

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
August 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Kevin Leininger. Other Commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, with the addition of Election Judges.

**Bois de Sioux Watershed District**

Jamie Beyer, Administrator appeared before the Board. The Bois de Sioux Watershed is working on two ditch projects in Traverse County. They can go out and seek bonds, but they wouldn't get as low of an interest rate as the County would with a General Obligation bond. The ditch projects are being done with the landowners' support, and they will be the ones responsible for paying for the projects, so would like the best interest rate possible. The Watershed is in the process of updating the assessments. Once that is done they will need to acquire the buffers on those ditches, which means the Watershed will have to pay the landowners for those ditches. The total cost to the Watershed will be \$830,000, which will be paid out this fall. Construction won't start until approximately 2020, and at that time the Watershed will ask the County to go through the bond process. In order for the Watershed to add the payment of the ditches into the construction bond, the County will need to pass a resolution within 60 days of the payment to the landowners that would allow the County to bond for an additional \$830,000 if they sought a construction bond for these ditches in the future. The resolution only means that the County is leaving the option open, not that it is committing the County to bond at this time. Salberg clarified that it is only the landowners that are affected by the ditches that have to pay the taxes for the bond, not the whole County. Salberg would like to add this bond onto the bond for the new courthouse. Monson would like to keep the two bonds separate if we were to bond for this. Monson made a motion to pass the resolution stating the County would like to leave the option open for a future construction bond of \$830,000 for the ditches if the County were to approve the bonding. The motion was seconded by T. Johnson and approved 4-1, with Salberg opposed.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, appeared before the Board and gave a department update. Govdeals will be here at the end of the month to take pictures of the equipment that will be on the auction, which will start sometime in September. Gillespie will put the details in the paper. Graveling project on County road 13 has a completion date of September 15, 2018. Brian Koch gave a maintenance update. They are continuing to gravel roads and mowing is 85% done. There was discussion regarding dairy trucks using a road that they were not supposed to use, requiring the road to need to be graveled because of their usage. Gillespie and Koch spoke to Micha Fair, and he said it was a miscommunication and they won't be using that road going forward, and he is also going to be talking to the Townships about graveling. Gillespie and Koch will keep in touch with Fair.

### **West Central Initiative**

Greg Wagner and Rebecca Peterson presented the 2018 annual update to the Board. We are in year 2 of the 5-year Economic Development Plan. The region's population up to the year 2025 will see more of a decline than originally anticipated and Traverse County is one of the more diverse counties in the region. The areas for economic focus will be the need for a larger workforce, increasing housing affordability and availability, increasing the wages, and increasing child care.

### **Soil & Water/Planning & Zoning**

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. She presented Ben Oleson's report. No new permit applications were processed in July. His office hours this month will be August 8 and 22 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Gronfeld spoke with Dave Gustafson, an inspector, it would cost us \$300.00 for him to come out and do a site visit, and for an advanced inspection it would cost approximately \$1,400. Gronfeld suggested changing our permit fee for systems over 25 gallons a day to \$1,000.00. Gronfeld would also highly recommend the County get a retainer with Dave Gustafson. The Board would like Gronfeld to revisit the permit fee at a later date. Permit approvals for the feedlot programs need to be signed by either Ben Oleson or the County. The Board would like Oleson to sign off on those permits. One Watershed One Plan met and come up with Policy Committee rules, which will be brought to the next Board meeting for approval. The Board unanimously approved the 2019 Pictometry Flight upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg.

### **Law Enforcement Center**

Brenda Bartz, Jail Administrator gave the jail update. Our usage for the month of July was at 67.23%. Sheriff Trevor Wright gave a department update. They were able to forfeit a 2003 Ford F150, so the County can put it to use or we can sell it. Sheriff Wright will talk to Highway and see if they can use it.

The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and seconded by T. Johnson:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 18-16**

#### **RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNTY OF TRAVERSE ON BEHALF OF ITS SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Traverse on behalf of its Sheriff's Office desires to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to receive funding to use to implement an adapter to make its records management system compatible with Minnesota National Incident-Based Reporting System requirements for which the Sheriff's Office is eligible.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Board of Commissioners of Traverse County, Minnesota as follows:

1. That the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement by and between the State of Minnesota acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Traverse on behalf of its Law

Enforcement, is hereby approved. A copy of the Joint Powers Agreement is attached to this Resolution and made a part of it.

2. That the Traverse County Sheriff, Trevor Wright, or his or her successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the Sheriff's Office. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the agreement with the State.

3. That Trevor Wright, the Sheriff of County of Traverse, and Kevin Leininger , the Chairman of the Board, are authorized to sign the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement.

**Passed and Adopted** by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners on this 7th day of August, 2018.

COUNTY OF TRAVERSE

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Kevin Leininger  
Its Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Lisa Siegel  
Its County Coordinator

Sheriff Wright gave the Board an update of the meeting with the City of Browns Valley regarding a new contract. Currently the City of Browns Valley is paying \$140,000 per year for 56 hours per week. They offered three options for a new contract: Option One is a 6 year contract with 56 hours per week at \$120,000 and a 2% increase for the life of the contract. Option Two is a 3 year contract with minimum hours to be negotiated at \$120,000 per year. Option Three is no contract and the Sheriff's office provides the same services as to other towns in the County. Sheriff Wright proposes we go with Option One. Monson said that we can't decrease the costs unless we cut the hours, Sheriff Wright does not believe it would be in the best interest of Browns Valley or his office to do that, as the City needs to have a law enforcement presence. Since 2013 the average percentage of calls that come from Browns Valley is 56%. T. Johnson said that there are a lot of non-wage costs that Browns Valley is paying for, and he would like to see us work together in this County so that a diluted cost could be given to Browns Valley. Leininger said that in the past they also paid for a car which they no longer do. Monson would like Sheriff Wright to counteroffer with \$130,000, and Leininger agreed with Monson. Salberg also agreed with \$130,000 or cut hours, as \$120,000 won't work. T. Johnson said that it should be \$120,000, but if they come back with \$130,000 it should be with no increase each year. Sheriff Wright said that he would set up another meeting between City and County officials.

### **Emergency Manager**

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager appeared before the Board. She advised that she recently became aware that people who are emergency managers are required by statute to take an oath of office, so K. Johnson administered the oath to her. She next presented the EOC Facility Assessment that was completed. They are in the process of setting up the EOC phones. Lynn

will be doing an active threat drill that also involves the hospital. Lynn informed the Board that she has not heard back yet about her request for the well water sampling grant.

### County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to approve the July 17, 2018 minutes, with a second by Salberg, and unanimous approval. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Gail, the following bills were approved unanimously:

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT	\$37,423.50
COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS UNLIMITED	\$4,146.78
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$175,000.00
CS DIESEL	\$3,931.65
ELLINGSON PLUMBING, HTG & AC	\$2,694.14
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$8,005.50
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	\$2,478.67
MN STATE AUDITOR	\$2,595.25
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$3,082.16
TRAVERSE COUNTY AGICULTURAL ASSOCIATION	\$10,000.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$2,088.70
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$33,240.00
TRUE NORTH STEEL	\$3,537.40
VIKING LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$33,787.00
WEX BANK	\$2,144.42
ZUERCHER TECHNOLOGIES LLC	\$3,780.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 70, amounting to \$30,586.67.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, unanimous approval was given to hire a full-time Senior Office Support Specialist for Social Services.

We received Dawn Krump's resignation for the HRA Board. Monson will fill the spot until they find a replacement for District 5.

We received a proposal for services from Engan Associates for \$10,000.00 to continue to work on the floor plan, develop materials for presentation to the community, and get data on geothermal vs propane. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail, the proposal was approved 4-1, with Leininger opposed.

T. Johnson made a motion to approve the resolution establishing a question to be on the 2018 general election ballot to authorize bonding to construct and equip a new Traverse County courthouse and government center. The motion was seconded by Gail and discussion followed. Salberg would like to add on the ballot that it would be only a 2.3% tax increase. K. Johnson said that the \$5.317 million is a known number that won't change, but that the 2.3% is an estimate and might change over the course of time. Leininger asked if we could put "approximately 2.5% increase" on the ballot. County Attorney Matt Franzese will whether we can do this. T. Johnson then rescinded his motion to see what Franzese says can be legally done. K. Johnson informed the Board that we currently have \$579,000 in the building fund and

it can be used to reduce the bond amount. The Board will finalize the resolution at the next Board meeting.

Salberg made a motion that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners proclaim that it believes that a new courthouse is needed. The motion was seconded by Monson and approved 4-1, with Leininger opposed.

County Coordinator Lisa Siegel informed the Board of an error in the July 3, 2018, minutes. The Pictometry flight was done in 2016, not 2017. Unanimous approval was given to amend the minutes upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by Monson.

Upon a motion by Gail and seconded by Monson, the 2019 contact with University of Minnesota for Extension services was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson, the request for 2019 funding to the Red River Basin Commission in the amount of \$103 was approved unanimously.

Traverse County passed the Pay Equity Compliance testing for the 2018 report.

The Board received the 2019 budgets for all departments and will discuss them at the next Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by Monson the Board unanimously approved K. Johnson to hire election judges.

Leininger adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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Lisa Siegel, County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger, Board Chairman