

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
December 1, 2015
9:00 AM

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, and Todd Johnson. Mark Gail joined the meeting later. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously, upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson.

Larry Haukos/Highway Engineer- Haukos provided a department update, discussing engineering and administrative activities, as well as future planned activities. Leininger asked about the status of CSAH 5. There will be some chip sealing in the future, which should resolve most issues on that road. The base is intact but it will go on the list for mill and overlay.

Sara Gronfeld/Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning- There were three land use permits issued in November. Traverse will receive about \$28,000.00 in grants for subsurface sewage treatment system program for 2016. She is investigating a possible wetland violation. They held a local water planning meeting in early November. They discussed the Pictometry flight, abandoned well sealing, and provided some education. There was Minnesota Pollution Control Agency feedlot letter sent out. Gronfeld will be working with the County Attorney regarding a resolution for an extension on an issue with the Board of Adjustment.

Trevor Wright/Sheriff- Wright discussed the proposed Browns Valley contract for policing. He compared the proposal with how Grant County does it, using the loaded wage of a deputy on a per hour basis, which is \$45.22. \$140,000.00 would cover the current hours of coverage plus the vehicle. They are considering a three year contract. T. Johnson made a motion to accept the proposal and Monson seconded it. Leininger questioned the original request from Browns Valley to increase coverage and now they aren't. The motion passed unanimously. Wright then discussed some technical issues with their security system. They haven't had any software updates since it was built. This will require the entity to come in and update the software. He has a bid of \$12,000.00 from an entity in Wisconsin. He hasn't used his Capital Outlay this year, so he does have it in the budget. Wright discussed he is currently under budget by approximately \$84,000.00 in 2015. He proposed pre-paying the nursing contract for 2016, which was about \$29,000.00, thus reducing his 2016 budget. Salberg said it would lower the levy another ½ of percent. It would address the issues around the jail inspection report as well. Salberg made a motion to pre-pay the contract and Monson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Wright distributed a letter nominating Kalai Brink for a life-saving award, for her response to the accident with Brian Koch. She won the award and will be honored at the Sheriff's conference. Leininger referenced the Browns Valley contract again, asking now with the proposed contract which would provide the same level of service, whether we really need the new deputy. As long as there are no additional hours down there, is it needed? Wright explained that the deputy was not just for Browns Valley. The addition was to get the office back to full staff, from when Brion Plautz did not replace his position. Adding the deputy will allow them to provide more around the clock coverage. Monson asked if it would reduce the overtime hours and Wright said it would. Wright said the good faith negotiation with Browns Valley also included adding the deputy.

Stacy Hennen/Grant County Director of Social Service- Hennen discussed the history of our child protection contract between Grant County and Traverse County Social Services. The contract has been in place since 2012. In 2015 they increased the contract from intake and assessment to adding all child protection case management. She discussed the training requirements, supervision, timelines, etc. They have performed three adoptions this past year for Traverse County. They will be adding a pre-placement screening team in 2016, which will be used to discuss all kids in placement and strategizing how to best meet their needs. Sometimes it results in getting them home sooner. The child protection volume increased approximately 20% over last year. Some of the change is due to the new requirements. The screening guidelines went from 6 pages to 60 pages and are now mandated, resulting in more cases being screened in. There is also a requirement for a multi-disciplinary screening team. Intakes and screenings take about an hour. Placement cases require a great amount of time, which out of home placements in Traverse have significantly increased. They have far exceeded the 60 hours per month that was originally contracted for. In 2016 there is a requirement coming into play requiring 24/7 screening. This is problematic for small counties. Hennen has been in discussion with DHS about the challenge this poses. There is an expectation it will begin in 2017, with 2016 being a year to help define it in the legislation and seek funding for it. Hennen explained the new child protection dollars, which included a 20% withhold for performance. As of third quarter 2015, Traverse was meeting the performance requirements to receive the additional dollars. In addition, the withhold that would otherwise go to all counties, will be split between those who met the performance requirements. Hennen requested an increase in the staff time contract from two days per week to three days per week. The increase would be \$21,379.76. If Traverse were to provide this service, Hennen speculated it would require hiring a supervisor and an additional 2 staff. Antrim added that Grant County also assists us with courtesy case management for Special Needs Basic Care and Complex Case Management through Prime West. The total contract would be \$74,130.89 for 2016. Monson made a motion to approve the 2016 contract with Grant County and Salberg seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator- The minutes from November 17, 2015, were approved unanimously, upon a motion by Gail and second by T. Johnson. The following bills were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail:

Anderson Law Office, PA	3,000.00
FRANZESE/MATTHEW	2,699.00
HANCOCK CONCRETE PRODUCTS CO., INC.	3,573.60
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	2,449.58

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000.00 or less were 31, amounting to \$18,530.19. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, salaries for commissioners will remain the same for 2016 as 2015, and per diems will increase from \$65.00 to \$75.00. The motion passed 4-1 with Leininger opposed. Monson explained he recommended the increase in per diems to accommodate those days where they have two meetings in one day and can only collect one per diem. Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson, 2016 salaries for Elected Officials were approved unanimously, as follows:

Auditor/Treasurer- \$67,150.08
Recorder- \$58,109.04

Sheriff- \$73, 184.40

The County Attorney will be step 2 of pay grade 25, pro-rated at 35 hours per week. The annual salary would then be \$64,036.35. There was also some discussion around the performance of the County Attorney and his timeliness of completing requests. Upon a motion by T. Johnson and second by Gail, the 2016-2017 Cooperative Agreement for Child Support was approved unanimously. By consensus, the Rural MN Cep contract for 2016 was affirmed, as originally approved during the October Social Service meeting. There was some discussion regarding the Minnesota Rural County Caucus position on taxation of auto parts. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, it was adopted unanimously. Antrim informed the Board of some training provided by Lakes Country Service Cooperative on Clear Cost Health, which teaches you how to compare and negotiate health care expenses with providers.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair