was that the gravel roads would not be mowed before the 4th of July. Prior to the mowing he had presented the map to the Highway Department. He completed all of the requirements but due to a lack of communication, it wasn't relayed. He is out 3.5 miles of hay, worth about \$300.00. He asked the Board what could be done. Leininger asked about utilizing other ditches that still needed to be mowed. Guy said he could talk to neighboring land owners. He also said he will be charged \$1900.00 in the future for a culvert, and wondered if the Board would consider taking some off of that bill. Leininger indicated they've never did it before for anyone. Salberg acknowledged it was an unfortunate mishap. Leininger indicated most calls they receive are people wanting the mowing done. The Board apologized for the loss of the map and for the incident, but declined to reimburse Guy. Matt Franzese, County Attorney, indicated either the county or the land owner has the right to mow it legally.

Lisa Siegel/Human Resources- Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson, the following policies were unanimously approved:

- 181 Departmental Hiring Procedures
- 481 Payroll Pay Dates
- 213 Reclassifications and New Positions

Siegel also provided an update on the county insurance meetings that will be held on July 12th for employees.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson, the minutes from June 21, 2016, were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

Finley Engineering Company, Inc.	15,170.10
Guardian Fleet Safety	6,786.37
PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORP.	17,777.88
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	17,220.24
US BANK	34,075.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 46, amounting to \$15,656.77. Information was shared regarding the notification process for the Office of the State Auditor (OSA), should the county elect to contract with a private auditing firm. Because the cost of the OSA has

decreased considerably over the last two years and the county staff is pleased with the service they provide, the county will continue to utilize the OSA for their audits. The Board was notified of the DEED Grant dates for Broadband funding and provided a power point from a webinar update. The public meeting will be during the next Board meeting and if a special meeting is needed to discuss options, it will be scheduled at that time. Monson provided an update on a meeting with Big Stone County and Stevens County regarding a Regional Emergency Manager position. There was basically no cost-savings by sharing the position. Leininger questioned the need for full-time. T. Johnson expressed a desire to continue discussions in the future around the position and the needs of the county. Antrim distributed information on the County Program Aid, old and newly proposed formulas. By consensus, she will write a letter to Traverse County's Legislators in support of the new formula. Information was shared from the Southern Minnesota Tourism Association. By consensus the Board will not participate. A thank you for the donation was also read, from the Senior Center. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson, the meeting was closed to discuss union negotiation strategy. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by T. Johnson, the meeting was reopened and adjourned.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair