

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, with the addition of discussion around the Traverse Care Center, upon a motion by Monson, and second by T. Johnson.

**Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer-** Haukos presented a department update. They have begun crushing gravel at Murphy's Pit for the second year. He presented available funds through October, which are \$229,739.50. They have begun graveling township roads, and FEMA work from 2011 continues.

**Trevor Wright/Brenda Bartz/Sheriff's Office-** Bartz presented the jail report. They were operating at 91.30% average capacity usage for October. Wright provided an update on the security window. He's consulted construction and electrician specialists and they believed it was out of their realm of expertise, so a special security company will need to fix it. The FOB system is also not working and a quote from the security system company in Wisconsin is \$3,700.00 to come and look at it. Wright revisited a preventative maintenance contract for the jail. It should be cost-effective in the long run. It is \$3,263.00 per year. Wright explained they have special revenue that they have received that was not in the budget and that should cover the cost. If they would find something, then Traverse would pay only the parts. Monson is in favor of preventative maintenance. Leininger discussed the special unbudgeted revenue and that doesn't mean it should be spent just because we have it and it wasn't planned. With the levy increase and budget increases, something is going to have to be done. Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg, the preventative maintenance contract was approved 4-1, with Leininger opposed. Wright read the latest press releases from the BCA regarding the shooting in Traverse County. Leininger asked about the advertisement in the Gazette for another Communications Officer. Wright explained the difficulty with finding and retaining staff. There was a meeting with the Personnel Committee to discuss some options and hopefully there will be a solution in the near future.

**Sara Gronfeld/Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning-** Gronfeld has been working on certifications for the tax forfeiture parcels. She's been reviewing a new plat and attending training.

**David Coudron /Advantenon, Inc.-** Mr. Coudron presented an overview of the presentation he gave in Traverse County on October 19<sup>th</sup> regarding wireless internet. They compete nicely against wire services. Traverse County would require seven to eight towers to cover the entire county. He discussed the existing tower options as well, which cut down the overall costs and time. Reliability and speed is also competitive. Salberg asked about grants and the legislature and whether they're lobbying for providing funding for wireless options. They haven't advocated too much as the larger companies are emphasizing a lot of efforts in keeping it Border to Border for fiber. He doesn't see that as feasible for the entire state anyway, as \$35M which is what the legislature budgeted, is enough to provide fiber for one county if that. He discussed Goggle stopping their fiber program at this time. There is a good chance of seeing more hybrid options but believes wireless is becoming more attractive. Technology is changing faster and the fiber expense isn't needed as much today and probably won't be needed as much in 20 years. It's inexpensive to switch out wireless technology as the technology improves as well. The speeds they will offer would carry subscribers up to seven years into the future without updates needed. Monson asked about how much money would need to be fronted of the \$800,000.00 quoted, in order to begin

the project. Coudron recommended doing it county-wide right away. Monson asked about start-up funding and if the county would get that back at some point. Coudron said they are open to any arrangement. Leininger discussed that this would benefit the rural and it could be going by spring if the county contributes to it. Financial assistance would be needed to buy the capital equipment and the hardware costs to go on to the towers upfront. The estimated project costs for the county would be approximately one-fourth of the total project, or approximately \$200,000.00. Coudron will put together a formal proposal for funding.

**Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator**- The minutes from October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, were approved unanimously, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson. The following bills were approved unanimously, upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson:

Deere & Company	11,773.32
Minnesota Department of Administration	3,102.42
MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRUST	2,600.00
ZUERCHER TECHNOLOGIES LLC	26,013.49
DIAMOND VOGEL PAINTS	3,945.35
WHALEY EXCAVATING, INC.	15,000.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 42, amounting to \$14793.30. Kit Johnson presented an analysis on the bond payments and the lease payments for the Traverse Care Center (TCC). There is ten years left on one bond and thirteen years left on the other one. A monthly lease amount was discussed as well as possible lease terms. Antrim was directed to draft a memo to the Administration of the TCC with the county's offer. The lease expires at the end of November, 2016.

Attested to by:

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Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

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Kevin Leininger/Commission Chair