

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
August 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Mark Gail, other Commissioners present were Kevin Leininger, Tom Monson, Dave Salberg, and Todd Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions; County Attorney Matt Franzese to discuss approval for the City of Wheaton to purchase a property, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Leininger.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before Board with a Department update.

Gillespie informed the Board that they are looking into pavement/mix design consultants for a section on CSAH 15 that had bituminous base with possible coal tar or cutback in it. Gillespie ran a sample with the MNDOT D4 lab and has discussed this with multiple people from MNDOT.

They are doing some culvert work on CSAH 9 and Taylor Township crossing nearby. Taylor Township couldn't have done their crossing unless Traverse County did ours based on Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) permit and the Minnesota DNR did a Geomorphic study based on BdSWD recommendations.

Gillespie gave other project updates.

Traverse Care Center

Dylan Hanson, Executive Director, and Stefan Stamenkovic, Regional Director, appeared before Zoom for the Traverse Care Center quarterly update. There was a complaint about the shrubs and weeds outside Prairieview Place and they are currently trimming and cleaning those up. The sidewalk around Prairieview Place also needs to be repaired, they did get a quote and it needs to be approved yet but this should be done within the next 2 weeks. Activities are down due to COVID-19. They are developing a Transitional Care Unit in the 600 wing for COVID related patients. This was the recommendation from DHS and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board and gave a department update. He went over the Primary Election results. There were 596 people that voted out of 1,925 that were registered to vote 20 days before the election.

At the next Board meeting K. Johnson will set the date and terms of the tax forfeited sale, there will be 12 properties. The Board approved setting the price at \$150.00 to cover our costs.

There was discussion about needing to transfer money to the Traverse Care Center from the General Fund to cover the retiree's lifetime health insurance. A decision will be made when reviewing the budget next month.

We received word on our dividends from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) insurance for 2020. We will receive \$77.00 for the Housing and Redevelopment Association (HRA) for Prairieview Place, this will be receipted into the fund that we pay the insurance for the HRA out of. Traverse County will receive \$54,199.00, this gets receipted into the General Fund.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Leininger to approve the August 4, 2020, Board minutes, second by T. Johnson and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

CARDMEMBER SERVICE	\$3,130.05
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,857.37
HILDI INC.	\$6,875.00
HOPE'S WINDOWS, INC.	\$2,260.20
HORMANN/MARK	\$2,000.00
MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$2,582.64
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	\$2,741.30
THE RETROFIT COMPANIES, INC.	\$2,284.91
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	\$3,253.77
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$5,486.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$10,258.77
KELLEN/RYAN – 54K LLC	\$8,050.00
NORTH CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC	\$2,787.67
SCHMITZ/TODD	\$8,075.00
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$13,410.28
ZIEGLER, INC.	\$10,387.54

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 66, amounting to \$29,094.42.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, informed the Board that Traverse County received Corona Relief Funds (CRF), otherwise known as CARES, in the amount of \$438,756.00. Of which \$36,599.00 is reserved for the cities and townships in Traverse County under a 200 population. Zahl sent each city and township a packet of information regarding these funds available to them. The cities and townships will have to fill out a form to ask for the money but it has to be COVID related expenses that will be reimbursed up to the amount of their distribution, which is based on population; they will have until November 15, 2020 to request these funds. If the cities and townships know that they won't have any COVID related expenses they can pass a resolution that allows the County to spend those funds for COVID related expenses or programs but the County only has until December 1, 2020 to spend those funds.

The CARES Committee met and came up with a proposed budget, which includes business relief, for the CARES money along with a proposed outline. Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by Monson both the outline and budget were approval unanimously. Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by Monson the following amounts were approved unanimously; \$1,421.00 out of County Response and Recovery; \$27,414.96 out of County Personal Protective

Equipment; and \$12,063.52 out of County Operational Enhancements. There are also \$3,372.36 worth of FEMA eligible expenses that will be submitted to FEMA.

Traverse County Sheriff, Trevor Wright, appeared before the Board to explain that our current courtroom will not allow for social distancing and we need to find an alternative location in order to hold court in Traverse County. He has been working with the Court staff and they are close to working out a deal with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wheaton to use their facility as the alternative court location. One issue that stands in the way is their ventilation system. Wright is asking permission from the Board to use CARES money to install a GPS ionization system at the church if the final plan is approved by the courts with this system. We received a quote from Ellingson Plumbing and Heating to install this at the church for \$4,701.00. Right now there are 22 jury trials scheduled from September until the end of December 2020. There was a motion by T. Johnson to approve the use of CARES dollars to install this system, if the courts approve it, seconded by Monson and approved unanimously.

County Attorney, Matt Franzese, appeared before the Board by Zoom to discuss approval for the City of Wheaton to purchase a tax forfeited property in Wheaton. The property is located at 904 3rd Ave N in Wheaton and it is in violation of the City ordinance for substandard buildings, the garage is unstable, missing windows, and it is a safety hazard. Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by Leininger the Board unanimously approved the sale of the property to the City of Wheaton for \$50.00.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman