

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
May 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Commission Chair Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present were Jerrel Olson, Dwight Nelson, Chad Metz, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of Legislative updates from Representative Backer, upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The May 7, 2024, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Olson and second by Schmidt.

**Highway Department**

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson approval was given unanimously to award SAP 078-615-011 CSAH 15 to Joe Riley Construction, Inc. for \$681,792.50. Unanimous approval was given to sign the contract for SAP 078-615-011 upon a motion by Olson and a second by Schmidt. Gillespie went over some information items which included the preliminary budget, a discussion regarding tearing down houses, the Wheaton demonstration project, and a meeting with MNDOT District Engineer and State Aid Engineer. Discussion regarding patching a few street areas by Browns Valley when able and a complaint about the hill at County Park.

**County Attorney**

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the board to discuss information regarding tearing down property in Browns Valley. Franzese handed out State Statute 282.04 which states that with the approval of the County Board, the County Auditor may provide for the demolition of any structure on tax-forfeited lands with a dilapidated structure if it will aid in disposing of the tax-forfeited property. Matt will bring more information regarding the property to the next meeting.

**Building Maintenance**

Building Maintenance Supervisor Chad Klindworth appeared before the Board to discuss the Courthouse roof. There was a motion to approve PrimeBuilders quote for \$6,500.00 by Olson and second by Nelson followed by discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Auditor/Treasurer**

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson asked for approval to transfer \$55,000.00 to the Traverse Care Center Fund, this passed unanimously upon a motion by Olson and seconded by Nelson. Johnson informed the Board that a Geologist reached out to him and asked if they could drill on a tax-forfeited land in Traverse County. There was a general consensus to table it until there is more information collected. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Schmidt the tobacco license renewal for Tri-County in Dumont was approved unanimously. Johnson gave general updates.

**Legislative Update**

Representative Jeff Backer appeared before the Board to give a few legislative updates regarding Emergency Medical Services, storage of guns in homes, and changes to transportation, health scope and practice, and higher education bills.

**County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Nelson and second by Olson the following bills were approved unanimously.

MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SER	\$6,942.22
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	\$5,740.66
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,509.72
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$5,656.55
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$8,039.41
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP	\$3,450.00
KNOWBE4, INC.	\$7,257.60
MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	\$2,037.66
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$3,435.54
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CT	\$8,021.00
WHEATON EDA	\$2,000.00
L&B HARDWARE	\$2,652.95
LARSON OIL, INC	\$12,646.00
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	\$3,203.72
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT CO.	\$4,361.00
SHANE'S SERVICE AND REPAIR LLC	\$6,450.00
PLACEMENT EXPENSES	\$23,540.81
RURAL MN CEP	\$6,668.52
WESTERN PRAIRIE	\$46,056.90
LSS-ST PAUL	\$10,094.00
DHS	\$3,339.56
TRAVERSE COUNTY	\$2,500.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 54 in the amount of \$23,246.06.

Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson the updated Federal Award Procurement Policy with the increase to \$175,000 for the acquisition threshold was approved unanimously.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator informed the Board that we haven't received the second grease trap quote for the Traverse Care Center yet. This will be added to the agenda when it is received.

Sheriff Trevor Wright applied and received a Firearms Storage Grant in the amount of \$8,161.93 that will be used to purchase a gun wall vault and evidence locker. The grant was approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson.

#### **Public Comment Period**

There was a question regarding the geological survey.

#### **Committee Reports**

Olson attended the Computers Providing Technology meeting and they are looking at giving back to all the owner counties. Schmidt attended Social Services Preplacement, Horizon Public Health, Regional Adult Mental Health, Watershed, Planning and Zoning, and MRC. Nelson attended the Soil and Water, Personnel, Horizon Public Health, and the Zoning Board.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

---

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

---

Mark Gail, Chair