

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
September 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of a Child Support Officer position, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Haukos distributed an area map displaying culverts that need resizing. Information was provided to contract with Houston Engineering for Engineering Services for sizing the culverts on CSAH 16 over the Mustinka for \$3,500.00 and CSAH 13 over CD 2 for \$10,000.00. Salberg suggested the Watershed pay for 13 instead of us. Monson said he'll discuss it with them at the next meeting and Haukos requested the county have some input in their study as there appears to be some errors in their report and there are some questions about it. Monson made a motion and Gail seconded it, to move forward with the culvert on CSAH 16. It passed unanimously. There was discussion around the Local Bridge Replacement Program and a general fund grant agreement for SAP 078-598-030. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, unanimous approval was given to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
For Agreement to State Transportation Fund
Local Bridge Replacement Program
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 078-598-030
1 September 2015

WHEREAS, **Traverse** County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. **78526**; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be **\$368,893.40** by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that **Traverse** County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, subdivision 5, clause (3), and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Haukos discussed other projects. Leininger asked about a rumor about an impoundment that would impact county road 59. He asked if the watershed had the authority to take over a county road. Haukos hadn't heard anything up to this point.

Peg Werner/Viking Library- Werner appeared before the Board with Terry Anderson, Librarian for Wheaton Community Library, and Bernice Piechowski, Librarian for the Browns Valley Community Library. Viking Library System (VLS) is 40 years old in 2015. Werner discussed the history of the library system and distributed a historical book about it. She also discussed county supported services and

funding. Counties currently fund Bookmobile services, automation, technical and network support, delivery, and non-resident reimbursement with rural funds. VLS spent 40% of County funds on Bookmobile services, 29% on non-resident reimbursement, and 31% on resource sharing. This year they will need to look at replacing a Bookmobile system. The VLS requested \$31,223.00 in 2015 and is requesting a 3% increase for 2016, \$32,160.00. The County share allows less funding needed by the cities. Circulation statistics for 2014 show 42,154 for Browns Valley Community Library and 30,508 for Wheaton Community Library. Anderson thanked VLS for the bookmobile system versus mailing books. They receive the books faster, as they come every other day. She also discussed the children that utilize the library during the summer and after school. They also had several Legacy programs throughout the summer that people enjoyed. Piechowski discussed a grant for Legacy funding that paid for a mural in their library. It took over 200 hours to paint and the artist donated her time and supplies. Piechowski discussed families spending time in the library because they had no heat or air conditioning. It allowed them a place to be comfortable and a time to read. She also discussed the population and community use of the Wi-Fi and the great resource that is for people.

Greg Wagner and Tom McSparron/ West Central Initiative- Wagner, Economic Development Planner, discussed the five year regional economic development strategy. We are seeing a continued decline in population that will likely taper off by 2025. Traverse County will have one-third of the population over 65 by 2035. Other demographics discussed included the unemployment rate in Traverse County of 3.8% for July, significantly less than the region, state, and nation. Traverse County families have an average weekly earnings of \$628.00 and the cost of living in our county ranges from \$10.00-\$16.00 per hour wage to meet the daily needs. The rising cost of energy will be a challenge in the future, as well as the need for a larger workforce, increased wages, and affordable and available housing. McSparron, VP of Development, discussed WCI's mission to help communities and businesses thrive through uniting ideas and resources. They are in their 29th year of providing services to the region. WCI provided 51 grants this past year in Traverse County, totaling \$466,340.00. They also provided 39 low interest loans, totaling \$1,450,517.00. They also provided a copy of their 2014 Annual Report.

Emily Conroy/4-H Coordinator- Conroy asked commissioners if they knew why 4-H participates in county fairs. The reason is to showcase the talents of the kids throughout the year and showcasing is very important to youth development. Conroy discussed the activities that happen before the fair, with seven judging days for things like cooking, sewing, livestock, etc. There were six youth that participated in the livestock competition at the state fair this past weekend and Jacob Peterson won the beef interview event. Traverse will be sending 10 youth to the state fair this coming week to display general exhibits. Skyler Siegel was also acknowledged as a state ambassador and can attend all twelve days. Conroy discussed the 4-H canteen at the local fair with over 120 youth and parents volunteering. Conroy is beginning planning for the school year, including Clover Buds and Browns Valley School activities. Conroy discussed Volunteers in Vision and Action (VIVA) and will be intentionally building volunteerism and relationship building through a systematic process (Got: VIVA). Traverse will be one a several counties in a pilot program statewide.

Mary Theisen/Jail Administrator- Theisen distributed the jail report. There are several inmates being held on a warrant, which results in no revenue.

Trevor Wright/Sheriff- Wright updated the Board that the Traverse Care Center is ending the contract for nursing services at the end of 2015. Wright introduced Dr. Todd Leonard, from MEnD Correctional Care, PLLC. He discussed the healthcare necessary for inmates, the liabilities facing counties, and emphasized they are a complete healthcare advocate for the counties they serve. They provide on-call coverage 24/7, 365 days per year. They provide training to staff to ensure Department Of Corrections (DOC) compliance. They currently provide services to 21 Minnesota counties. Their proposal would be for \$29,800.00 per year for eight hours per week of nursing. Their plan would be to have a nurse onsite two days per week for four hours. The correctional rules dictate a minimum of eight hours per week nursing services need to be made available. Monson asked about how many other areas Traverse County is out of compliance with DOC in. From a medical perspective, we are out of compliance with the annual training as well as the onsite nursing. Monson asked if there is an opportunity for some state funds. Leonard discussed the possibility of some grant writing they might be able to apply for. Leonard is also active in lobbying for legislation to help limit the burden on counties. Leininger discussed the overwhelming cost of the jail and how it keeps getting worse. This contract alone is 21% of this year's jail board. He speculated that the jail is going to put us out of business. T. Johnson commented that the boarding of inmates for free has to stop. Wright is looking to other counties for advice in this area.

Lynn Siegel/Emergency Manager- Siegel discussed the Behavioral Health Exercise she held for Social Services and other providers. She will be working on a decontamination exercise this month with emergency service providers. She has also been assisting the highway department with some FEMA projects. She presented the EMPG Grant Fund of \$24,492.00, for signature.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, the Board minutes from August 18, 2015, were approved unanimously. There was some question regarding the equipment purchase by law enforcement to monitor the well checks in the jail cells, and whether that was approved or needed to be approved. There was some general discussion regarding the expenditure policy for department heads. Antrim will research what we have. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg, the following bills were approved unanimously:

COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	3,100.22
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	5,640.00
MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	7,737.18
RONGLIEN EXCAVATING, INC.	38,025.00
SCHMITZ/TODD	7,528.75
WAGNER COMPANY	28,745.13
WESTMOR INDUSTRIES, LLC	3,071.00
Anderson Law Office, PA	2,685.00
LSS OF TRAVERSE, LLC	2,029.00
TimeKeeping Systems, Inc	3,940.65

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 42, amounting to \$17,894.33. The salaries for Minnesota County commissioners were distributed. This was a survey done by the Association of Minnesota Counties. Traverse County appears to be the lowest paid in the state, from counties that responded. Antrim did update them that she did not include their \$800.00 per month cash in lieu of insurance in the survey. If you factor that in, they're right in-line with other counties. Upon a

motion by Salberg and second by Monson, a new Joint Powers Agreement for PrimeWest was approved unanimously. This allows PrimeWest to move forward with the project to provide county insurance to the county employees in the private market. The previous Joint Powers only allowed them to work as a Managed Care Organization in the public sector of Medicaid. Antrim distributed an invitation from East River's Electric to their annual meeting. Antrim reminded them of the special Board meeting on September 10th at 9:00 AM to discuss budgets with department heads. Antrim distributed a draft policy regarding benefits for non-union employees and elected. The policy was approved unanimously, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson. A new smoking policy is under development. The Policy Committee was looking for insight into how the Board wants the policy drafted. By consensus, they approve of a curb to curb no smoking policy and do not support designated smoking areas on county property. The Policy Committee will continue to draft the policy with those parameters in mind. Antrim presented a request to hire a Child Support Officer (CSO). The CSO would also be responsible to provide Legal Secretary services for the County Attorney and to work on Collections. The position is expected to be cost-neutral, with 66% of it being federally reimbursed. The position was rated by Springsted and came back at grade 14, or \$17.66 per hour. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, unanimous approval was given to hire a CSO.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair