

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
September 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, and Todd Johnson. Mark Gail appeared by phone. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- The minutes of September 6, 2016 Board meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson. The following bills were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson:

KRIS ENGINEERING, INC.	2,040.80
TRI COUNTY COOP	17,554.89
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	2,709.76
CITY OF ST. CLOUD	3,854.52
ESRI	8,242.00
MN STATE AUDITOR	13,735.81
PRIME WEST HEALTH	18,805.39

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 75, amounting to \$29,477.43. The 2017 contracting rate with Justin Anderson was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg. The proposal was \$175.00 per hour and an increase to the monthly cap of \$3,500. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, Gerald Siltman's lifetime health insurance was approved unanimously.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Haukos presented a request from Asfeld's for tile installation at the NE ¼ Sect. 15 in Arthur Township. The project would require a watershed permit. By consensus the request to go through the process was approved. The department is almost finished with graveling and fixing the roof on the Tintah shop.

Emily Conroy/Extension Department- National 4-H Week: #4HGrown is October 2-8 and 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) is October 5. National 4-H week is a time to recognize members, volunteers, alumni and communities involved in 4-H, promote 4-H and educate others on the great opportunities of 4-H. During National 4-H Week, Traverse County 4-H will also hold this year's NYSD program called "drone discovery". Exposing youth to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields through hands-on and fun programs are important since STEM is a necessary and expanding field. This is the ninth NYSD held by 4-H and reaches over 100,000 youth across the nation. Kayla Haglund presented a proclamation for "Lights on Afterschool" week October 17-21. The Proclamation was approved unanimously upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Ibramin Omerovic- Mr. Omerovic did not appear. The request from him was to purchase his property back after tax forfeiture. The City of Wheaton and County Attorney appeared and presented their information that went into the decision for accelerated forfeiture. Lenny Zimmel, Mayor for the City of Wheaton, voiced his thoughts of entering into a joint venture with the county to tear the buildings down and negotiate special assessments. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

RESOLUTION DENYING REPURCHASE OF TAX FORFEITED LAND

BY IBRAHIM OMEROVIC

WHEREAS, taxation parcel PID #23-0324000, 23-0325000, and 23-0323000, all located in the City of Wheaton, were forfeited for the non-payment of property taxes on August 31, 2016;

WHEREAS, Ibrahim Omerovic, owner of said tax parcels, sought to repurchase said tax parcels;

WHEREAS, M.S.A. §282.241 allows for the repurchase of either nonconservation or conservation nonhomesteaded tax forfeited land within one year of forfeiture by the previous owner, heirs, or other parties with legal interest in the property;

WHEREAS, M.S.A. §282.241 requires the County Board to find that allowing the repurchase corrects an undue hardship or injustice resulting from the forfeiture, or promotes the use of the lands that will best serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, based upon the record before it at the meeting, the Traverse County Board of Commissioners finds the repurchase application does not meet the criteria established in M.S.A. §282.241.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners denies the request for repurchase of tax forfeited parcels #23-0324000, 23-0325000, and 23-0323000 by Ibrahim Omerovic.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of September, 2016.

ATTEST:

Rhonda Antrim, County Coordinator

Sara Gronfeld/Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning- Gronfeld discussed a Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Riverview LLC for the Dollymount Dairy's worker's housing project, a multiple family dwelling unit within the Agricultural District. The meeting was opened to the public for comment. Salberg asked about the total number of workers to be employed at Dollymount Dairy. A representative of Riverview, LLC Brady Janzen replied there will be 45 to 50 workers on site. Rhonda Antrim asked Janzen, on behalf of Social Services, if all of the workers would be legal. Janzen explained that 2/3rd of them would be here on a TN Visa, which is a professional visa. They immigrants are required to be college educated to utilize this visa. The remaining workers would be e-verified and they would take steps to verify the paperwork is legal. Antrim asked if Riverview LLC would be providing medical insurance for all workers and Janzen affirmed that medical insurance would be covered. Antrim had heard concerns from other counties where illegal workers ended up with mental health issues and the county became responsible to pay for their psychiatric and residential care. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the findings presented by the Planning Commission were adopted by the county and the Conditional Use Permit was approved unanimously. Gronfeld presented a screen shot of the state's new online buffer compliance tracking module. The SWCD staff can log in and use the module to verify and track if parcels of land are in compliance with the governor's buffer law requirements. She requested permission to submit the new county parcel data to MN Geo, the state's GIS database for this purpose. By consensus, the Board agreed to share the information to this database and Gronfeld will coordinate the data transfer.

Kit Johnson/Auditor/Treasurer- Johnson distributed a management agreement letter from the Office of the State Auditor for signature. He presented an election update. Absentee voting begins September 23rd. There will be another batch of properties forfeiting at the end of the month. Johnson presented the preliminary 2017 budget, levy history, and an analysis of major funds. In 2012 the state took away the

homestead credit in the amount of \$240,000 and took away County Program Aid (CPA) of \$500,000 in 2005. T. Johnson reiterated the CPA has dropped from 25% of the budget to 2.4% from 2001 to 2015, and is not sustainable for the county. The preliminary levy shows an increase of 17.38%. The net levy, which excludes what was being used from fund balance, is an increase of \$830,852. The County Policy, based on the State Auditor guidelines, states we should keep a fund balance of 5 months of expenditures and be between 35% and 50% of revenues. We are below on both of those measures. If the county uses \$355,000 from fund balance, the levy increase would be 9.95%. Cash balances are also down approximately \$815,000 from last year. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the preliminary net levy was unanimously set at \$5,256,539.39 which is a 9.95% increase over last years.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair