

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
August 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Kayla Schmidt. Other Commissioners present were Mark Gail, Dwight Nelson, Jerrel Olson and Chad Metz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Gail moved to approve the agenda with the addition of compensation study and ongoing general maintenance on generator, Olson second and the motion and it was passed unanimously. No conflicts of interest were expressed. The July 18, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved with one minor correction upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz.

Highway Department

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Brian Koch, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie asked for approval for final payment for CP 22-01, the 2022 graveling project, to CT Sibson Gravel Crushing, Inc. for \$800.21. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Gail the payment was approved unanimously. Gillespie explained that they sent in an ATP Protect Application, which is for \$74,144.00 of additional funding for the Federal project in 2025 on CSAH 15 from CSAH 6 to TH Hwy 27. An update was given on the CSAH 20 project, this is a Federal Project that was planned in 2019 which included the Wheaton Dumont Elevator, Federal projects are planned ahead of time and the location cannot change. Gillespie wanted to clarify that each year there could be more than one bigger equipment purchase needed. In 2022 we did purchase 2 motor graders and if we get a 6th then we will need to buy 2 replacements in some years, in the other years there will be one bigger equipment purchase along with other middle to smaller range items. Gillespie informed the Board that the tandem truck has been ordered, it should arrive at the end of Summer 2024. The next FEMA meeting for the 2023 flood is tentatively scheduled for August 7.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board with a department update. Wright reported that the average jail occupancy for June was 73.99%. Interviews are scheduled for tomorrow for the Deputy Sheriff position that is currently open. Wright won't be attending the out of state training that was scheduled in August due to staffing issues.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. Gronfeld reported that 3 Septic System Program upgrade grant application were received. For the Wetland Conservation Act, the County Highway Bridge and Culvert Projects Wetland Delineations application has been distributed and no comments were received. The County Highway CSAH 15 project Wetland application has gone through the local processing for State Wetland Mitigation. The following resolution for the Upper Minnesota River Partnership Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was unanimously approved upon a motion by Olson and second by Metz:

**Resolution to Adopt and Implement
the Upper Minnesota River Partnership
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Whereas, Traverse County (county) entered into a planning agreement Memorandum of Agreement to develop the Upper Minnesota River Partnership Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan);
and

Whereas, The county has been an active participant in the development of the Upper Minnesota River Partnership Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan); and

Whereas, The county recommends the Upper Minnesota River Partnership Policy Committee submit the Plan for State approval; and

Whereas, Upper Minnesota River Partnership Policy Committee will submit the Plan for State approval; and

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, subd. 14 allows a local water management plan developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to chapter 103B to be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan suggested boundary map.

Now; Therefore, Be it Resolved, contingent on BWSR approval, Traverse County hereby adopts and will begin implementation of the Plan for the area of Traverse County identified within the Plan and serve as a substitute for the county local water management plan as per 103B for the duration of the State approved Plan.

Be it Further Resolved after the adoption of the Plan, the county shall amend existing water and related land resources plans and official controls as necessary to conform them to Plan.

Be it Further Resolved after the adoption of the Plan or amendments to the plan, Traverse County shall notify local units of government within the Upper Minnesota River Partnership Planning Area. The local units of government are required to submit existing water and related land resources plans and official controls within 90 days to the county for review as per Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.321.

Be it Further Resolved that within 180 days, the county shall review the submitted plans and official controls and identify any inconsistencies between the local plans and official controls and the Plan. Traverse County shall specify applicable and necessary measures to bring the local plans and official controls into conformance with the Plan.

Be it Further Resolved if a local unit of government disagrees with any changes to its plan, the local unit has 60 days after receiving the county's recommendations to appeal the recommendations to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Be it Further Resolved after receiving the recommendations of the county, or a resolution of an appeal, a local unit of government has 180 days to initiate revisions to its plan or official controls. The new or revised plans and official controls must be submitted to the county for review and recommendations.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Traverse County

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution presented to and adopted by Traverse County at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 1st day of August, 2023.

Lisa Zahl, Traverse County Coordinator

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Erik Anthonisen, Josh Prosocki, Ellen Considine and Jennifer Rose, Hydrologists with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appeared before the board. Anthonisen explained that there were questions regarding the Twelvemile Dairy, he mentioned that Riverview has withdrawn their application and there are no other applications currently for surface or ground water use. Rose informed the Board that Traverse County is in the Western Groundwater Province. Loam and clay loam glacial sediment is common with limited surficial and buried sand aquifers. The underlying Cretaceous (shale and sandstone) and Precambrian (igneous and metamorphic) bedrock are typically limited aquifers. The general availability of groundwater by surficial sands is moderate, buried sands is limited and bedrock is limited. Rose commented that the DNR recognizes there is very limited ground water in Traverse County. There are 8 water appropriation permits that have been issued in Traverse County, 4 for municipalities and 4 for livestock watering. A permit is needed if the water usage is 10,000 gallons a day or 1,000,000 gallons per year. The DNR currently has 1 observation well in Traverse County and they plan to install 5 more observation wells that will go on state and/or federal land in August. They discussed the water levels at Dollymount Dairy. Rose offered doing a work shop if there was interest in more information.

Building Maintenance

Chad Klindworth, Building Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board. He received an updated quote from Ellingsons Plumbing and Heating with the replacement of just the toilets in the Annex building for \$5,965.00. The quote was approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with the preliminary levy. We are looking at a 18.32% increase over 2023. Johnson explained that this is normal for the first round of the budget process. He asked the Board if they would like to do a work session to go through the different department budgets. The Commissioners were in agreeance and would like to invite the Department Heads to the meeting. Lisa Zahl will touch base with the Commissioners to see what will work within the next few weeks for a budget work session.

County Coordinator

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

John Deere Financial	\$6,767.99
Kellen, Ryan – 54K LLC	\$15,372.50
Schmitz, Todd	\$10,985.00
Serocki Excavating, Inc.	\$5,010.24
Twin Valley Tire Wheaton, Inc.	\$4,992.05
Access	\$2,845.21
Browns Valley Historical Society	\$5,000.00
Traverse County Agricultural Asso	\$12,500.00
Traverse County Highway Dept	\$3,215.33
Viking Library System	\$37,294.00
West Central Regional Juvenile Ct	\$8,049.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less was 52 totaling \$17,813.44.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, presented a proposal from B.J. Bonin, AECOM to investigate and write grant proposals on behalf of Traverse County that implement State-Approved water plans for \$2,800.00. Nelson made a motion to accept the proposal there was no second. Olson explained that the Twelvemile Dairy permit has been withdrawn so he's not sure why we need to monitor right now in addition the DNR is bringing in more observation wells in August, Metz agreed.

Schmidt asked the Board if they would be interested in putting together a subcommittee for the Courthouse. Schmidt and Nelson explained that we need to keep doing something and we need to figure out our next step. We received an OSHA complaint so we need to figure out a way to get it done but not at the cost that we received from Wold Architecture. Metz made the suggestion of having a special meeting to have the public help us with new ideas for a new courthouse.

Schmidt would like to appoint a Chair to the Wind/Solar Subcommittee and establish per diem and mileage. Olson said that it was a volunteer committee. Zahl mentioned that the surrounding counties pay their Commissioners but not the public that sits on the subcommittees. Schmidt reached out to Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator and Johnathan Mathias was named the Chair of the Wind/Solar subcommittee.

Zahl received a list of comparable counties from DDA, the company that is doing our Compensation Study, and they asked for Board approval for the 15 counties listed. Upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson the list was approved 4-1, Schmidt opposed.

The following Resolution, regarding the hiring of Commissioner Olson to do the ongoing maintenance of the County's generators, was approved 4-1, Olson abstained, upon a motion by Gail and second by Metz.

COUNTY OF TRAVERSE RESOLUTION 23-13

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF COMMISSIONER JERREL OLSON TO PURCHASE AND INTALL A GENERATOR FOR TRAVERSE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Traverse County recently purchased a new generator in order to avoid county computer systems being damaged during future power outages;

WHEREAS, Traverse County Maintenance Supervisor Chad Klindworth attempted to obtain the services of a licensed professional electrician in order to purchase and install the generator, but was unable to do so;

WHEREAS, the only person that Supervisor Klindworth was able to find who was willing to purchase and install a generator was Traverse County Commissioner Jerrel Olson, who is a licensed professional electrician in the State of Minnesota;

WHEREAS, M.S.A. §471.89 lays out a process for a governmental unit to hire an interested officer when no other commercial entity can be found to hire for the performance of a job for the governmental unit;

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in accordance with M.S.A. 471.89 and hired Commissioner Olson to purchase and install the generator for Traverse County;

WHEREAS, Supervisor Klindworth has attempted to locate a licensed professional electrician to conduct general maintenance on the generator, when needed, but has been unable to locate someone willing to do so;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Olson is willing to perform general maintenance on the generator, and would charge Traverse County his normal hourly rate that he charges other customers; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners believes that the contract price for Commissioner Olson's services in performing general maintenance on the generator are as low as or lower than the price at which the services could be obtained elsewhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners that it hereby approves the hiring of Commissioner Jerrel Olson to perform general maintenance on the newly purchased generator, as needed, for Traverse County.

Adopted by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners this 1st day of August, 2023.

TRAVERSE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Kayla Schmidt, Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

Nelson attending the Building Committee and TCC/PVP Committee. Schmidt attended the Viking Library, TCC/PVP Committee, Building Committee and Region 4 South Adult Mental Health. Metz attended the Wind Energy public meeting in Herman and the Wind and Solar Committee.

County Attorney

County Attorney, Matt Franzese appeared before the Board. He just attended the Grant County Board meeting to ask if there was interest in doing a joint aquifer testing. They seemed willing to do it but they wanted more time to answer the questions that were raised, the Grant County Board is going to go talk with their Engineer and get back to Franzese. Franzese asked the Board if they still want him to talk to Wilkin County and the Board consensus was yes.

Kit Johnson mentioned to the Board that the State Auditor will be here August 15 at 3:30 p.m. if two Commissioner want to sit in they are welcome to listen to the update.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair