

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 15, 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, with the following additions, Health Insurance RFP's, and Wind and Solar Ordinance, upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz. There was no conflict of interest expressed. The October 1, 2024, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie gave updates on the following projects: Bridge, CSAH 15, Hall's Drive parking lot has been graveled and they plan to rent a mastic trailer when available to patch areas in Browns Valley. Gillespie addressed a letter that was sent to the Commissioners regarding a concern with the Traverse County Ditch Cleaning Permit, he explained that the permit was updated in September of 2024 from "No equipment (Excavator) is allowed on the road to do the cleaning" to "No equipment will be permitted to operate on or across the roadway which will damage the roadway or shoulder surface".

Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place

Michelle Ehrenberg, Minnewaska and Larry Kolojaco, Administrator, appeared before the Board. Ehrenberg explained that their Medicare number has finally been approved by the Federal and State, they are just waiting on a site visit for it to be finalized. This process has taken almost a year to complete. They have three new tenants moving into Prairieview Place this month.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson talked about the upcoming events related to the 2024 election. Nexus Line LLC is going to tax court, they are contesting their tax values, multiple counties are affected, the State of Minnesota represents all the counties involved, these usually take years to get settled. Tax settlements will be done after October 20. Truth in Taxation statements are currently being worked on. Johnson is working with the Bois de Sioux Watershed on a couple of different projects. A payment was received from the Federal government for \$43,400.00, two parcels were sold from the Pheasants Forever to the United States Government. The payment will be allocated between Traverse County, Arthur Township, and the CGB school district. This land will become tax-exempt and Traverse County will receive PILT, Payment In Lieu of Tax, in lieu of property taxes. A tax forfeited property in Browns Valley was discussed and Johnson explained the process.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Olson and second by Nelson, the following bills were approved unanimously along with a donation to Social Services in the amount of \$45.00.

ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	\$5,178.16
ANOKA COUNTY TREASURY OFFICE	\$3,500.00
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION	\$2,045.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,109.72
DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$5,656.55
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$4,624.09

ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC	\$5,235.45
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,860.00
HORMANN, MARK	\$2,200.00
OFFICE PEPPS, INC.	\$5,285.96
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC.	\$3,000.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	\$20,162.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$4,440.71
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CT	\$11,021.00
WHEATON EDA	\$2,000.00
WILKIN COUNTY	\$9,954.34
CHAMBERLAIN OIL COMPANY	\$8,512.81
CS DIESEL	\$4,014.52
TRUE NORTH STEEL	\$2,330.00
TWIN VALLEY TIRE WHEATON, INC.	\$5,349.36
ZIEGLER, INC.	\$2,496.51
DHS	\$41,300.30
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	\$2,971.24
TRAVERSE COUNTY	\$2,500.00
LSS OF ST PAUL	\$2,422.56
NOLAN LAW OFFICE	\$2,030.00
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION	\$3,711.54
RURAL MN CEP	\$5,716.08
PLACEMENTS	\$33,391.21

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 58 in the amount of \$21,540.50.

Upon a motion by Metz and second by Schmidt the Board of Water and Soil Resources MPCA SSTS Program Grant Agreement was approved unanimously. Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, went over the results of the RFP for employee health insurance. The Insurance Committee met and are leaning towards staying with Medica but they are planning to meet again tomorrow to talk through the options. There was a general consensus of the Commissioners that if they decide to move forward with Medica they would approve this decision. Zahl went through the following general updates, MCIT voting delegates, District 4 AMC meeting, legislative priorities, and the Employee Appreciation Halloween contest. There was a discussion regarding the Wind & Solar Ordinance and the process that will be upcoming. There will be a public hearing set soon.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair