

Traverses County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
September 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Dave Salberg. Other Commissioners present were Todd Johnson, Kayla Schmidt, Tom Monson, and Mark Gail. The pledge of allegiance was recited. With the following addition to the agenda, Sr. Gold and Medicare Rx renewal, it was unanimously approved upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson. The Board minutes from the September 7, 2021 meeting were approved upon motion by Schmidt and second by Monson. There were no public comments.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, County Maintenance Supervisor appeared before the Board. Upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson the Dollymount Erosion Repair Project was approved unanimously, it is a local water project in conjunction with SWCD to provide concrete and riprap to minimize erosion. Gillespie asked the Board if they wanted the Highway Department to demolish the building that sits on the newly acquired property at 610 3rd Ave N, this was approved unanimously upon a motion Schmidt and second by Gail. Gillespie provided the Board with details of the \$100,000.00 cut he made to his Department Budget per the Board's request; gravel crushing, two hired trucks and the Fuel Key Tracking System were all cut. Gillespie expounded on how these cuts may impact future expenditures and efficiency. Gillespie handed out his Annual Report to the Board. Gillespie informed the Board that the Federal Highway Administration Annual Bridge Field review with the Federal agency and the Minnesota Department of Transportation went well. Gillespie explained to the Board that his Department will be receiving \$124,385.00 from the Corona Virus and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding that will be put towards 2021 CSAH (County State Aid Highway) construction projects. Koch informed the Board that the Highway staff are continuing to mow trees and clean up plow routes before this winter's snowfall.

Viking Library System

Erin Smith, Director of Viking Library System, and Jacquie Peebles, Wheaton Community Library Director, appeared before the Board with an Annual update and the 2022 Appropriations Financial Request. Smith gave a brief overview of VLS Mission Statement and history of the organization and detailed the VLS response to the modify services during the pandemic. Smith requested a 2.5% increase for 2022, a \$887 increase over 2021. Upon motion by T. Johnson and second by Gail the request was approved unanimously.

Auditor

Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. K. Johnson informed the Board that there has been a property tax law change that requires counties, school districts and municipalities to include a one-page document when sending out the Truth in Taxation Notices. K Johnson explained to the Board that he would like to get the redistricting process started ahead of the March 2022 deadline and presented the Board with different options to consider. He recommended including the municipalities in the process. K. Johnson received a Management Representation letter that needs to be signed that states that we know of no fraudulent activity, this is part of our annual audit. K. Johnson went on to provide details of his decisions surrounding the change in banking institutions because of the local Bank of the West branch office closing. He outlined the State of Minnesota's requirements of FDIC

insurance and/or collateral surrounding deposits from the county. K. Johnson has checked with local banking institutions that, to date, are not able to meet the requirements. K. Johnson plans to keep a portion of the monies in Traverse County and the rest being deposited at a Bank located in Morris, MN. K. Johnson informed the Board that he had contacted a bonding firm that we have worked with in the past and inquired about the issuance of Municipal Industrial Development Revenue Bonds. The representative clarified that the County would have no obligation to make debt service payments and it will not affect our credit rating and added that the County should retain a Bond Counsel whose charges will be passed along to the company. K. Johnson supplied the Board with preliminary levy packets which reflect an increase over the 2021 gross levy of \$378,051.50 which is a 6.34% increase over 2021. Discussion took place and Salberg asked for a motion to approve the preliminary budget. Upon motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson the motion passed unanimously.

Wheaton Community Diner/Senior Center

Marv Bach and Francis Finke appeared before the Board to request \$50,000 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for updates needed for the Diner. Bach presented the list of updates and corresponding estimates. Discussion took place and Salberg informed Bach that the Board has not approved a budget for the ARP funds yet and they are currently reviewing requests from departments within the County. Zahl asked if they had pursued the DEED (Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development) grant which offer up to \$25,000 to Minnesota owned and operated businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship because of the Covid-19 outbreak, they said they are currently in the process. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

County Coordinator

Upon a motion by Gail and second by Schmidt, the following bills were approved unanimously:

AT-SCENE LLC	\$2,025.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	\$5,494.10
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$4,975.41
GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO.	\$2,192.66
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,226.50
MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	\$2,009.99
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$4,097.60
LARSON OIL, INC	\$23,741.70
POWERPLAN OIB	\$7,055.50
RICK’S PLUMBING/HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING	\$2,289.50
TRUE NORTH STEEL	\$14,030.85
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING	\$15,740.29

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000 or less were 61 amounted to \$23,420.73.

The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Monson and second by Gail:

**RESOLUTION GIVING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL
TO THE ISSUANCE OF MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS
(DUPREE PORK, LLP PROJECT)**

WHEREAS, for the purpose of promoting, attracting, encouraging, and developing an economically sound commerce, preserving and developing a tax base adequate to finance necessary public services, and encouraging

employment opportunities for the citizens of Traverse County, Minnesota (the "County"), is authorized by Minnesota Statutes Sections 469.152 to 469.165, as amended (the "Act") to issue industrial development revenue bonds of the County in anticipation of the collection of revenues from an authorized project; and

WHEREAS, Dupree Pork, LLP, a Minnesota limited liability partnership (the "Company"), is in the process of developing a state-of-the-art swine operation that was previously approved by the County in the unincorporated area of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Company has proposed that the County undertake to finance a portion of said development, in an amount not exceeding \$3,750,000, through the issuance of Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds (which may be issued in one or more series) (the "Bonds") pursuant to the Act, said portion to consist of the construction, acquisition and installation of equipment and fixtures to be used in connection with livestock solid waste disposal and functionally related facilities in connection with a swine operation including site preparation, concreted flushing and scraping lanes, storage pit, flushing equipment and separators (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project would increase the level of economic activity in the County, would increase the tax base, and would provide additional employment opportunities for residents of the County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing, after published notice setting forth the nature of the Project and the date and time of a public hearing, must be held prior to the issuance of bonds under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Commissioners of Traverse County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The County Board hereby gives preliminary approval to the issuance of the Bonds pursuant to the Act to finance the Project. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to a revenue agreement between the County and the Company containing such terms and conditions (with provisions for revision from time to time as necessary) as may be necessary to produce income and revenues sufficient to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on the Bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$3,750,000, to be issued pursuant to the Act to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of the Project. Said revenue agreement may also provide for the entire interest of the County therein to be assigned to the purchaser of the Bonds. The County hereby undertakes preliminarily to issue its Bonds in accordance with such terms and conditions.

2. On the basis of information available to the County Board it appears, and the County Board hereby finds, that the Project constitutes properties, real and personal, used or useful in connection with one or more revenue producing enterprises engaged in any business within the meaning of Subdivision 2(b) of Section 469.153 of the Act; that the Project furthers the purposes stated in Section 469.152 of the Act; that the Project would not be undertaken but for the availability of industrial development bond financing under the Act and the willingness of the County to furnish such financing; and that the effect of the Project, if undertaken, will be to encourage the development of economically sound industry and commerce, to help the County retain and improve the tax base and to provide the range of service and employment opportunities required by the population, to help prevent the movement of talented and educated persons out of the State and to areas within the State where their services may not be as effectively used, to promote more intensive development and use of land within the County, and eventually to increase the tax base of the County.

3. The Project is hereby given preliminary approval by the County, subject to: (i) a public hearing, (ii) the approval of the Project by the Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development or such other state officer having authority to grant approval (the "Commissioner"), (iii) receipt of an adequate allocation of authority to issue private activity bonds (which allocation is not made hereby), and (iv) final approval by the County Board, the Company, and the purchaser of the Bonds as to the ultimate details of the financing of the Project.

4. In accordance with Subdivision 3 of Section 469.154 of the Act, the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners or Auditor/Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to submit the proposal for the Project to the Commissioner requesting his approval, and other officers, employees and agents of the County are hereby authorized to provide the Commissioner with such preliminary information as he may require.

5. The Chair of the County Board of Commissioners or Auditor/Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to submit the Application for Allocation of Bonding Authority in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 474A to the Minnesota Department of Finance.

6. The County Board of Commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the Project and the issuance of the Bonds in the Commissioners Room in the Traverse County Courthouse, Wheaton, Minnesota on _____, 2021, beginning at ____:00 a.m. The Auditor/Treasurer is hereby authorized to publish notice of the hearing in the official newspaper of the County not less than fourteen days prior to the hearing date. The form of public notice attached to this Resolution is hereby approved.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Board Chairman

County Coordinator

The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Gail and second by Monson:

**Traverse County Board Resolution
For Opening of a Bank Account**

WHEREAS, a proposal to open an account with the State Bank of Wheaton, 921 Broadway, Wheaton, MN 56296, was placed before the Board by the Traverse County Recorder's Office in the name of said office;

WHEREAS, the account will be used for conducting the Traverse County Recorder's Office's day-to-day financial transactions;

WHEREAS, the State Bank of Wheaton shall be instructed to accept and act upon any instructions relating to the account kept in the name of the Traverse County Recorder, or relating to any transactions of the Traverse County Recorder with the State Bank of Wheaton, provided the instructions are signed by the authorized signatory(ies) of the Traverse County Recorder's Office in the manner mentioned as above; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution be communicated to the State Bank of Wheaton, which shall remain in full force and effect until duly rescinded and notice thereof in writing be given to the State Bank of Wheaton by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners by further resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, an account in the name and address of TRAVERSE COUNTY RECORDER, 702 2nd Ave. N., P.O. Box 487, Wheaton, MN 56296 be opened with the State Bank of Wheaton, 921 Broadway, Wheaton, MN 56296, to conduct the business of the Traverse County Recorder's Office and that the following Authorized Signatories of the Traverse County Recorder's Office be and are hereby authorized to open the said account:

INDIVIDUALLY:

1. Jody Hofer

and that the following Authorized Signatories of the Traverse County Recorder's Office be and are hereby authorized to operate the said account:

INDIVIDUALLY:

1. Jody Hofer
2. Leonora Woods

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Board Chairman

County Coordinator

Upon a unanimous decision the Board reappointed Jodi Hormann to the HRA Board upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Monson.

Upon a motion by Gail and second by Schmidt and approved unanimously, Schmitt's Plumbing, Heating & Sheetmetal Inc out of Wahpeton was awarded the bid for the new air conditioner in Social Services.

Upon a motion by Monson and second by T. Johnson it was approved unanimously to renew the Senior Gold and Medicare Rx insurance for the retirees over 65.

Salberg went over the Commissioner reports for Soil & Water, Horizon Public Health and MRC. No other Commissioners had reports.

Salberg adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Dave Salberg, Board Chairman