

Traverses County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
September 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. Other Commissioners present were Todd Johnson, Kayla Schmidt, and Tom Monson, Commissioner Mark Gail was absent. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved upon motion by Monson and second by Schmidt. A motion was made by Schmidt to approve the August 17, 2021 Board minutes, with a second by Monson, and approved unanimously.

Highway Department

Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board to present the department update. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson the signing of CP 21-03 construction contract for CSAH 15 Mastic/Depression filler was approved unanimously. Koch informed the Board that Gillespie has cut \$100,000 from the Budget as the Board requested and that he will give further detail at the next Board meeting.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board with a department update. Wright presented the August jail report; the jail usage was at 67%, which is above normal. He added that his staff is managing mental health issues with inmates that would be better served in a different setting.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Monson the approval of hiring Janessa Miller as the new Administrative Assistant/Confidential Office Manager was approved unanimously. Miller was hired August 23, 2021 and started full-time on September 1. Wright went on to inform the Board that the Deputy Sheriff position would be advertised until filled as there hasn't been enough applications for a pool. Wright concluded his update informing the Board that two squad cars would be retired and replaced with two new Dodge Durango's within the next month.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with the SWCD update. Gronfeld has received 1 new septic system permit application while working on getting the applications from previous months finalized. The Wetland Boundary and Exemption request was approved with no conditions for the Tintah Road intersection improvement project. A staff decision on the Wetland Boundary and Exemption request for the Sow Barn Expansion Project will be made on September 22, 2021. The Rosebud RV Park requested a No Loss Decision, this was approved with no conditions. Monson had questions for Gronfeld regarding Rosebud RV Park delineation approval, discussion took place, and Gronfeld was able to explain the process and how they arrived at their decision. An informational meeting for feedlot owners highlighting the re-registration process was held on August 24, 2021, re-registrations are due December 31, 2021. The Upper Minnesota River 1W1P planning grant has been approved and planning efforts will be underway soon.

West Central Initiative

Representatives Jill Amundson, Samantha VanWechel-Meyer who attended in Rebecca Lynn Petersen's place, and Rick Schara appeared before the Board with their annual update. Amundson presented census information, staffing updates and progress regarding broadband and circular farming in our area. VanWechel-Meyer and Schara gave program updates which included childcare initiatives and work force

issues. In this past year WCI has provided Traverse County with \$20,000 in loans and over \$69,000 in grants. Commissioner T. Johnson asked West Central Initiative to support no-tax legislation on social security and retirement benefits so we can increase our competitive edge to retain those retirement dollars in our region. In closing the WCI representatives requested that the Board consider a 20% increase from Traverse County that would grow our contribution from \$1,600 to \$1,920 for 2022.

Frazier Lanier Company-Valley Pork, LLP

Tyler Scott, Managing Partner for Valley Pork appeared before the Board and Jason Grubbs, Frazier Lanier Company, appeared via Zoom. They asked for the Board’s consideration to pass a non-binding resolution of Industrial Revenue Bonds which would provide them a more competitive interest rate. A conditional use permit for this project was approved in 2018. Grubbs proceeded to inform the Board of the process and application of other counties that have provided this option across Minnesota in effort to better aid to their local companies and serve the area with economic development opportunities. Grubbs explained that Traverse County would be a Conduit Issuer; meaning that these bonds would not constitute a debt or liability to Traverse County. The Board looked to Traverse County Auditor K. Johnson, he said he would need more information before he could confidently offer an opinion. Grubbs offered more details of the process and general timelines associated with it. Schmidt made a motion to approve the resolution giving preliminary approval so that the company could move forward with the process, second by Monson followed by discussion. There would be a changed to the names in the resolution, it was left out of the draft resolution. The Board wanted to wait until the final resolution was in front of them. Schmidt withdrew her motion. The Board decided to table this item until the next scheduled meeting.

County Coordinator

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Schmidt, the following bills were approved unanimously:

COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	\$3,989.48
HANCOCK CONCRETE PRODUCTS CO.,IN	\$3,669.20
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$9,113.23
KRIS ENGINEERING, INC.	\$6,314.32
POWERPLAN OIB	\$7,055.50
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$2,228.50
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	\$6,496.05
WHALEY EXCAVATING, INC.	\$4,317.50
ELLINGSON PLUMBING, HTG & AC	\$2,844.00
ESRI	\$3,217.00
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,968.94
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,450.00
MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$5,268.60
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$3,642.66
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$4,355.31
RAINBOW RIDER	\$10,199.34
SERVICEMASTER CLEANING & RESTORATION	\$4,831.09
SGTS, INC.	\$5,125.72
TRAVERSE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASS	\$12,500.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$3,482.16
WEX BANK	\$2,618.49

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 58, amounting to \$28,336.86.

Zahl, County Coordinator, updated the Board on the property at 610 3rd Ave N in Wheaton. County Attorney Matt Franzese worked to clear up any potential conflicts, issued a revised Title Opinion, and finalized the purchase of the property. Commissioner Monson asked about the taxes and special assessments. Zahl said that the seller will pay the first half taxes, and the Traverse County takes over the liability.

Zahl had been asked at a previous meeting to prepare a RFP (Request for Proposal) for architectural services. She presented the Board with one for their review and approval. Schmidt asked about the ballot deadlines and Zahl said she spoke with County Auditor Kit Johnson who informed her that the question needs to be ready by mid-August of 2022. The discussion continued with Schmidt reporting that she was waiting to hear back from Sitelogiq, a planning, design, and management company. T. Johnson added that the message of the Board should include the fact that the operational costs of the courthouse nearly cash-flowed the bond last time around. Upon motion by Monson with a second by Schmidt the Board gave unanimous consent for Zahl, after County Attorney, Matt Franzese approval, to proceed with the RFP's.

A motion to close the meeting as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the County's labor negotiation strategy related to the County's negotiations with AFSCME, LELS and Highway unions was made by Monson and second by Schmidt and approved unanimously.

Upon motion by T. Johnson and second by Schmidt the meeting was reopened.

Zahl reported that the Executive Committee met and approved to move forward with 2 requests from the American Rescue Plan funding (ARP). The first request is a Smart Board for the Commissioner's Room. The second request came from the Law Enforcement Center for Power Phone Software. A motion was made by Schmidt to approve both purchases, second by T. Johnson and approved unanimously.

Zahl added the Board if there wasn't anything they would like to discuss regarding the Budget. The preliminary budget will need to be set at the September 21, 2021 Board meeting. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson the request from West Central Initiative for a 20% increase was approved unanimously.

The Executive Vice President of Operation for Health Dimensions Group, the company in charge of the Traverse Care Center and Prairie View Place, has requested Board representation to participate in a strategic discussion about the community operation post pandemic, workforce, and long-term strategic position/plan. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the entire Board should participate in the meeting. Zahl will coordinate a time for the Health Dimensions Group to attend a Commissioner Board meeting in the future.

Chairperson Salberg asked which of the Commissioners were going to attend the Association of Minnesota Counties Fall Conference. Salberg plans to attend along with T. Johnson. Schmidt said that depending on scheduling she would plan on attending.

Zahl provided the Board with some general updates; there are plans in place to reopen the 93 DMV exam stations throughout the state by January 31, 2022, a Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust

report was presented to the Board and, a letter from the Lake Traverse Association in which they expressed their concern about water quality issues.

The Commissioners gave the following committee reports; Salberg gave a report on the Western Prairie Human Services meeting. Salberg also reported that CPT (County Program Technology) is finishing a tax rewrite that will be completed by the end of 2022 and they are hiring another full-time person to assist with that endeavor. Salberg's last update was that of a Western Probation meeting he attended, there were no other Commissioner updates provided.

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman