

Traverse County Commission
Truth and Taxation Meeting
December 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Kevin Leininger. Other commissioners present included Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, and Todd Johnson. Tom Monson was absent. The pledge was recited.

Leininger addressed the meeting rules. Kit Johnson went through a hand out comparing 2016 to 2017 levy summaries. As of today we're at 5.12% levy increase over 2016. Johnson discussed the various items that impact the levy, such as individual valuations, referendums, legislative mandates and aides can change, classes can change. There is not a general statement that applies to all properties. Generally ag values dropped 22%. Traverse valuations were approximately 92% ag so when ag values drop the taxes shift to commercial, seasonal recreation, and residential.

The meeting was opened up for questions. Steve Boehmlehner asked about his valuation, why it went down 20% but taxes payable went up 9%. Johnson would need to look at the situation in totality to give an answer. Questions were raised about social services expenditures. Antrim explained the increased legislative requirements, out of home placements, as well as HRA section 8 vouchers. People move here to secure a voucher that subsidizes their rent, then stay for one year and move. HRA is a Federal program and not managed within social services. There are also a lot of cost shifts and unfunded mandates at the state level as well.

There was discussion around county program aide and how to get the legislature to respond. Johnson said in eight years the county levy has only increased approximately \$13,000.00.

Jim Smoger asked how Dollymount Dairy would be classified. Johnson said that would be a question for the Assessor. Armon Karsky asked a question about how Dollymount would impact the overall valuation to the county. Smoger estimated the total value was about \$35M. Johnson said it will help but when spread across the county it won't be too significant.

Leininger discussed the decrease in daily board revenue for the jail due to a majority of the prisoners being Traverse County inmates.

Karsky commented that it comes down the voters. A message needs to be sent to the legislature.

Darwin Anderson commented it's disgusting to see everyone get raises and taxes going up, yet farmer's livings are going down. Leininger discussed the union issues associated benefits.

Joe Murphy asked about social service costs from 2013 to 2015 going up \$200K whether we anticipate that to continue. Antrim explained the various issues and the unpredictability of client needs in chemical dependency, mental health, out of home placements and other child protection situations. She discussed caseloads, MNSure, and staffing. Traverse County cannot sustain further increases.

Attested to by:

Rhonda Antrim/County Coordinator

Kevin Leininger/Board Chair