

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Kayla Schmidt. Other Commissioners present were Mark Gail, Jerrel Olson and Chad Metz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Olson stepped out. Gail moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Allen Wold giving an update on the Wind & Solar Committee, Metz second the motion and it was passed 3-0. No conflicts of interest were expressed. The September 19, 2023 Board minutes were approved 3-0 upon a motion by Metz and second by Gail.

Highway Department

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Brian Koch, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie gave an update on the 2024 Crushing Project. The FEMA meeting went well and they are getting all the paperwork sent in. They are working on getting quotes for the cleaning and grubbing on CSAH 15. Commissioner Olson rejoined the meeting. Gillespie handed out the Annual Report ending December 31, 2022 to the Board.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board with a department update. Wright reported that the average jail occupancy for September was 62.15%. Wright introduced Kristen Meyer who started as a Deputy Sheriff October 2, 2023. He also introduced Dominic Jara who came to us from the City of Wheaton Police Department in June and Brody Farmer who has been a Deputy for over a year. Schmidt asked to clarify the rates for boarding the out of County inmates. The rate is \$65.00 and it will be going up to \$75.00 in January 2024.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. Gronfeld reported that the Septic System Program didn't have any new permit applications in September. The 2023 Grant Funding is all allocated. Gronfeld received the notice for Grant Funding from MPCA for the Low-Income Upgrade Grant for 2024 in the amount of \$20,900.00. Gronfeld gave updates on the One Watershed One Plan and the Upper Minnesota River Planning Process. An update was given to the Board on the Pictometry Connect Explorer, she will send out an email to the Board with more information. Gronfeld ended with the Soil and Water Conservation District updates.

County Attorney

County Attorney Matt Franzese, appeared before the Board with the Summary Ordinance for Section 24 and 25 of the Land Use Ordinance that will be published in the paper. The Ordinances were approved at the last meeting. The Summary Ordinance for section 24 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Gail and second by Metz. The Summary Ordinance for section 25 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson. Franzese asked to table Hall's Landing and the ordinance regarding cannabis use and sales in Traverse County until the next meeting.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson was unable to attend the meeting today but he would like the Board to set the Truth In Taxation date which was set for Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Olson and second by Gail the following bills were approved unanimously.

DETCO	\$4,702.17
KELLEN/RYAN – 54K LLC	\$9,945.00
SCHMITZ/TODD	\$10,497.50
TRIPLE S INDUSTRIES LTD	\$3,536.32
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,920.03
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$5,457.11
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	\$4,229.25

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less was 40 totaling \$16,981.99.

Zahl gave the Board an update on the Employee Health Insurance. The Insurance Committee approved moving forward with adding the \$4,000 and \$8050 deductible plans. Zahl also informed the Board that she is working on a MOU for the Unions to change the proof of insurance deductible in order to receive cash-in-lieu to \$8050 which will match the County’s insurance highest deductible plan. Open enrollment for 2024 benefits will begin October 23, 2023.

Allen Wold gave a Wind and Solar Committee update.

County Attorney Matt Franzese discussed a Peddler Ordinance, the Board would like to do the public hearing on November 7, 2023 during their regular Board meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Viking Library, Bois de Sioux, Emergency Services Board and Minnesota Rural Counties. Metz attended two Wind and Solar Committee. Olson gave an update on the Traverse County Working Group.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair