

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
July 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 upon a motion by Olson and second by Metz with the additions of Opioid Grants Awarded and the Duck Statue, removed from the agenda were Windmill discussion and permit fees. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The July 2, 2024, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Schmidt.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie asked for approval to buy two motor graders early, the lead time is 8-11 months and the current warranties are expiring on June 4, 2025. Schmidt made a motion to table it until the next meeting with a second from Metz followed by discussion. Schmidt's motion was unanimously approved. Gillespie went over informational items including the CSAH 4 and CSAH 15 project updates. Gillespie informed the Board that the sign in Browns Valley that wasn't working properly is being replaced due to a bad sensor.

Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place

Chris Knoll, Chief Executive Officer Minnewaska, and Larry Kolojaco, Administrator, Traverse Care Center appeared before the Board with a quarterly update. Knoll informed the Board that 4 HVAC systems need updating, three at the Traverse Care Center and one at Prairieview Place. The census is up at the Traverse Care Center. This summer they will be doing a marketing event and an open house at Prairieview Place.

Dairy Discussion

Craig Lichtsinn appeared before the Board to discuss the Riverview stormwater basin at Dollymount Dairy. Lichtsinn said that Riverview shouldn't fill in the basin and he wants the Commissioners to approve the Conditional Use Permit if Riverview applies for one. He discussed the amount of money that comes into the county from the dairy. The Board said that Riverview could apply for a Conditional Use Permit for the stormwater basin and follow Traverse County's ordinances.

Zoning

Zoning Administrator Ben Oleson appeared before the Board. He discussed the hiring of an independent third party to serve as the County's geotechnical engineer and hydrologist regarding the stormwater basin project at Dollymount Dairy with the costs being billed to Riverview. Schmidt made a motion to hire B.J. Bonin as the hydrologist and the geotechnical engineer that Bonin found for the Dollymount Dairy stormwater basin project and bill the costs to Riverview, second by Nelson and discussion followed. Brady Jansen, Riverview, would like to have an open discussion with the County on the cost and scope of the project. Gail would like to wait to approve hiring the hydrologist and geotechnical engineer until they receive a quote for the project. The motion failed 2-3 with Gail, Olson and Metz opposed.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson gave a tax forfeiture overview. There is currently a class action lawsuit and the State is paying a \$109 million settlement on behalf of all participating counties. Johnson recommends that Traverse County

participates. There are now 3 different processes for tax-forfeited inventory depending on the date of the forfeiture. A lot of the process has changed and Johnson explained that the process just got more expensive and complex, there will no longer be bigger sales that fund the tax-forfeited fund and the fund will likely carry a negative balance. Johnson went over his department update which included election information and the 2023 audit entrance.

County Coordinator

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

ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC	\$5,178.16
ANOKA COUNTY TREASURY OFFICE	\$2,875.00
DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$5,656.55
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC	\$4,247.01
END OF THE WOODS TASK FORCE	\$6,000.00
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,550.99
HORMANN/MARK	\$2,200.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$2,927.59
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINN	\$20,162.00
WHEATON EDA	\$2,000.00
CHS	\$2,069.65
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORATION	\$15,473.15
CT SIBSON GRAVEL & CRUSHING INC.	\$4,347.01
LARSON OIL, INC.	\$33,156.50
OLSON TILE AND EXCAVATING LLC	\$40,281.68
PRAIRIE SUPPLY INC.	\$3,800.00
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$4,125.11
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$5,085.12
MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERV	\$26,000.00
DHS	\$19,497.70
TRAVERSE COUNTY	\$2,500.00
RURAL MN CEP	\$6,933.66
PLACEMENTS	\$27,152.42

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 62 in the amount of \$28,614.43.

Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson the 2025 Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Minnesota for Extension services was approved unanimously. There was discussion regarding the Probation Office, they have moved downtown and Courts would like to utilize that space for a jury room. The general consensus was to allow Courts to utilize the space as long as the space can be used by Traverse County as a meeting room when there is no jury trial and with the agreement that if Probation loses their current space that they would be able to utilize that space as they had before as their offices. Franzese was going to discuss this with Judge Wilcox. Opioid Grants were awarded in the amount of \$40,636.00 during the second round of applications. Wheaton Are Schools \$4,000.00, Browns Valley Schools \$17,290.00, Traverse County 4-H \$6,546.00, and Traverse County Sheriff's Office \$12,800.00. There was discussion regarding the Duck Statue located by the Traverse Care Center, Jim Smoger spoke to the City of Wheaton and they may be willing to acquire the land that the Duck sits on and take over the responsibility of the maintenance and upkeep of the Duck. There was general consensus that Zahl will reach out to Amy Olson at the City and discuss. If a meeting needs to take place the Building Committee will attend. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson the meeting was

closed to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per Minnesota Statute 13D.03 and passed unanimously at 11:21 a.m. Upon a motion by Nelson, seconded by Schmidt and approved unanimously, the meeting was reopened at 11:30.

Public Comment Period

There was a comment regarding the history of the permit fees and why it changed to a dollar amount instead of a percentage. There was also a comment regarding the hiring of B.J. Bonin. And a comment that the Commissioners need to protect all citizens of Traverse County.

Committee Reports

Nelson attended the Horizon Public Health, Bois de Sioux Water Shed, Extension Committee, Western Prairie and Board of Adjustments. Schmidt attended Verizon Public Health, Social Services Preplacement meeting, Western Prairie, Planning and Zoning and the Audit Entrance.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair