

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 1, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Mark Gail. Other Commissioners present were Jerrel Olson, Chad Metz, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. With the additions of Copiers and Title VI & Civil Rights Plan the agenda was approved 4-0 upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The September 17, 2024 meeting minutes was approved 4-0 upon a motion by Olson and seconded by Schmidt.

Highway Department

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board. Gillespie gave project updates on the Co Rd 76 Bridge and CSAH 15. Gillespie gave information on the Engineering Department and updates on the meetings that are coming up for Highway. Koch informed the Board that Highway graveled 91 miles in the county of which 87 miles were done internally.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board. The jail occupancy for September was 38.54%. Wright talked about the Browns Valley Law Enforcement contract, he agreed with the Commissioners that we should sign a one year and stay on the same schedule as the City of Wheaton. Upon a motion by Olson and second by Schmidt a one-year contract with the City of Browns Valley for Law Enforcement was approved unanimously. Zahl will reach out to the Browns Valley City administrator. Wright gave employee updates.

Soil & Water Conservation District

District Manager Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. The Sewage Treatment System Program had 2 new permit applications in September. The 2025 Septic Upgrade Grant Funds application was approved in the amount of \$40,000.00. The Upper MN River Plan contract that was approved last month was revised by their Attorney with minor changes, this will come before the Board for approval at a later date. General updates were given.

Auditor/Treasurer

County Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board to discuss copiers, the lease is up for the copier in the Motor Vehicle office, they are now scanning information to the State instead of faxing so Johnson isn't planning on renewing the lease for the fax machine but instead purchase a desktop copier. In the Auditor/Treasurers Office the lease is coming up for their copier as well. This copier is used a great deal. It would cost around \$5,100.00 to purchase one and it would cost \$1,000.00 or more to lease one for 5 years, this cost includes the maintenance costs. Metz made a motion to buy a copier for the Auditor/Treasurers office, second by Schmidt and approved 4-0.

Attorney

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the Board to discuss the County being a Fiscal Host for an outside entity. Franzese reached out to the League of Minnesota Cities and any money that comes into the county becomes public funds and needs to be spent on an acceptable statutory public purpose. There is a list of what it can be spent on and what has been brought forward with the planning process for the daycare group is not allowable. The County has no statutory authority but they did suggest that this group reach out to the local EDA Board, they may be able to help.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Metz and a second from Schmidt the following bills were approved 4-0.

MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE	\$11,712.87
CLEARPOINT CONSTRUCTION, INC.	\$58,160.00
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC.	\$3,766.40
MINN-KOTA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	\$2,636.68
MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	\$2,016.93
AMMERMAN PLUMBING & HEATING	\$13,910.00
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, LLC	\$35,172.00
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	\$2,599.90
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$27,921.10

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 32 claims of less than \$2,000.00 totaling \$14,667.92.

County Coordinator Lisa Zahl informed the Board that the Insurance Committee is recommending that we switch from CIGNA supplemental insurance to MetLife supplemental insurance with no increase to employees. Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson this changed was unanimously approved.

Zahl updated the Title VI and Civil Rights plan, the plan was approved 4-0 upon a motion by Olson and second by Metz. General updates were given.

Public Comment Period

There was one public comment asking if the Commissioners received the information on the windmills that was dropped off.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended Viking Library, Region IV South, Watershed, DNR meeting with landowners, Emergency Board meeting, and the Mandated Training for Vulnerable Adults. Metz attended Rainbow Rider, DNR meeting with landowners, and Soil & Water.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair