

Traverses County Commission
Special Board Meeting
August 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 purpose of this special meeting is to have a work session to discuss the 2024 budget. There was no conflict of interest. In attendance were Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director and Russ Foster, Veterans Service Officer via zoom. Trevor Wright, Sheriff; Tony Frisch, Probation; Dianne Reinart, County Assessor; Jody Hofer, County Recorder; Shelly Staebler, Social Services Financial Supervisor; Chad Klindworth, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Brian Koch, Highway Maintenance Supervisor; Chad Gillespie, County Engineer; Sara Gronfeld, Soil and Water Conservation District; Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager/Solid Waste; Kit Johnson, County Auditor/Treasurer; and Lisa Zahl, HR Director/County Coordinator.

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board and went over the following budgets, County Sheriff; Water Safety; County Coroner; and Jail. There was discussion on the daily room and board fees, housing out of County inmates, and the bond payment. Wright is going to bring to the Board the cost of housing other County inmates in 2022.

Veterans Services Officer Russ Foster appeared via zoom to discuss some changes with his budget, Johnson will get those changes made.

County Engineer Chad Gillespie appeared before the Board, he discussed some of the bigger ticket items needed this year. The Board asked Gillespie to bring his equipment list to the next meeting.

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Management and Solid Waste Manager appeared before the Board. She discussed that the Solid Waste fee is at \$35.00, she reached out to surrounding counties and they have set theirs at \$50.00 so this fee could be increased, Johnson calculated the difference and the increase would be \$32,000.00. Siegel will look into this more and bring the information back to the Board. The Score Grant also went up from just under \$70,000.00 to around \$86,000.00.

Social Services Director Stacy Hennen and Shelly Staebler Financial Supervisor appeared before the Board to discuss the Social Services budget. There was discussion about their budget coming in lower than what was levied for the past few years. The reasons for that was extra Covid money that wasn't expected and some of their rates are set in July and they aren't made aware of those rates when the budget is set. Another reason is that their expenses can differ depending on the cases that come in.

Probation Supervisor Tony Frisch appeared before the Board. He discussed the State money that will be coming in 2024, there are limited uses for this money and Frisch is still working on the specifics on what the money can be spent on.

The Assessor, Recorder, Janitorial and Plant, Solid Waste, Civil Defense, Soil & Water and Attorney budgets were all discussed with no changes.

The Commissioners discussed permit fees, they would like to have Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, appear before the Board at the next meeting to discuss.

The remaining budgets were discussed with no changes.

Right now the budget is at 18.61%, Johnson said he will made the changes discussed today and bring the changes back to the next meeting. There was discussion to try to get the budget down to single digits. Johnson informed the Board that we can use some fund balance to bring down the levy, last year we used \$500,000.00.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair