

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
December 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Thomas Monson Jr., Todd Johnson and Mark Gail. Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson was the acting clerk of the board for the meeting. The pledge was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Roger Schmidt-** Schmidt presented/discussed handouts that show Traverse County as having the least population per deputy as compared to Grant, Stevens, Big Stone, and Wilkin Counties. Schmidt also discussed the Browns Valley contract.

**Trevor Wright-** Wright discussed recent cuts he has made to the sheriff, jail, and dispatch budgets. Wright talked about the Browns Valley contract and about the benefits the additional deputy in his budget would provide. Commissioner Salberg discussed the new revenue options for the jail and how he has talked to City of Wheaton officials and they have no interest in contracting with the county for law enforcement. Wright discussed how it would be hard to retain a part-time deputy and the costs involved. Commissioner Johnson discussed the Browns Valley Contract and how he supports the extra deputy as it relates to the contract. Commissioner Gail asked about the history of the staffing levels in the sheriff department and how we could manage in the past with less staff. Wright explained how in the past Browns Valley had their own department and how caseloads have increased. Wright discussed how recent contract changes that he has no control over including holiday pay and the expansion of shift differential have increased his budgets. Commissioner Johnson talked about the economic benefit of keeping the levy as low as we can. Commissioner Gail discussed how he prefers seeing added jail revenues before adding an additional deputy. Wright explained that any new deputy hired wouldn't start until February, providing one month of potential savings in the 2016 budget. Commissioner Monson asked what might happen if the Browns Valley contract isn't renewed after three years and are we prepared to reduce staff to keep expenditures in line with lost revenues. Wright explained how we would want to look at caseloads and crime trends when making decisions at that time.

Commissioner Salberg made a motion to pass the levy, a 4% increase over the prior year, and budget as presented (see attached). Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Leininger.

Attested to by

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Kit Johnson/County Auditor-Treasurer

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Kevin Leininger/Board Chair