

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:32. The pledge of allegiance was recited. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to the Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means during a health pandemic by the governor of the State of Minnesota Statute Chapter 12. Appearing personally are Dave Salberg, Mark Gail, Tom Monson, Kayla Schmidt, and Todd Johnson. Attending via Zoom are Ben Oleson, Shawn Dobberstein, Kathi Kremer and Trevor Wright. The following additions were made to the agenda; Lynn Siegel to present update on EMPG Grant Agreement, and Search and Rescue Training also added was Kayla Schmidt to present an update on the Law Library. With these additions the agenda was unanimously approved upon motion by Gail and second by Monson.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board. Gillespie provided the Board with a department update.

Gillespie asked the Board to approve a Nuisance Beaver Policy so they can proceed to pay trappers to eliminate the problem pest as needed from Highway Department designated location(s). Upon motion by Schmidt and second by Gail the request was approved unanimously.

Gillespie informed the Board that his Department intends to add crushed concrete to frost boil damaged areas. Gillespie provided John Fridgen, County Agricultural Inspector, with a map of trees in county ditches that need spraying. The board was informed of repair work planned for county road 93 and that the party responsible for the damage will be charged accordingly. Schmidt asked if the department had received complaints from Leondardsville Township regarding road conditions, discussion followed with past approaches to road grading issues and possible solutions for the future. Gillespie said there used to be training available but presently he cannot access anyone to provide the training, options were discussed. Gillespie followed up on Monson's request to research options to paint the bridge in Browns Valley with discussion following, there was no action taken. Gillespie informed the Board that he has received approval to pave to the end of existing pavement on the Lake Valley Road under the grant amount. He also informed the Board that he took part in a Recovery Transition meeting with FEMA which will transfer communications from national to state.

**Bois de Sioux Watershed District**

Jamie Beyer appeared before the Board to update the progress on the Redpath Impoundment Project. The design and permitting process is near completion and construction will begin in 2022. She reported that this project will be financed by Red River Water Management Board. She asked for a Resolution in Support of the Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project. Upon motion by Monson and second by Schmidt the following resolution was passed unanimously:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE**

**REDPATH IMPOUNDMENT & MUSTINKA RIVER REHABILITATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board (the "District") has established the Redpath Impoundment & Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Mustinka River (JD #14) has insufficient capacity to convey flood flows during the spring snowmelt. This inadequate capacity, combined with snow blockages, cause massive backups of flood water and significant breakouts, contributing to peak flows along the Rabbit and Mustinka Rivers, overtopping roads, washing out bridges and culverts, eroding fields, and threatening rural homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project will provide 19,000 acre-feet of temporary flood storage to reduce both river flows and flood volumes: Mustinka River flows will decrease by 75% for the 25-year 10-day snowmelt events, and 24% for the 100-year snowmelt events, and store the equivalent of 2.0 inches of runoff from the 202 square mile contributing area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project will eliminate Mustinka River breakout flows in the vicinity of the Project, reducing flood risk on the Rabbit River, Bois de Sioux River, and Red River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project includes the rehabilitation of five miles of the Mustinka River, re-meandering a portion of the straightened channel and adding wetlands, creating significant fish and wildlife habitat enhancements to the Project area, and improving water quality for downstream Lake Traverse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project has been found by the District to promote the public interest and welfare, and is included with the District's Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to directly address the Plan's Altered Hydrology, Unstable Channels, Sediment, Public Flooding, Private Flooding, Ditch System Instability, and Ditch System Inadequacy Goals and indirectly address the Plan's Nutrient Loading Goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Traverse County Commissioners recognize that the Project promotes the public interest and welfare and hereby provide its support of the Project.

Upon voting, the Chair declared this Resolution adopted.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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Chairman Salberg

*Attest:*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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Traverse County Coordinator

Beyer also provided the Board with the BSWD Annual Report.

**Kenny Hanson**

Hanson was not present, Salberg tabled this item of business.

**Zoning**

Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, appeared before the Board seeking a conditional use permit for an addition Shawn Dobberstein is building on his lake home on Lake Traverse. The permit is requested to elevate the structure onto a crawl space. Oleson met with the Planning Committee the prior week and they recommended approval. Monson made a motion to approve the conditional use permit with the conditions and the findings of facts as were recommended by the Planning commission/Board of Adjustments under the condition that all DNR requirements are met, seconded by Schmidt and approved unanimously.

**Auditor/Treasurer**

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board to provide a department update. K. Johnson said his office has been busy processing property taxes. K. Johnson has prepared a couple of abstracts per the request of state tax authorities. One was for Prism (Property Record Information System of Minnesota) Prism lets counties easily and securely send more detailed information. The state uses the data to calculate aid for local governments, track how the property tax system is working and analyze how proposed changes would affect it. The other abstract was prepared for PTR(Property Tax Refund), County Auditors prepare property tax information and relay it to the state to accommodate requests for property tax refunds. K. Johnson informed the Board that the City of Wheaton would like to purchase three tax forfeited properties, upon motion by Monson and second by Gail the request was granted with unanimous consent. Dollar General representation contacted the Auditors office requesting a tobacco license, it was determined that Folsom Township will be the licensing agent. Delinquent Tax Listing was published and filed with the Courts. An Expiration of Redemption list was made, this is the first step in collecting delinquent property taxes before forfeiture.

**County Coordinator**

A motion was made by Monson to approve the April 6,2021 board minutes, with a second by Gail the motion was approved unanimously. The following bills were approved unanimously with a motion by Gail and second by Monson.

TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	9,886.20
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	2,670.63
Counties Providing Technology	5,025.41
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	4,306.04
HORMANN/MARK	2,000.00
MEnd Correctional Care, PLLC	2,634.30
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	3,368.85
Tritech Software Systems (CentralSquare)	2,881.12
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTI	3,044.00
WEX Bank	2,445.16

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 65, amounting to \$22,270.71

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, brought before the Board, the County Extension Committee Memorandum of Agreement. The Board discussed the Agreement and decided to table this item until the next meeting.

Kathi Kremer appeared before the Board to discuss continuing education for her position as the County Coroner Investigator. Kremer asked for the Board to cover the cost of the courses, and be reimbursed for her time, upon motion by Schmidt and second by T. Johnson the Board agreed unanimously to

Kremer's request. It was further discussed the Kremer needs to be sworn in which she can do at the County Auditor's Office.

The next item of business was Public Access Hall's Landing-Land for Sale, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 subsection 3 C 3 which allows a meeting to be closed to discuss potential buying of real estate located a 5973 Hall's Drive in Traverse County a motion was made by Gail and second by Monson to close the meeting to the public, the motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was closed at 11:05 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:31. The results of the closed meet was the Board unanimously approved to table consideration of purchasing the property, upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Monson.

The public hearing to discuss the Special Vehicle Use Ordinance has been set for May 4, 2021 at 9:20 a.m. Trevor Wright fielded questions from the Board regarding purpose. Wright explained it is a permitting process for specialty vehicles to drive on county roads.

Schmidt brought the Constitutional Rights Resolution discussion to the Board. Schmidt inquired how many signatures would be needed on a petition to persuade the Board to enact the Constitutional Rights Resolution/2A Sanctuary County for Traverse County. There was discussion with no action taken.

Schmidt informed the Board that Kim Sundbom-Trudeau, Court Administrator, said that if Sheriff Wright would want to, he could continue to look at making Law Library accommodations in the LEC.

Schmidt left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

#### **Emergency Management**

Lynn Siegel appeared before the Board to inform them that the Emergency Management Performance Grant for 2020 (EMPG) arrived. The EMPG requires the signatures of Zahl and Salberg and will be remitted back to the State for disbursement of grant monies. Siegel also asked for permission to reallocate unused per diem expenses to provide food for an upcoming Search and Rescue Training. The per diem expenses were already approved in the Emergency Management Budget. The Board agreed.

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Dave Salberg, Board Chairman