

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
November 19, 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. There were no conflict of interest expressed. The agenda was approved unanimously, with the following additions, Conditional Use Permit application, and B.J. Bonin will discuss the Groundwater Monitoring funding, upon a motion by Nelson and seconded by Olson. The November 5, 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. Gillespie asked for approval to purchase excavator counterweights for \$7,855.00 from RDO Equipment Co., upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson this was approved unanimously. Gillespie gave updates on the following projects: Bridge project; next year's projects; bridge inspections; Army Corp will be doing work on the White Rock Dam in the fall of 2025 - CSAH 10; and State Aid CSAH 15 project inspection was completed on Friday.

Recorder

County Recorder Jody Hofer appeared before the Board to give a yearly update. Hofer went over the office recording for the past year. Hofer asked for approval to move \$10,000.00 from her compliance fund to the general fund to pay for compliance items that fit into the use of the funding. This was approved unanimously upon a motion by Olson and second by Nelson.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Trevor Wright was unable to attend the meeting. He provided the jail report for October, the jail occupancy was 60.73%.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Informed the Board that we received \$45,000.00 from Counties Providing Technology as a dividend due to Traverse County owning a portion of this company. Johnson went over the post-election duties that his office has been doing along with an update on the election results. Johnson thanked his staff and the election judges for their efforts during this election. Truth in Taxation statements have been sent out. Forfeited Tax Auction will be soon, there are 6 parcels that have been forfeited, 5 of which are bare lots in Wheaton and the other is a vacant house in Browns Valley. The Board instructed Johnson to send out the latest budget to the Department Heads to go over and make any last-minute changes that they are able to make.

Zoning

Zoning Administrator Ben Oleson appeared via Zoom to discuss a Conditional Use Permit that was received from Jonathan and Marilyn Mathias. The request is related to the reconstruction of a previously existing private airport grass landing strip to be used for personal use and the possibility of use by aerial crop applicators. There would be two grass runways up to 3,300 feet in length and 100 feet in width each. Nelson made a motion to approve the conditional use permit with the conditions and the findings of facts as recommended by the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment with the clarification as follows:

The Planning Commission recommended conditions:

1. The approval includes flexibility as to the exact length, location, and width of the airstrips so as to ensure they meet applicable state and federal requirements.
2. The applicant shall obtain all required state and federal permits or approvals. Failure to obtain these permits or approvals within 24 months shall result in the County's approval of the conditional use permit expiring.
3. Should state or federal permits or approvals lapse for more than 24 months, the County's approval of the conditional use shall expire.

The motion was seconded by Schmidt and approved unanimously.

County Coordinator

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

COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,409.72
DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$5,656.55
GAZETTE PUBLISHING, INC.	\$3,320.25
HORMANN, MARK	\$2,200.00
TRUE NORTH SURVEYS, PA	\$42,750.00
VERTIV CORPORATION	\$3,566.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CT	\$26,321.00
WHEATON EDA	\$2,000.00
FRONTIER PRECISION, INC.	\$2,600.50
LARSON OIL, INC	\$2,000.50
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE, INC.	\$2,936.48
MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	\$3,290.85
TITAN MACHINERY	\$4,354.87
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$9,508.65
LSS – ST. PAUL	\$3,969.61
CEP	\$10,282.29
PLACEMENTS	\$20,020.48
STEFFEL PEST CONTROL	\$2,300.00
ACI	\$2,500.00
DSI	\$3,689.54
TRAVERSE COUNTY	\$2,500.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 63 in the amount of \$34,167.69.

B.J. Bonin appeared via Zoom to discuss the Groundwater Monitoring Grant funding that is available. BJ would apply for the funding on behalf of Traverse County, he would charge for his time with an estimate of no more than \$800.00. Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson there was unanimous approval to move forward with Bonin applying for the grant funding. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Olson the Joint Powers Agreement between the County of Traverse and Traverse Soil and Water Conservation District and the Administrative Plan were unanimously approved. The 2025 Equitable Cost-Sharing for Publicly-Owned Nursing Facilities (ECPN) was approved unanimously upon a motion by Olson and second by Schmidt. There was a discussion regarding satellite TV providers at PVP, it was the consensus of the Board for the family to try the Dish app and not have Dish put a piece of equipment on the Prairieview Place building. There was a discussion regarding the Mallard and having a written agreement in place stating the mallard stays on county property but the City of Wheaton pays for the maintenance. This was approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and second by Olson.

There was a motion by Nelson and a second by Metz to close the meeting to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per Minnesota Statue 13D.03 approved unanimously. There was a motion to open the meeting by Olson and second by Nelson and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There was a comment thanking the Commissioners for agreeing to move forward with the Groundwater Monitoring grant application.

Committee Reports

Nelson attended the Horizon Public Health and Primewest Boards. Schmidt attended the Canvass, Collaborative Safety Training, Gross Revenue Meeting, Social Services Pre-Placement and Planning and Zoning. Metz attended the Wind & Solar workgroup, Soil & Water and Rainbow Rider.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair