

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chairman Todd Johnson. Other Commissioners present were Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, Dwight Nelson and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. With the addition of an update on the Grant County contract with the Extension Office, the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson. The minutes from the October 18, 2022 Board meeting were approved unanimously upon motion by Salberg and second by Gail.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, appeared before the Board. Gillespie presented the Board with the design concept for the County Park, parking lot which has been approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the County can move forward with the project. Gillespie attended the Wheaton Active Transportation Plan Meeting and will attend future planning meetings as his schedule allows. Gillespie explained that the City of Wheaton has received funds for planning biking and walking paths. Gillespie is now taking part in weekly FEMA meetings being held to facilitate two-way communications and addressing questions as they come up.

**Law Enforcement Center**

County Sheriff Trevor Wright, appeared before the Board. Wright presented the Board with the jail census which was 34.98% for September which reflects a drop due to staffing restraints. Wright presented the Board with an amendment to the agreement between Traverse County and the City of Browns Valley for Law Enforcement which decreases the cancellation of the contract from 60 days to 30 days so that Browns Valley can discuss the contract further. Schmidt made a motion to approve the amendment, Salberg made a second and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place**

Assistant Executive Director Samantha Gerland appeared before the Board with a quarterly update. Gerland presented the Board with the Income Statement Summary for the month of September 2022. She explained that the revenue was lower because of the census due to staffing issues and the current rates are based on 2020 numbers. Gerland informed the Board that the facility continues to work on employee recruitment.

**Planning and Zoning**

Ben Oleson appeared before the Board with a department update. Oleson presented the Board with an activity report for January 2022 through October 31, 2022. The activity report included permit activity, public hearings, and other Land-Use related activities along with supporting documentation. Oleson presented the Board with the updated Traverse County Land Use Ordinances. The Board agreed to review the updates and vote on their approval at the December 20, 2022, meeting.

**County Attorney**

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the Board with an update on the discussion of imposing a moratorium on animal units in relation to dairy farms in the County. Franzese explained that the Planning Commission met and discussed the possibility of the County passing an interim ordinance prohibiting the expansion of any existing dairy farms animal units and granting any permits for new dairy farms for a year in order for the County to research the impact that it will have on Traverse County. This would only affect future applications. Franzese went on to clarify that to pass an interim ordinance

involving livestock a public meeting is required. The Commissioners set a public hearing for November 30, 2022, at the Wheaton American Legion at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Soil and Water Conservation District**

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. Gronfeld reported that there were no new permit applications for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Program and that the 2022 upgrade grant has limited funds remaining but no new applications. The Wetland Conservation Act is working through the County State Aid Highway 15 Wetland Delineation Report, the map amendments have been received and they are working with the State staff to finalize the Technical Evaluation Panel recommendation. The One Watershed One Plan for the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Plan held a steering committee meeting, and the second grant has been received and is in progress. The Upper Minnesota River Steering and Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting on November 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Clinton MN. SWCD staff was able to attend statewide training, and they are beginning the dormant grass seeding.

#### **County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Salberg and second by Gail the following bills were unanimously approved:

MacQueen Equipment Inc	15,959.30
Traverse County Auditor-Treasurer	15,214.24
True North Steel	11,031.24
Whaley Excavating, Inc.	12,315.00
Ellingson Plumbing, HTG and AC	9,886.05
Horizon Public Health	6,226.50
Morris Electronics	4,085.22

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 27 in the amount of \$13,899.23.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Nelson the Board voted unanimously to approve the Lakes County Services Cooperative 2023 Membership Agreement in the amount of \$310.00. Upon a motion by Gail and a second by Nelson the Traverse Care Center and Prairieview Place lease agreements were approved 4-1 with Schmidt opposed. Zahl informed the Board that she received word from Grant County that they will not be renewing their service agreement with Traverse County for office space and support staff, their service agreement terminates January 18,2023.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

The Commissioners gave updates on the following meetings. Nelson, T. Johnson and Salberg attended the District 4 Association of Minnesota Counties meeting. Salberg attended West Central Community Action, Horizon Public Health, County's Providing Technology, the Juvenile Center and PrimeWest. T. Johnson attended One Watershed One and Rainbow Rider meetings. Schmidt attended the Adult Protection meeting.

Chairperson T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

---

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

---

Todd Johnson, Chairman