

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Kayla Schmidt. Other Commissioners present were Mark Gail, Dwight Nelson, Jerrel Olson and Chad Metz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the following addition: approval to advertise and fill the Deputy Assessor I vacancy, upon a motion by Gail and second by Olson. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The October 3, 2023, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Gail.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, Traverse County Highway Engineer, and Brian Koch County Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson the final payment for the Courthouse sidewalk of \$1,674.04 was unanimously approved. Upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson the CP 21-01 CSAH 19 and CSAH 16 graveling projects final payment to Wagner Company for \$1,192.45 was approved unanimously. Gillespie went over a few informational items; the Park Committee approved applying for a State Park Road Account Grant to pave the County Road within the County Park and they will be asking for 100% of the construction costs. They received a clearing and grubbing quote for CSAH 15 for 2024. Gillespie asked the Board if they want to see any further information pertaining to potentially adding another motor grader and operator, he explained that it would provide a better service. The Board asked Gillespie to get the Townships opinion since we would bill them for the extra service.

Rainbow Rider

Brenda Britten, Director, appeared before the Board. Britten went over the history of Rainbow Rider and gave an update. Rainbow Rider services 6 Counties and they have 37 buses. In Traverse County this year through September 30 they have provided 4,058 rides.

Traverse County Historical Society

Julieann Froemke and Beverly Erickson appeared before the Board to discuss the 2024 allocation to the Traverse County Historical Society. They haven't been receiving their allocation of \$5,000.00 since 2018 due to a donation that was received. That money is running short due to a significant increase in the insurance along with the building needing some updates. Gail made a motion to allocate \$5,000.00 for 2024, second by Metz, discussion followed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. The Tri-County Coop's tobacco license was approved unanimously for renewal upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson. Johnson explained that the tax forfeited parcels and the sale process has changed in Minnesota. If a property sells for more than what taxes are owed, the money above the amount of taxes goes to the property owner. If it sells for less than the appraised value the county may be liable to make up the difference. NACO, our association, is working on legislation to fix the issue to take the risk off the counties. Johnson explained that we have a few parcels that are currently being forfeited, he recommends forfeiting the parcels but waiting until the legislation get straightened out before selling the parcels. The Board agreed to wait and not sell them in the interim.

County Attorney

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the Board. Franzese will be working on a quick claim deed and Resolution for the manmade road going to the shore at Hall's Landing, naming it a Traverse County road. Franzese handed out a draft copy of the Peddlers and Solicitors Ordinance, the public hearing will be on November 7, 2023.

County Coordinator

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

BRAUN INTERTEC CORPORATION	\$2,049.64
SCHMITZ/TODD	\$5,427.50
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	\$3,119.08
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,235.36
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	\$2,585.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,620.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,827.25
HORMANN/MARK	\$2,000.00
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC.	\$2,067.64
WILKIN COUNTY	\$9,979.90
AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS	\$2,500.00
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$21,167.85
TRAVERSE COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER	\$2,500.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES	\$4,088.08
RURAL MN CEP	\$10,371.29
STEVENS COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER	\$4,288.60
CLIENT SERVICES (TOTAL)	\$17,347.44

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 44 in the amount of \$21,250.10.

Upon a motion by Olson and second by Gail, Commissioner Schmidt was appointed as the delegate to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Planning Policy Committee.

The 2024 – 2025 Natural Resources Block Grant was approved unanimously upon a motion by Gail and second by Metz.

Upon a motion by Gail and second by Nelson approval to advertise and fill the Deputy Assessor I vacancy was unanimously approved.

Gail left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, went over the following general updates; there was a House Legislature Tour of the courthouse because of the State Bonding Request that was submitted for a new Courthouse. There was discussion about a public meeting regarding the courthouse and to get the public's opinions and ideas, the decision was to hold off on the meeting until we have more information regarding the bonding request. The Association of Minnesota Counties, AMC, annual meeting is December 4 – 6, 2024, there was discussion on changing the date of the December 5 Board meeting. Zahl will send out available dates to the Commissioners.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

Nelson attended Primewest and Western Prairie.

Metz attended Rainbow Rider.

Olson attended Agency on Aging.

Schmidt attended the Opioid Meeting, Building Committee and Audit Exit.

Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Kayla Schmidt, Chair