

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Leininger, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board.

Gillespie gave out the draft Snow and Ice Policy that he would like the Board to look over and then approve at the November 5, 2019 meeting. Gillespie informed the Board that they would like to upgrade their lighting to LED for the plow trucks because they will be starting earlier.

Because of the spring floods the Highway Department is currently “floating” approximately \$208,079.02 for the Townships. The 2020 Highway budget has \$168,114.00 going into reserves; this means that if we were to flood again we might not have enough in reserves to cover the cost for the year.

The County Road 76 Bridge might be doing concrete on the pier at the end of the week. The possibility of the bridge being open to the public this year is slim.

Public Hearing for adopting the Zoning Map

The Board held a public hearing for comments regarding adopting a Zoning Map for Traverse County. Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator explained to the Board that Traverse County has an ordinance that talks about the different zoning districts but there is not an official zoning map. The map identifies the Shoreland Zoning districts and the Agricultural Zoning districts. The map also identifies which Townships have their own zoning ordinances, feedlot ordinances or both. Township can do their own zoning but it has to be as restrictive or more than the County. There were no public comments regarding the zoning map. Monson made a motion to approve the zoning map, second by Leininger and approved unanimously.

Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment Appointment

After the second round of advertising the Board has not received any interest from the Public regarding this appointment. The ordinance does not allow the liaison from the County Board to vote, we could change the ordinance so that that person may vote on the Planning Commission. Monson made a motion to hold a public meeting to discuss changing the ordinance to allow the County Commissioner to vote, second by Leininger and discussion followed. Ben Olsen pointed out that the Commissioner could vote on the Planning Commission Board but by State Statute they could not vote on the Board of Adjustment. Leininger said that he would be able to reach out to a few people so he thinks we should wait with changing the ordinance. T. Johnson called for a vote, the motion failed 1 – 4 with Monson in favor.

Zoning

Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, appeared before the Board. Oleson discussed the application from Otter Tail Power Co for the construction of an electric power substation and splitting of land to accommodate the substation. This application requires a conditional use permit for the construction of essential services as per Section 8 of the Traverse County Land Use Ordinance. Per this ordinance it requires the County Board to hold the public hearing which has been scheduled for November 5, 2019 so no action can be taken until that time.

Oleson discussed his contract for 2020, he suggested updating the zoning and subdivision ordinances along with reviewing the comprehensive plan that is in place and updating it if needed. The Planning Commission thinks that reviewing the ordinances and updating as needed would be valuable at this time. Oleson would charge on a per hour basis and the Board could set a maximum amount not to go over. The Board would like to table this discussion until next meeting.

Leininger heard back from Steven Schmidt who would like to sit on the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments for the County. Leininger made the motion to appoint Steven Schmidt, second by Monson and approved unanimously.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer gave a department update.

The tax sale will be held on October 24, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., we had 6 parcels for sale. Part of the process before a tax sale is to send the parcels to the respective cities for review. The City of Tintah is interested in buying 2 out of the 3 parcels in Tintah. They want to buy them and clean them up and then resell them. A motion was made by Leininger to sell the 2 parcels to the City of Tintah for \$50.00 each, second by Monson and approved unanimously. K. Johnson explained that there will be additional costs to the City of Tintah in order to deed the properties into the City of Tintah's name. The tax sale is now down to four parcels.

The new list of 15 forfeiture parcels was sent to the respective cities, the sale is planned for the spring. The City of Browns Valley is interested in buying one of the five Browns Valley properties. There was a motion by Monson, second by Gail and approved unanimously to sell the City of Browns Valley parcel #20-0064000 for \$50.00.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to approve the October 1, 2019, Board minutes, second by Salberg, the minutes were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

CARDMEMBER SERVICE	\$2,700.25
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,717.94
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	\$2,750.12
GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY	\$9,092.19
HORMANN/MARK	\$2,000.00
MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$7,596.00
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$2,839.97
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNE	\$20,057.49

TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$59,051.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$2,715.00
ZUERCHER TECHNOLOGIES LLC	\$41,469.07
LARSON OIL, INC	\$14,749.75
MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	\$9,607.37
TRI COUNTY COOP	\$2,527.64
ZIEGLER, INC.	\$3,505.09

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 85, amounting to \$27,120.81.

The Board has not been able to find anyone to replace the empty seat on the HRA Board. Zahl will put it on the agenda again for the next meeting.

The Board read over the Health Care Access initiative Joint Powers Agreement between Traverse County and PrimeWest Health. There are no concerns at this time from the Board members.

Zahl discussed the Snowmobile Permit and explained that our insurance company Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) will not cover us for assumed liability in a contract such as the Limited Use Permit agreement. MCIT suggested that we have an agreement with the snowmobile clubs with an indemnification provision in the agreement requiring the snowmobile club will defend, indemnify, hold harmless and release the State and Traverse County. And the Snowmobile club's general liability policy needs to include a broad form contractual liability coverage that provides coverage for liability assumed in a contract. The Board would like Zahl to work with County Attorney, Matt Franzese, and the Snowmobile club to put an agreement into place prior to signing the Limited Use Permit Agreement with MNDot.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Todd Johnson, Board Chairman