

Traverses County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
November 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. Other Commissioners present were Todd Johnson, Kayla Schmidt, Tom Monson, and Mark Gail. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Coordinator Lisa Zahl informed the Board that Stanley Gallagher would not be attending, and that Angela Wold requested a spot on the agenda. With those two changes, the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Monson. The minutes from the November 2, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Schmidt. For the public comment period Angela Wold read a letter from her father, Allen Wold who was not able to attend the public comment period. Craig Lichtsinn was in attendance for discussion during the public comment period.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie updated the Board on the progress of crushing and provided a handout to illustrate the project at Murphy's Pit. Gillespie reported that the highway department has 3 years' worth of gravel on hand. Gillespie shared information on a Wheelage Tax and informed the Board that they would need to pass a resolution per Minnesota Statutes and submit it on or before August 1, 2022. Gillespie will provide the Board with more detailed information as it becomes available. Gail had a couple of questions regarding the no hunting signage posted on a parcel of County land, discussion followed.

Fair Board

Jerome Deal appeared before the Board with the annual update and presented the Board with a profit and loss report for the 2021 Traverse County Fair. Deal said that the bingo stand is the last building on the fairgrounds to be renovated, all others have been completed. Among other topics, Deal reminded the Board that the grandstand restrooms have been completely renovated, camping activity has been robust and a new lawnmower lease is being processed. Deal asked the Board for annual county aid in the amount of \$12,500. Upon motion by Monson and second by Gail the motion was passed unanimously.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Joshua Proski, a Minnesota DNR District Appropriation Hydrologist was invited by the Board to present preliminary findings, and the permit process of the Twelve Mile Dairy project. Members of the public and Riverview Dairy Representation were in attendance with questions for Proski and the Board. Among other topics/concerns there was discussion regarding well interference, aquifer regeneration, the testing radius, well monitors, well interference resolution process and well prioritization. Proski said that the study should be completed by late 2021 to early 2022 and depending on the outcome, that is when the permit from the DNR will be approved or denied. Appearing via Zoom was County Zoning Administrator, Ben Oleson. Oleson reminded the Board that they will need to approve or deny the conditional use permit for the Twelve Mile Dairy by the next Board meeting to comply with the 120-day deadline. Commissioner Schmidt read a statement reiterating her commitment to her constituents to not approve a conditional use permit until the final report from the DNR has been presented.

Auditor

Kit Johnson, County Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board with a department update. K. Johnson informed the Board that his office has been processing agricultural property taxes, preparing late notices in effort to limit the amount of penalties for the landowner, and arranging for Truth in Taxation notices to be distributed. K. Johnson was unable to attend the last Wheaton City Council meeting due to a schedule conflict

and has rescheduled for November 23, 2021. K. Johnson will be attending a yearend financial and payroll training in Morris with Counties Providing Technology. K. Johnson reported that the county has an opportunity to refinance the 2012 nursing home bond. Calculations indicate a savings of \$60,000 to \$70,000 over the life of the bond. K. Johnson and Zahl will review the 2 offers and present their findings to the Board. K. Johnson concluded his update with information regarding the American Rescue Plan funds. K. Johnson was in conversation with other County Auditors and found that they have hired consultants to review the expenditures to assure that they meet all the criteria. If an expenditure does not meet the standards that money would need to be paid back. Discussion took place and K. Johnson and Zahl will review options.

County Coordinator

Upon a motion by Gail and second by Schmidt the following bills were approve unanimously:

Cardmember Service	4,250.90
Counties Providing Technology	4,975.41
Gazette Publishing Co	5,397.56
Hometown Planning	2,450.00
Horizon Public Health	6,226.50
Hormann, Mark	2,000.00
Mend Correctional Care, PLLC	2,634.30
MN Stat Auditor	31,023.50
Morris Electronics	2,044.80
West Central Regional Juvenile Ctr	4,377.00
Larson Oil	7,458.80
North Central International, LLC	2,910.1
Ziegler, Inc.	54,074.23

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 52 in the amount of \$18,275.49.

The letter of support for the Broadband Grant through Runestone and Herman Telephone exchange was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson. Sara Gronfeld from SWCD was unable to attend the meeting but asked that the Board grant approval for the Natural Resources Block Grant funding from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail approval was granted unanimously.

Angela Wold

Wold appeared before the Board regarding the Twelve Mile Dairy, Wold said that she would like to have some local safeguards in place to protect the citizens of Traverse County and presented specific examples to the Board.

In final business of the meeting Chairperson Salberg presented a reminder for the AMC Annual Conference being held from December 6-8, 2021 in Bloomington MN. Salberg provided an overview of his District 4 AMC meeting in Fergus Falls, his Western Prairie Human Services and the Soil and Water meeting he attended.

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 11:52.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman