

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
December 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present were Kevin Leininger, Tom Monson, Dave Salberg, and Todd Johnson. 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. Members of the public are appearing via Zoom. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor, appeared before the Board with a Department update.

The Highway budget was updated per comments from the Truth In Taxation meeting. Gillespie took the pickup out from the updated budget.

Gillespie updated the Board on the 2019 Spring Flood. We have received \$382,069.57, we are expecting to receive \$9,572.59 soon and we are waiting on \$368,783.73. Gillespie let the Board know that the employees at the highway department did a great job with paperwork and everything should be closed out soon. Leininger said that he is impressed because we usually are waiting years for FEMA payments. K. Johnson said that he has heard good things from the Townships about the Highway Department doing the FEMA work for them.

County Fair

Jerry Deal, Fair Board Member, appeared before the Board for an end of the year update.

They did not lose money this year, with special donations and the County contribution they ended up making a couple hundred dollars. They have updated the bathrooms and most of the buildings; they are finishing updating the 1911 building. Deal said that they are looking at updating the bingo stand, this is the last building that needs updating. Deal asked that the Board leave the donation the same as it was in 2020 at \$12,500 for 2021, Monson made this motion, seconded by Leininger and approved unanimously.

Auditor/Treasurer

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board with a department update.

The audit exit interview is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. The tax settlement was done and money has been paid out to the schools, cities, townships, watershed, etc. This year we had 27 confessions of judgement, this is a payment plan for those that have not paid their taxes, this is their last option to pay their delinquent taxes and keep their property. K. Johnson is working on forfeiting some additional tax parcel, the sale will be in the spring sometime. There are less than 10 up for forfeiture.

After the Truth in Taxation meeting the levy was brought down to a 3.2% increase over 2020 which is a levy of \$6,012,816.59. Monson would like to hold off setting the levy until the wages are settled. K. Johnson said that the wage negotiations will go into the New Year and we need to set the levy by the end of December. Leininger made a motion to set the levy at \$6,015,716.59 a 3.25% increase over 2020, seconded by T. Johnson passed with a 4-1 vote, Monson opposed.

Leininger left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

County Coordinator

A motion was made by Monson to approve the December 1 and December 10, 2020, Board minutes, with a second by Salberg and approved 4-0. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the following bills were approved 4-0:

BAKER TILLY MUNICIPAL ADVISORS, LLC	\$12,800.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	\$3,260.32
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,857.37
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC	\$7,222.04
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	\$2,144.97
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,420.00
HORMANN, MARK	\$2,000.00
MEND CORECTIONAL CARE, PLLC	\$2,597.64
MINNESOTA COUNTIES COMPUTER COOPERATION	\$3,102.49
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	\$18,813.99
LARSON OIL, INC	\$6,635.50
MAIN STREET MOTORS	\$2,596.20
TRUE NORTH STEEL	\$8,126.00
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$3,680.90

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 62, amounting to \$24,392.97.

Upon a motion by T. Johnson and seconded by Monson the following resolution was approved 4-0:

Resolution to Approve the Submittal of the Bois de Sioux - Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Whereas, Traverse County is a member of the Bois de Sioux - Mustinka Policy Committee per Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); and

Whereas, Traverse County has been an active participant in the development of the Bois de Sioux - Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (the Plan); and

Whereas, the Plan encompasses the priorities of Traverse County within the Bois de Sioux - Mustinka watersheds; and

Whereas, Traverse County is committed to following through with the goals and objectives of the Plan;

Whereas, the MOA states individual member Local Government Units must make a recommendation to the Policy Committee that the Plan be submitted for state approval; and

Now; Therefore, be it Resolved, Traverse County recommend the Policy Committee of the Bois de Sioux - Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan submit the Plan for State approval.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Traverse Soil & Water Conservation District

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by Traverse County at a duly authorized meeting therefore held on the 15th of December, 2020.

Traverse County - Board Chairperson

Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by T. Johnson the 2021 contract for Planning and Zoning Services with Hometown Planning, LLC was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Upon a motion by Salberg and seconded by T. Johnson the 2021 contract for Recycling with Hormann Recycling was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Upon a motion by Monson and seconded by Salberg the updated Traverse County Phased Preparedness Plan was approved on a 4-0 vote. It was noted that Traverse County Social Services will open their front lobby in the near future however it will still be appointment only until further notice. T. Johnson made a reference to the face mask requirement in the plan and that the Board requires anyone who enters the County facilities to wear a mask. The Board has made accommodations to attend Board meetings via Zoom back in March until the Public Health Emergency is over.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, explained that the Personnel Committee had a meeting yesterday with some of the non-union employees to go over the wage study. Trevor Wright, Sheriff, Dustin Kindelberger, Veterans Services Officer, Solid Waste Manager, Safety Director, and Dianne Reinart, Assessor, all spoke to the Board about their concerns with the wage study that was done and how the Commissioners would like to implement it. Chad Gillespie, Engineer and LeAnn Peyton, Recorder, were also in attendance for the conversation. The study showed that the County is 6.97% below market for starting, 10.9% below the midpoint, and 12.47% below the maximum for wages and how it will be implemented doesn't give consideration to years of service for our current employees who have been here for years. The Personnel Committee is planning to meet individually with any non-union employees who are interested on Thursday to discuss the wage study and how it affects them. The Personnel Committee would like to plan a Special Board meeting to discuss and approve the wage increase for non-union and elected officials next Tuesday, December 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Board Chairman