

Traverse County Commission  
Special Board Meeting  
August 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. Other Commissioners present included Todd Johnson, Kayla Schmidt, and Mark Gail. Tom Monson was absent. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Schmidt the agenda was approved unanimously. The purpose of the special meeting is for a budget discussion.

Others present were Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, Shelly Staebler, Financial Assistance Supervisor/Support Services for Social Services, Sheriff Trevor Wright, and via zoom, Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director.

Currently the 2022 gross levy increase over 2021 is 7.64%.

Salberg called on K. Johnson to begin the budget discussion with the General Revenue Fund. He gave the Commissioners an update on each of the different departments. Most of the increase comes from salary and benefits. He did transfer \$45,000 to the Traverse Care Center fund. The lease payment doesn't cover the retiree's insurance. Sheriff Wright went over the Sheriffs, Communications and Corrections budgets, he discussed personnel changes he sees coming for 2022.

T. Johnson talked about County Program Aide, we are at \$487,000 today, which is down from where it should be and the State needs to bring this back.

K. Johnson pulled data from the Minnesota Department of Revenues Interactive Property Tax Statistics website and Traverse County is amongst the lowest tax rate in the state and the lowest between our neighboring counties.

Hennen and Staebler discussed the Social Services budget. The increase over last year consists of wages and benefits and additional service contracts for computer software this year that we didn't have last year. Hennen explained that they are looking for additional revenue to bring down the increase.

Gillespie discussed the Highway department. He went over the estimated revenue for 2022 along with the expenditures that are expected. Salberg would like to see the Highway department expenditures down \$100,000. He asked him to work on this before the next budget discussion.

Chairman Salberg adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

---

Lisa Siegel, County Coordinator

---

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman