

Traverses County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
June 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. 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 in person are Dave Salberg, Tom Monson, Kayla Schmidt, and Todd Johnson. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Monson and second by Schmidt.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval to award CP (Crushing Project) 21-02 Recycled Concrete Asphalt Crushing, Class 5 Aggregate Crushing to Brown Excavating Inc, for \$163,856. A motion was made by Monson with a second by Schmidt, the motion passed unanimously.

Gillespie needed signatures for 21-01 contract, CSAH (County State Aid Highway) 16 and CSAH 19 Graveling Projects. T. Johnson made a motion to approve the signing of the contracts, second by Monson, the motion passed unanimously.

Gillespie went on to seek approval to update the skid steer rates; rental rate per hour, \$120 and CSAH or CR rate per hour is \$100. Upon motion by Schmidt and second by Monson the motion to approve the updated skid steer rental rates passed unanimously.

Gillespie continued with informational items for the Board; Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) funds up to \$1,100,000 have been identified for the CSAH 6 project next year. Motor Grader Training has been moved to August 3, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. and will take place at the County Farm. Depressed Crack Filler quote update came in better than anticipated and will be used for repairs on CSAH 15 later this summer or early fall. CSAH 4 and CSAH 15 projects have started. Before Gillespie concluded his department updates, Monson had questions regarding the shelter closed signs still up at the County Park along with the picnic tables stacked, Gillespie and Koch agreed that it would be followed up on that day.

**West Central Minnesota Community Action Annual Update**

Missy Becker, Chief Executive Officer of WCMCA appeared before the Board. She informed the Board that 429 Traverse County homes were provided with energy assistance last year in the amount of \$327,000, 10 families are enrolled in Head Start and, the CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) provided \$30,618 in housing/rental assistance. Heather Molsworth, Family and Community Services Director, presented the Board with 2 new programming initiatives. One was the Ready Ride Program; this is a service to provide transportation to those individuals 65 and over for doctor appointments, grocery shopping and other tasks. The second new program is the Home Care and Repair, this program is also available to individuals 65 and over. The purpose of this program is to help older adults stay in their homes, as an example, volunteers will help with basic household chores such as mowing or changing furnace filters.

### **Zoning Administrator**

Ben Oleson, Zoning Administrator, appeared before the Board with a department update. The Planning Commission has been working on updating ordinances to address areas of confusion, redundancies, and general updates. One issue of concern the Planning Commission had was the requirements for public hearings related to zoning matters. Currently if there is a variance application that public hearing is held by the Board of Adjustment, all other matters require that the public hearing be held by the County Board. There was discussion that it might make more sense for the Board of Adjustment so hear from the public before they make their recommendation to the Board for the final decision. Oleson will bring updated ordinances to the Board in the near future.

On June 8, 2021 the Environmental Assessment Worksheet had been published by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Twelve Mile Dairy, this will begin a 30-day comment period which will end on July 8, 2021, once that time period has ended the MPCA will review any comments and respond to them to see if an Environmental Impact Study would be warranted. Monson stated that he has received a call from Riverview Dairies informing him that it would be 3-4 months before they would be hearing back from the Department of Natural Resource, regarding the water quality and sustainability.

Salberg had question regarding the follow up of buffer requirements and those individuals who are not in compliance. Oleson said he had been in touch with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and they are also looking for updates regarding landowners who are not in compliance. Oleson will be working with Soil and Water to find out who is not in compliance and working with the landowners to complete the criteria necessary to be in compliance and, if necessary, with the County Attorney. One of Salberg's concerns is the funding that the County has been receiving for the last few years could be discontinued if further progress is not made on the buffers.

### **Auditor/ Treasurer**

Kit Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared before the Board with a department update. The County held a silent auction to sell unused office items, there were 52 items sold. Most of the remaining items were hauled away during the city-wide cleanup and the County received bids and sold the remaining metal items.

K. Johnson will be attending a conference next week to update his knowledge of Minnesota property tax issues, election procedures, financial reporting procedures, and possible redistricting due to the last census. Traverse County has received a payment in the amount \$316,511.50 for the American Rescue Funds, the Executive Committee is waiting on more guidance on how the money can be spent before meeting.

Tax settlements in the amount of \$6,558,351.35 have been disbursed to Traverse County cities, townships, the Watershed District, school districts, and the state. In addition to the regular property tax, K. Johnson has also settled mineral, transmission and distribution line and mobile home taxes. About 500 late notices for property taxes were mailed out for the first half taxes.

### **County Coordinator**

A motion was made by T. Johnson and a second by Monson to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2021 Board meeting, the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Schmidt and a second by.

T. Jonson to approve bills, discussion followed when Schmidt questioned a charge, once the question was resolved the motion to approve the following bills passed unanimously:

CARDMEMBER SERVICE	3,216.70
Counties Providing Technology	4,975.41
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	2,103.92
HORMANN/MARK	2,000.00
MEnd Correctional Care, PLLC	2,634.30
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	27,398.85
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	2,685.26
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	8,499.00
Wells Fargo Corporate Trust Services	4,936.25
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	16,966.30
Twin Valley Tire Wheaton, Inc.	5,779.50
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	2,308.90
ZIEGLER, INC.	4,739.98

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2000 or less were 68 totaling \$22,122.59

Schmidt provided an update on the Emergency Services Board budget for 2022.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, informed the Board that she has received a few quotes for repairs for several items and will present them to the Board when all quotes have been received. One area that needed immediate action was an A/C unit to protect the computer equipment in the server room of the courthouse. The County Information Technologists are concerned with the excessive heat damaging the equipment. A motion was made by T. Johnson to accept a bid from Wheaton Heating and Air Conditioning, Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Next on Zahl's agenda was the Red River Watershed data collection. Zahl contacted Sara Gronfeld from the Soil and Water Conservation District to get her input and further information. The RRW wants to do a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for all the Red River Basin Watershed district. Gronfeld recommended proceeding with LIDAR for the whole county and it could be used to assess elevation for buffers. Discussion took place regarding the use of Buffer Funding to offset the cost of the LIDAR, the cost will be approximately \$125 to \$150 a square mile for the service. A flight is scheduled for the fall of 2021. The decision was made to table the LIDAR conversation until Gronfeld can appear to explain the process in further detail.

Zahl informed the Board that the Morris Electronics IT employee that services Traverse County is resigning and that there is an opportunity to contract with this individual to continue services remotely, Zahl will gather more details to consider at a future meeting.

Zahl is coordinating with Public health to set up a flu vaccine clinic for county employees this fall.

Zahl reminded the Board of the upcoming County Board of Equalization meeting 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

Before the meeting adjourned Salberg discussed with the Board calls he has received regarding internet around Lake Traverse. He asked Zahl to contact Adventenon to check into service issues. He also asked the Board if there was discussion to sell the County Park that he was not aware of, the Board informed

him there has been no such decision. Salberg's also asked if County Park Board has had any discussion on public accesses along Lake Traverse, Zahl said that she would bring it up at the next County Park Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Dave Salberg, Chairman