

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
December 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Todd Johnson. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Mark Gail, and Kevin Leininger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson, the agenda was approved unanimously.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor, presented the department update.

Gillespie informed the Board that Towmaster will start their new truck on August 29, 2020 but there is no delivery date yet. Salberg discussed the possibility of paying for half the truck in 2020 and half in 2021, Gillespie would like to pay it all in 2020. That discussion will be held off until a delivery date is known.

Gillespie went over the cold weather protection plan with the contractor working on the County Road 76 Bridge project. They poured the west abutment on November 27 and they are hoping to keep working throughout the winter.

**US Census Bureau**

Vicki Clayton, West Central MN Partnership Specialist, appeared before the Board. The census happens every 10 years. Nationally, 675 billion dollars is apportioned each year for the next ten years. Making sure that all Traverse County residents (citizens or non-citizens) get counted is very important. Federal programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, school lunch, highway planning and construction, Pell Grants, and special services to the schools depends upon an annual piece of the \$675 billion dollar allocation. Minnesota is within 8,000 people from losing a district seat for the House of Representatives, going from 8 to 7 districts.

Mid-March every resident will receive a postcard with a unique number on it in the mail, if you have a physical address, or someone will hand deliver to each residence with a post office box. Residents can call to request a copy of the census be mailed to them if they do not have the ability to complete the census online. The census is short and will ask if you own or rent, how many people live with you, and a telephone number in case there are any questions. For each member of the household you will need to fill out their name, gender, date of birth, and race. Traverse County residents that fly south for the winter need to know that they should fill out the census with their Minnesota information if they live in Minnesota at least 6 months and 1 day out of the year.

In 2000 Browns Valley had a response rate of 78% and in 2010 it went down to 67%. Folsom Township, in 2000 had a 40% response rate and in 2010 it was 36%. We need to get the word out so that our residents get counted. For every person that isn't counted we lose \$1,600.00.

The census is currently hiring Census Takers in Traverse County for \$19.00 per hour plus mileage. To apply go online at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

### **Law Enforcement**

Trevor Wright, Sheriff, appeared before the Board and gave the jail update.

The usage for the month of November was 72%.

911 system was installed in November, the testing is done and they are set to put it into place on January 15, 2020.

### **Soil and Water Conservation District**

Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update.

An application was submitted for a Weed Management Grant with John Fridgen. The overall compliance rate for buffers is 94%.

No new permit applications for the subsurface sewage treatment system, grant funds are still available.

There have been three inspections completed for the Feedlot Program.

### **Emergency Management**

Lynn Siegel has not received the EMPG grant, she will appear before the Board when she receives it.

### **Horizon Public Health**

Ann Stehn, Administrator, appeared before the Board. Stehn is seeking approval for the Amended Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership Joint Powers Agreement. Traverse County has been a part of this since 2007 along with 20 other counties. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson the joint powers agreement was approved unanimously.

### **County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Salberg to approve the November 19, 2019 Board minutes, seconded by Gail, the minutes were approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Leininger and second by Monson, the following bills were approved unanimously:

COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	\$3,016.30
LARSON OIL, INC	\$12,868.45
ANDERSON LAW OFFICE, PA	\$3,077.50
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,858.55
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,350.00
RAINBOW RIDER	\$2,016.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 41, amounting to \$16,335.34.

We received the certificate of liability insurance from both Big Stone Lake Sno Riders and Low Plains Drifters Snowmobile clubs that list both Traverse County and the State of Minnesota as additional insured. Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Leininger, the Board unanimously approved the Limited Use Permit to use the area within the right of way for the snowmobile trails along with the following resolution:

COUNTY OF TRAVERSE  
RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that the County of Traverse enter into Limited Use Permit No. 7800-0002 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for maintenance and use by the county of Traverse upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 75, 0, 9, 27 the limits of which are defined in said Limited Use Permit.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve said Limited Use Permit and authorizes and directs the County Board Chairperson to execute, on behalf of the County of Traverse, the aforesaid Limited Use Permit.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above Resolution is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Traverse County Board of Commissioner at an authorized meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

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Chairperson of Traverse County, Minnesota.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Leininger the Board unanimously approved the Second Amended and Restated Health Care Access Initiative Joint Powers Agreement.

Upon a motion by Salberg and second by Monson the Traverse County Grant Agreement with Safe Families for Children was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson the Restated Joint Powers Agreement Region 4 South Mental Health Consortium was approved unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the allocation of funds for Solid Waste and Veteran's Services, T. Johnson is in favor keeping the allocation at 50/50 and not changing it to 100% that was approved earlier by the Board. Monson asked about the allocation of time that is spent in each department and Dustin Kindelberger, Veterans Services Officer/Solid Waste/Safety Officer, said that most of their time is spent doing Veterans Services. Kindelberger said that we increased the solid waste fee up from \$25 to \$35 but if the allocation remains 50/50 the solid waste will run out of money. Salberg would like to leave it alone right now and discuss it when working on the budget.

Waiting for a replacement quote from Ellingson's for the heater in the Auditor/Treasurers office.

HRA Board member appointment will be discussed at the next meeting; we are waiting for a letter of interest.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by Salberg a 2.25% increase and applicable step increase, as listed in attachment A, were approved unanimously for the elected and non-union employees.

T. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Todd Johnson, Board Chairman