

Traverse County Commission  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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. With the additions of Audio Equipment quote for the Commissioners room the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The October 15, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and seconded by Schmidt.

**Highway Department**

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval of resolution 24-16 to Request Waiver of the Municipal Construction Fund Balance Limit which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson.

**Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners**

Resolution to Request Waiver of Municipal Construction Fund Balance Limit

**WHEREAS**, County State Aid Screening Board Limits the unencumbered construction fund balance as of December 31 of the current year; not including the last two years regular account construction apportionment and not including the last 5 years of municipal account construction apportionment or \$500,000 whichever is greater, and the total fund balance in excess of this limit shall be deducted from the county's needs calculations: and

**WHEREAS**, Traverse County has two municipal projects planned to be constructed in 2025 that will spend down this fund balance. SAP 078-702-003 and a portion of SAP 078-609-021.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Traverse County, through its Board of Commissioners, request approval to exceed the State Aid Municipal Construction fund balance limits to fully fund these two projects planned for 2025 construction season.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, this request for extension is for one year only through December 31, 2025.

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, County Board of Commissioners      Date

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
County Coordinator      Date

Gillespie asked for approval of resolution 24-17 For Five Year Bridge Program 2024-2029 which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson.

**RESOLUTION  
FOR FIVE YEAR BRIDGE PROGRAM 2024-2029**

**WHEREAS**, Traverse County has reviewed the pertinent data on bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal, supplied by local citizenry and local units of government, (and the regional development commission, or the metropolitan council

where applicable); and

**WHEREAS**, Traverse County has identified those bridges that are high priority and that require replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following bridges are high priorities for replacement, major rehabilitation, or removal, and Traverse County intends to replace, rehabilitate, or remove these bridges as soon as possible when funds are available; and

Old Bridge Number	Road Number and Name	Crossing	LPI	Total Project Cost	Township or State Bridge Funds Requested	Federal Funds	Local or State Aid Funds	Proposed Construction Year
<b>L9132</b>	600 <sup>th</sup> St	Eighteen Mi. Creek	63 (SD & Suf 71)	\$300,000	\$284,000		\$16,000	2026
<b>7114</b>	CSAH 6	Eighteen Mi. Creek	59	\$300,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	2026
<b>7115</b>	CSAH 6	Eighteen Mi. Creek	59	\$300,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	2026
<b>7116</b>	CSAH 6	Eighteen Mi. Creek	59	\$300,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	2026
<b>89677</b>	CR 87	Mustinka River	65	\$1,300,000	\$1,200,000		\$100,000	2028
<b>89658</b>	CR 86	Mustinka River	73	\$1,400,000	\$1,250,000		\$150,000	2029

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Traverse County does hereby request authorization to replace, rehabilitate, or remove such bridges; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Traverse County does hereby request financial assistance with eligible approach grading and engineering costs on township bridges, as provided by law.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, County Board of Commissioners Date

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ County  
Coordinator Date

**Certification**

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed, adopted, and approved by the Traverse County Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Auditor Date

Gillespie went over the following informational items. Roberts County Border Bridge Agreement was given to the Commissioner to take a look, the conversation needed to start before the end of the year based on the new Federal requirements and State Aid guidance. Gillespie sent the City of Wheaton and the City of Dumont a resolution stating the project has been “presented” to them as this is needed in the plan development approval process. He also informed the Board that he applied for additional Federal funds in year 2027 or 2028 to be put towards CSAH 7 project. Gillespie attended the Large

Traffic Generator Meeting (Wind Turbines) with other Minnesota counties in October, they discussed lessons learned and what others have done. Gillespie is on the Board of Directors for Minnesota DNR and they are sending a letter that they are not supporting their proposed legislation because it would increase the cost of permitting fees and drastically delay projects because of their permitting process. The Red River Watershed Management Board has a joint effort to improve flood resiliency. They are looking for \$15,000 in 2026 from each county. Gillespie is going to do more research before coming back with a recommendation. Bridge project update, they are moving along as fast as they can and plan to get it done on time.

#### **Law Enforcement**

Sheriff Trevor Wright was unable to attend the meeting due to work.

#### **Soil & Water Conservation District**

District Manager Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board with a department update. She asked for approval for the revisions to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Partnership Plan Administrator/Fiscal Agent Agreement and the Contract for Services funding documents. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson they were unanimously approved. The Sewage Treatment System Program had 1 new permit application. Received one wetland verification for potential renewable energy development north of Beardsley. Gronfeld gave an update on the One Plan/Comprehensive Watershed Management. The Upper MN River Plan contract had revisions that were made, looking for approval of those revisions to the agreement. General updates were given.

#### **County Coordinator**

Upon motion by Nelson and a second from Schmidt the following bills were approved unanimously.

MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE	\$7,017.25
BIG STONE COUNTY AUDITOR	\$9,026.56
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$6,468.69
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOCIATION	\$24,871.83
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	\$5,178.16
ANDERSON LAW OFFICE, PA	\$4,600.00
FLEET SERVICES	\$2,474.89
GUARDIAN RFID	\$2,333.60
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$2,860.00
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6,827.25
MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	\$2,341.03
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$23,430.49
VALLEY OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC.	\$4,214.66

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 53 claims of less than \$2,000.00 totaling \$25,943.92.

County Coordinator Lisa Zahl received unanimous approval to advertise for the Planning and Zoning Board and Bois de Sioux Board Manager open seat, both positions expire in 2025, upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson.

Zahl presented a quote for audio equipment for the Board room from Morris Electronics for \$1,251.23. The quote was unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz.

The meeting was closed upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per Minnesota Statute 13D.03. The meeting was opened upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson.

**Public Comment Period**

There were two public comments. One regarding culverts and public waters. The other comment was regarding the wind turbines and the dairy.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Mark Gail, Chair