

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
August 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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. The agenda was approved unanimously with the following addition: Lance Lundquist to discuss temporary office space if we build a new Courthouse, upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The August 1, 2023, Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, Traverse County Highway Engineer, and Brian Koch County Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie had only informational items, the County Road 76 Bridge Plans have been sent into State Aid and are under review. The District 4 meeting with State Aid will be in Detroit Lakes on August 17 and 18. The FEMA meeting was held on August 10. Gillespie's Department is finishing up paperwork on CSAH 20 and working on next years projects. Gillespie went over the following Township items: 2023 Town Road Cert Miles, Contract Agreement and Rate Increase advanced notice letter, this is to let them know the agreement and rate increase are coming.

Family Fun Night

Tiffany Duhme and Leah Krauth appeared before the Board with a Family Fun Night overview. They had a fun and successful night. There were 300 people that attended the event, 40 entities provided equipment for everyone to look at, climb on and see how they operate. They have already set next year's date, Monday, July 29, 2024.

Emergency Management

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Management Director/Solid Waste Manager, appeared before the Board for acceptance of the Emergency Management grant. The amount for the 2023 grant is \$19,449.00. There was a motion by Nelson to accept the Grant, second by Metz and approved unanimously. Metz asked Siegel about getting AED machines for Rosebud Camping Ground. Lynn said that the Sheriff's Office is receiving new machines and the old ones can be placed in other areas. Siegel is going to work with Sheriff Wright on where to place the old machines. Siegel gave a Solid Waste update; they fixed the garage door at the recycling center in Browns Valley. The yearly Household Hazardous Waste will be held September 15, 2023, they will stop in Browns Valley first and then come to Wheaton.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson asked for approval to do a loan transfer from the General Fund to the Traverse Care Center fund for \$35,000.00 and Prairieview Place fund for \$15,000.00 to keep the two funds positive. Nelson made a motion to approve the loan transfer, second by Olson and approved unanimously. Johnson also informed the Board that we received a notification that our MCIT dividend for 2023 will be \$16,221.00. Johnson explained that in the past the average amount we receive is between \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 and we budgeted \$56,000.00 for 2023 so we are approximately \$40,000.00 short. During the Budget work session, we will have to decide what we will budget in 2024. Johnson explained the Probation funding, for years the State has funded between 26 - 29% of the Probation Officers salary and fringe benefits

even though the statute says the State will fund 50%. The State didn't appropriate enough in their budget to fund it at 50%. There was a big push from counties to start funding probation at 50%. There was a new law that passed this year that was aimed at giving each county a base amount of \$150,000.00 plus more depending on how many clients they serve. Traverse County is a County Probation Office, CPO, which means our probation services are administrated by a combination of County and State. The County does the misdemeanor cases and the Department of Correction, DOC, does the felony cases, because of this we are required to split the money between the County and the DOC. Our Probation budget for all 5 County's, for 2023 was \$278,000.00 and of that, Traverse County's portion is \$30,500.00. We are schedule to received \$99,766.00 from the State in the next year, however this money can only be used for Probation expenditures, we can't use it for the Juvenile Detention Center expense or jail costs.

County Coordinator

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

Contech Engineered Solutions, LLC	\$13,980.00
CT Sibson Gravel & Crushing Inc.	\$14,354.24
D&M Industries	\$2,393.00
Kellen, Ryan – 54K LLC	\$4,615.00
Pope County Highway Dept	\$5,288.88
Schmitz, Todd	\$10,692.50
Tri County Coop Oil Assoc	\$14,657.68
White Cap, LP	\$15,100.50
Ziegler, Inc.	\$3,774.04
AECOM Technical Services, Inc.	\$15,422.02
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	\$31,213.50
Counties Providing Technology	\$5,235.36
Ellingson Plumbing, Htg & AC	\$8,856.00
Fleet Services	\$2,959.82
Hanson, Darin	\$5,925.00
Hometown Planning	\$2,620.00
Hormann, Mark	\$2,000.00
Morris Electronics	\$5,100.98
Public Employees Retirement Asso	\$4,677.43
TK Elevator Corp	\$4,890.53
Wilkin County	\$9,685.15

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 67 in the amount of \$27,287.79.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, requested approval for the Addendum to the Extension Contract with the University of Minnesota changing the 4-H Educator hours from 32 to 40 hours per week. There was a motion by Gail to approve the Addendum, second by Olson and it was approve 4 – 1 with Schmidt opposed.

Zahl explained that other Counties and Cities are starting to put into effect an ordinance or a moratorium regarding cannabis use and sales. Zahl spoke with County Attorney Matt Franzese and he brought the City of Browns Valley's Moratorium On the Sale of Hemp Deprived Tetrahydrocannabinols Food and Beverages Within the City of Browns Valley for review. There was discussion and it was decided that Franzese would bring a draft Ordinance and Moratorium for review at the next Board meeting.

Lance Lundquist appeared before the Board, he suggested that if the County does decide to build a new courthouse, the County could buy the REA building and garage for temporary use then after the courthouse is built the County could sell the buildings. Right now, it is listed for \$750,000.00 for the whole area, he does have parties interested in the back lot so that could possibly bring the cost of the REA building and garage down. He explained that he just wanted to give the Commissioners something to think about. Nelson would ideally like the courthouse question on the 2024 ballot, so we need to continue to figure out what should be done. The Commissioners would like to set up a public meeting, for the public to bring new courthouse ideas, towards the end of November beginning of December at the Legion. Zahl will work on getting this set up.

Public Comment Period

Allen Wold made the comment that at the last meeting the Department of Natural Resources, DNR, said that Traverse County doesn't have much water in the County yet heavy water users are permitted here. His question is, are we water poor or not and he said we received two different answers from the DNR. Schmidt asked if the Commissioners would like to have the DNR come back and explain in more detail, the general consensus was not yet because there isn't any new data to report but possibly after the new observation wells, that the DNR are putting in, are up and running.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place Committee and Horizon Public Health.

Nelson attended the Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place Committee, Horizon Public Health, Western Prairie and Soil and Water Conservation District.

Metz reported on the Wind and Solar subcommittee.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair