

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
August 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg, the agenda was approved unanimously with the following addition: Deputy Assessor unlicensed position grade approval and 2020 Health Care Plan procurement process, appeal, and resolution.

Rhonda Antrim Petersen appeared before the Board to discuss the 2020 Health Care plan procurement process, appeal and resolution. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has chosen to contract with three health care plans to represent Traverse County and 23 other counties, in regards to people who are eligible for Health Care Services for Families and Children through Prepaid Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, as well as people eligible for Minnesota Senior Health Options and Minnesota Senior CarePlus. In the past there has only been one option, PrimeWest Health. All 24 counties would like to appeal DHS's decision and would like to retain Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P. to represent them in the process. There was a motion by Salberg to approve the contract with the law firm mentioned above and to pass the following resolution, seconded by Monson and approved unanimously:

**RESOLUTION RETAINING LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN PLLP FOR LEGAL SERVICES
AND AUTHORIZING CHALLENGE TO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CONTRACTING DECISION FOR CERTAIN STATE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, PrimeWest Rural Minnesota Health Care Access Initiative, dba PrimeWest Health ("PrimeWest"), is a joint-powers entity, duly authorized by the Minnesota Department of Health, and comprised of twenty-four Minnesota counties—Beltrami County, Big Stone County, Chippewa County, Clearwater County, Cottonwood County, Douglas County, Grant County, Hubbard County, Jackson County, Kandiyohi County, Lac qui Parle County, Lincoln County, Lyon County, McLeod County, Meeker County, Nobles County, Pipestone County, Pope County, Redwood County, Renville County, Stevens County, Swift County, Traverse County, and Yellow Medicine County ("the Counties"); and

WHEREAS, Traverse County ("the County") is one of the twenty-four Counties that has agreed to authorize PrimeWest to act on its behalf through a joint powers agreement under Minn. Stat. § 471.59;

WHEREAS, the County elected, through PrimeWest, to purchase health care services on behalf of persons within the County eligible for Health Care Services for Families and Children through Prepaid Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare, as well as persons eligible for Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)/Minnesota Senior CarePlus (MSC+);

WHEREAS, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 256B.69 and Minn. Stat. § 256B.692, the County informed the Department of Human Services that the County had selected PrimeWest to purchase health care services for eligible persons within the County. The County also desired that PrimeWest be selected as the single plan for both MA and MSHO/MSC+ to serve all persons within the County as allowed under federal and state law starting on January 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, on or around July 25, 2019, the Department of Human Services notified the County that PrimeWest was not invited to contract to provide services as the single plan for all persons within the County who are eligible to participate in the MA or MSHO/MSC+ programs;

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services has offered no explanation for its decision not to select PrimeWest as the single health plan, and the Department of Human Services has identified no evidence that the Commissioner of Human Services considered contracting with PrimeWest on a single-health plan basis as required by Minn. Stat. § 256B.694;

WHEREAS, the County strongly disagrees with the Department of Human Services' decision not to select PrimeWest as the single health plan for both MA and MSHO/MSC+ in the County as allowed by federal and state law and, to the extent PrimeWest has not been selected as the single health plan both MA and MSH/MSC+ in the County, the County seeks to pursue all action necessary to challenge the Department of Human Services' decision;

WHEREAS, to the extent the Department of Human Services did not select PrimeWest as the single health plan for both MA and MSHO/MSC+ within the County as allowed by federal and state law, the County wishes to retain Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP as outside legal counsel to pursue legal and/or administrative action challenging that decision.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The County of Traverse ("the County") retains the law firm of Lockridge Grindal Nauen, PLLP for purposes of challenging any decision by the Department of Human Services not to contract with PrimeWest on a single-health plan basis within the County.

2. The County expressly authorizes Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP to communicate with the Department of Human Services on behalf of the County to request and pursue mediation under Minn. Stat. Chapter 256B, to appear on the County's behalf at any mediation or administrative proceeding, and, if necessary, to pursue litigation on behalf of the County to challenge the Department of Human Services' decision.

Adopted August 6th, 2019.

By:

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor presented the department update.

Gillespie went over the Highway Departments proposed 2020 budget.

CSAH 5 project started on July 29. The Joint Counties Federal Striping project was completed on July 29.

Co Rd 76 Bridge project update; they could be pouring concrete for the east pier by the end of the week.

Flood repair update; there is still one road closed from the flood, it is County road 58, there is a contractor lined up to get it done. CSAH 11 undermining shoulder will be discussed with FEMA when they get here. There are approximately 9 culverts left and 4 of them will wait to be discussed with FEMA.

Veterans Services/Solid Waste/Safety

Dustin Kindelberger, Veterans Services Officer/Solid Waste/Safety Officer, appeared before the Board. He would like to increase the solid waste assessment from \$25 to \$35. This amount has not changed in 17 years and recycling is getting more expensive. We do receive the SCORE Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency each year but it fluctuates. Currently 50% of the CVSO and Administrative Assistant salaries are taken from the Solid Waste budget and Kindelberger would also like to switch this so that both salaries are coming out of the Veterans Services budget since that is where most of his and Patty Peyton's time is spent and the reserve is getting depleted because of the salaries. The salaries didn't always come out of the Solid Waste Budget and prior to Kindelberger starting; they were split with the Veterans Office in order to lower the budget for the VSO. Over time the increased cost of recycling (Electronics Collection, Household Hazardous Waste, etc) and the solid waste salaries caused reserves to be depleted. We will also adjust the Solid Waste budget as needed next year as it may bring in revenues. The surrounding counties are between \$35 and \$80 for their Solid Waste Assessment fee. Monson made a motion to raise the Solid Waste Assessment fee to \$35 and move the salaries to the Veterans Services budget, second by Leininger discussion followed. K. Johnson mentioned that if we were to move the salaries to the Veterans Services budget it would increase the levy 1.4% because their wage was being paid by the solid waste fee and SCORE grant when it was in the Solid Waste budget. The Board agreed to move forward with moving the salaries and it was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs grant for \$7500 was approved unanimously. Kindelberger explained that this will continue to be used for filling the gap of transportation locally for Veterans with the assistance of Rainbow Rider. The following resolution was also approved on a motion by Monson and second by Gail:

RESOLUTION OF TRAVERSE COUNTY

BE IT RESOLVED by TRAVERSE COUNTY that the County enter into the attached **Grant Contract** with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: **County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program**. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in Minnesota Statutes §197.608, as amended by Minnesota Laws 2019, Chapter 10, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by TRAVERSE COUNTY that DUSTIN KINDELBERGER, the CVSO, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at A REGULAR BOARD MEETING
this 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

Board Chair

Date

STATE OF MINNESOTA

TRAVERSE COUNTY

I, Lisa Siegel, do hereby certify that I am the custodian of the minutes of all proceedings had and held by the COUNTY BOARD of said TRAVERSE COUNTY, that I have compared the above resolution with the original passed and adopted by the COUNTY BOARD of said TRAVERSE COUNTY at a REGULAR meeting thereof held on the 6TH day of AUGUST, 2019 at 9:45AM, that the above constitutes a true and correct copy thereof, that the same has not been amended or rescinded and is in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto placed my hand and signature this 1ST TUESDAY OF AUGUST, 2019, and have hereunto affixed the seal of the County.

Clerk of the Board

(SEAL)

The Traverse County Resource Extravaganza had a great turn out for the first year. There were 6 departments from the Fargo VA and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home that came to the event, there was a total of 19 vendors. They will plan to do it again next year.

Law Enforcement

Trevor Wright, Sheriff, appeared before the Board and gave the jail update. The usage for the month of July was at 56.62%.

The Department of Corrections came out last week and did a mini inspection. They will be doing the full inspection later this year. He was impressed with the condition of our jail overall.

The new sheriff's vehicle received hail damage; this will be repaired next week.

The Officers are currently trying out new portable radios, the current ones are old and they are looking to replace 6 portable radios.

North Country Food Bank

Susie Novak Boelter, Executive Director, appeared before the Board to give an annual update. They are located in Crookston Minnesota and they serve 21 counties. There are currently five food banks that source the State of Minnesota. North Country Food Bank relies on financial donations to accomplish their work. In Traverse County they serve the Browns Valley CSFP Program, Browns Valley Food Shelf, West Central Communication Action Mobil Drop of Traverse County, MISC. Mobil Drop in Wheaton, MN, Traverse County Food Shelf and Wheaton CSFP Program. They delivered 10.2 million pounds in their service area last year. They are growing out of their current location in Crookston and have found a building but they need help. They are asking all the Counties, which they serve, for a one time investment of \$25,000 to help remodel the building. The Board would like to have further discussion regarding this and asked Boelter to check back after the first meeting in September.

Soil and Water

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update.

Soils Day is August 8, 2019 there will be education and rainfall simulator demonstration.

Installation of Lined Waterway Outlets is underway.

There were three new permits for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Program. There are still SSTS upgrade grant funds available.

Streambank Stabilization project for the city of Browns Valley has been cancelled because of the final cost and the Local Water Planning funding will be reassigned.

MPCA feedlot program, construction inspection is pending for the hog barn.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the July 16, 2019 Board minutes, seconded by Leininger, the minutes were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

CT SIBSON GRAVEL & CRUSHING INC.	\$15,358.60
KELLEN/RYAN – 54K LLC	\$13,200.00
SULLIVAN EXCAVATING, INC.	\$11,398.49
BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT	\$30,933.50
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,752.47
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,350.00
MN STATE AUDITOR	\$5,785.64
SGTS, INC.	\$3,328.26

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 43, amounting to \$22,139.89.

Region 4 Emergency Managers received a grant for Badge ID making equipment. Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager, is requesting that Traverse County pay the total cost for all the counties in the Region, \$57,729.95, instead of the company receiving 14 separate payments from each County, the grant will repay us the total amount within 2 weeks of the payment to the company. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg it was approved unanimously for Traverse County to pay and get reimbursed for the total amount of the Badge ID making equipment.

The City of Wheaton received a bid for the repaving of the alleys located ½ block south of Broadway, between 9th Street South and 10th Street South and between 10th Street South and 11th Street South. This includes the Drop In Center alley, the Counties cost of the project would be \$433.48. There was a motion by Monson, second by Leininger and approved unanimously to agree to pay our portion of the paving project.

The Board received their first look at the 2020 proposed budgets. At this time there is a 4.5% increase over 2019, the Board will look over the budgets and they will discuss them again at the August 20 Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg the donation for the Senior County Picnic and the payment to the Legion of \$85.00 for the amount not covered by donations was approved unanimously.

The Board reviewed the zoning report for July, there were three permits approved.

There has been an issue at Social Services with the public bringing in the pets, we have posted a notice on the doors that no pets are allowed, service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. Zahl will be working on a County policy in the next month.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg the Deputy Assessor Unlicensed part-time position, which was sent into BakerTilly (formally Springstead), grade 12 was approved unanimously by the Board.

We needed to purchase a new back up for our server as our old backup was running out of storage, the cost will be \$1,384.05.

Our 2019 Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust dividend for our Workers' Compensation and Property/Casualty insurance is \$53,992. The Traverse County Housing & Redevelopment Authority dividend for Property/Casualty insurance was \$162.

The meeting will be closed as permitted by MN State Statute 13D.01, subd.3. The specific grounds for closing the meeting are labor relations and the specific subject to be discussed is LELS labor negotiation proposal. There was a motion by Monson to close the meeting, second by Salberg and approved unanimously.

There was a motion by Monson and second by Leininger to reconvene the regular meeting.

There was no other discussion.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Todd Johnson, Board Chairman