

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
November 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting be conducted by telephone or other electronic means during a health pandemic by the governor of the State of Minnesota in Minnesota Statute Chapter 12. Appearing personally are Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, and Kevin Leininger. Mark Gail and Todd Johnson are appearing via Zoom. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave the Board a department update.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and seconded by Leininger the 2021 Wingman Roster was approved unanimously.

Gillespie is seeking approval for the final payment for 078-615-015 2021 to Riley Brothers for \$14,563.75. The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Leininger and seconded by Monson:

Board Resolution

WHEREAS: County project SAP 078-615-015 have in all things been completed, and the county Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED: That we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the county of Traverse and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Gillespie informed the Board that there is potentially extra grant money through the Local Road Improvement Program. Gillespie will be contacting local business and local agencies for letters of support. No matter what road project gets picked it will greatly help the overall system if we would be awarded the grant. The two potential applications are CSAH 6 east of Dumont (Dumont to CSAH 15) and CSAH 20 from HWY 75 to Tintah (already slotted for 2023).

There was a minor water issue at the Recycling Center and Riley Brothers came and fixed it already.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board with a department update.

Sheriff Wright presented the October jail report to the Board, the usage at the jail was 47.52% for the month.

Wright publishes the calls for service that the Law Enforcement Center receives; he has also started to publish the weekly population rate at the jail along with bookings and releases. The jail roster and warrant link has been added as well.

Wright informed the Board that the investigation of Terry McCoy is still ongoing; the lead investigator is still working on the case. Wright asked if the Board would approve a \$5,000.00 reward leading to the arrest and conviction in this case. He is hoping this will help with more leads to investigate. Salberg asked if the BCA would approve, Wright said they are fine with it. Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, checked with MCIT, our insurance carrier, to see if there was anything through insurance and there is not. Leininger asked if County Attorney, Matt Franzese has been asked, he has not. Salberg thinks it will be a good thing as does Gail. Salberg made a motion to give a reward of \$5,000 leading to the arrest and conviction in the Terry McCoy case pending legal counsel advisement, seconded by Leininger and approved unanimously.

Soil & Water Conservation District

District Manager Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update.

Gronfeld informed the Board that there were two new permit applications for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) program. One for a holding tank for a shop and one for the replacement of a system in an agricultural district. There were no grant applications for upgrades and there is currently \$5,600 of unallocated funding for upgrade grants. We have also returned the grant agreement for \$31,000 in available funds for projects in 2021.

There were no new applications for the Wetland Conservation Act.

There was one feedlot inspection completed in October. The feedlot re-registration cycle is due in the spring of 2021, it is an online process.

An amendment to the 2018/2019 Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement was presented to extend expiration of agreement to December 2021. The amendment was approved unanimously upon a motion by Leininger and seconded by Monson.

The draft One Watershed One Plan is under the 60 day review. Comments are due back by November 9 and the County Board will be asked to vote on approving and adopting the plan.

The USDA Service Center remains locked with business by appointment only.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the September 15, 2020 Board minutes, with the correction of noting that Gail was absent due to a fire call, second by Monson, and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Salberg, the following bills were approved unanimously:

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT	\$276,871.71
FLEET SERVICES	\$3,291.74
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,420.00
IND. SCHOOL DIST. #2888	\$16,540.16
IND. SCHOOL DIST. #801	\$40,023.72
IND. SCHOOL DIST. #803	\$152,780.83
IND. SCHOOL DIST. #852	\$15,300.35
RAINBOW RIDER	\$2,200.00
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS	\$45,725.10

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 29, amounting to \$10,872.27.

The CARES Committee did not meet. Their next meeting is planned for November 12, 2020. The final requests will be approved and brought to the Board on November 17, 2020.

Upon a motion by Monson and seconded by T. Johnson, the Social Services Director agreement with Grant County was approved 4-1, with Salberg opposed.

At 9:25 a.m. Monson made a motion to close the Board meeting as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the County's labor negotiation strategy, seconded by Salberg and approved unanimously.

At 9:35 a.m. Monson made a motion to reopen the meeting, seconded by Leininger and approved unanimously.

General updates, Senator Torrey Westrom made a visit on Friday afternoon to the Courthouse to discuss the bonding bill and the current issues with the Courthouse.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman