

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg and Mark Gail. Tom Monson and Kevin Leininger were absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Gail, the agenda was approved unanimously (3-0) with the following additions: opioid litigation; automatic operator replacement for new door; heater in A/T office; and approval to accept weed management grant if awarded.

**Highway Department**

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

Gillespie updated the Board on current projects. They are working on permitting for CSAH 16 Box Culvert (Bridge 78J32). They are also working on plan and proposal for CSAH 15 (from CSAH6 to CSAH 4) and MSAH 105 in Browns Valley. The Co Rd 76 Bridge project; they poured pier cap yesterday and the company is going to continue to work throughout the winter on what they can.

On Thursday the Highway Department will be meeting with an Engineer from Moore Engineering about the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Redpath Impoundment and Co Rd 91.

Gillespie said that they are continuing to double check county wide bridge inventory for township and county.

**Traverse County Fair Board**

Jerry Deal appeared before the Board for the annual Fair report. Over the past year the County Fair lost money but it was mainly due to the construction projects that were done. The biggest project was the bathrooms which cost 20% more than what was projected because of issues that came up during the construction. Other projects that were completed were the south side of the grand stand and the child education building. A loan was taken out and the payments will be around \$10,000 per year. The only projects left are the pink building and the bingo stand. Deal requested that the Board would consider changing their contribution back to \$15,000 from \$10,000 which they contributed in 2019.

**Auditor/Treasurer**

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer gave a department update.

The County received the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust dividend. We received two checks, one for \$53,933.00 of which a little over \$44,000.00 attributed to workman's comp and a little over \$9,000.00 attributed to property/casualty. We also received a check for \$162.00 for the Traverse County HRA.

Counties Providing Technology will be giving Traverse County a dividend of \$50,000.00.

At the next meeting Todd Johnson would like to talk about having the fund allocation for Solid Waste and Veterans Service revisited.

### **Bois de Sioux Watershed District**

Jamie Beyer, Administrator, and Chad Engels, Chief Engineer, appeared before the Board to give an update on the Judicial Ditch (JD) #11 project which is projected to start in 2020. JD #11 runs along Highway 75 and across Highway 55 and into the Bois de Sioux River so it involves land owners in both Traverse and Wilken County. This project has benefits not only for landowners but also for clean water as it outlets directly into the Bois de Sioux River. Engels explained the history and explained to the Board that Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BDSWD) will hold a public hearing on December 19 to discuss the redetermination of benefits and repair project. They have applied for two grants through the State of Minnesota and one through BDSWD. Beyer plans to get a subcommittee together with two Commissioners from both Traverse and Wilkin County to go over the details.

### **County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the November 5, 2019, Board minutes, second by Gail, the minutes were approved unanimously (3-0). Upon a motion by Gail and second by Salberg, the following bills were approved unanimously (3-0):

CARDMEMBER SERVICE	\$2,638.47
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,696.38
ELLINGSON PLUMBING, HTG & AC	\$10,500.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,226.50
HORMANN, MARK	\$2,000.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$4,981.00
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$2,646.61
WAHPETON GLASS & PAINT, INC.	\$4,849.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	\$2,715.00
MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	\$3,937.42
ZIEGLER, INC.	\$4,447.96

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 49, amounting to \$19,041.20.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Gail the 2020-2021 Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) union contract was approved unanimously (3-0).

Gail has someone that is interested in sitting on the HRA Board and will get his letter of interest into Zahl before the next meeting.

Zahl informed the Board that both Big Stone Lake Sno-Rider Trails and Low Plains Drifters Snowmobile Club have been contacted and both clubs will add the County of Traverse and State of Minnesota as additional insureds to their Liability insurance and get us a copy before the December 3, 2019 meeting so the Board should be able to approve the Limited Use Permit and Resolution.

Because of the IRS rules that are associated with donating leave to other employees, the Policy Committee has revised our Sick Leave Benefit policy. If we don't follow the IRS rules the

donating employee will be taxed on their sick leave donations. Policy #307 Sick Leave Benefits was revised by removing the donation section and policy #308 Sick Leave Donations was added. Both policies were approved unanimously (3-0) upon a motion by Gail and second by Salberg.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Gail Policy #900 Animals in County Buildings was approved unanimously (3-0), this policy allows only service animals in all County buildings.

Traverse County received notice that counties and cities across the country have sued manufactures, distributors, and retailers of prescription opiate drugs seeking, among other things, reimbursement for monies spent addressing the opioid crisis. All federal actions have been centralized into one court in Ohio named Nation Prescription Opiate Litigation. Upon a motion by Salberg, second by Gail and approved unanimously (3-0), Traverse County will opt-in and stay in the class. Zahl informed the Board that Olafson Consulting approached Traverse County asking to speak with the Board regarding representation for this opiate litigation. He was unable to attend today's meeting but would be willing to come to a future meeting, the consensus of the Board was to deny the request.

Traverse County received a bid from Wahpeton Glass and Paint in the amount of \$2,879.00 for a new handicap automatic operator for the new door that was installed in the handicap entrance. The current automatic operator still functions but the company that installed the door said that it is leaking fluid and will stop working at some point. It was the consensus of the Board to wait until it isn't working to replace it.

The furnace in the Auditor/Treasurers office is not functioning correctly and needs a replacement heat exchanger. Ellingson's Plumbing and Heating does not recommend fixing it, they would recommend replacing the 20 year old furnace. Zahl will wait for the quotes and bring them both to the Board.

The Soil and Water District and John Fridgen, Traverse County Agriculture Inspector, are applying for a Weed Management Grant. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Gail the Board unanimously approved to accept the Weed Management Grant if awarded.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Todd Johnson, Board Chairman