

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
December 3, 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 addition of a Wind and Solar Committee update the agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Olson. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The November 19, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and seconded by Schmidt.

Highway Department

Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board. Koch explained that the bridge deck test run for the pouring deck was completed on November 26. They will need to wait until it is warm enough to start to pour. The plan is to do the tree removal at the county park this winter. There will be a request for quotes and the DNR grant will pay for it.

Zoning

Zoning Administrator Ben Oleson appeared before the Board via Zoom. Oleson went over the permit activity and public hearings for 2024. He discussed the ordinance amendments that were done and he gave an update on the large-scale wind/solar project ordinance. Oleson then went over his 2025 contract and different options. The Board will look over the contract and discuss it at the next regular meeting.

Appointment for Bois de Sioux Watershed and Planning and Zoning Board

The Board received interest from two individuals for the Bois de Sioux Watershed and five for the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments. Metz made a motion to appoint Paul Frisch from the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments and Steven Deal for the Bois de Sioux Watershed, second by Olson followed by discussion. It was mentioned that we should do each Board as an individual motion. Metz rescinded his motion and made a motion to appoint Paul Frisch to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments, second by Olson, and passed 4-1 with Schmidt opposed. Metz made a motion to appoint Steven Deal to the Bois de Sioux Watershed, seconded by Olson and approved unanimously.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Trevor Wright was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict in scheduling.

Traverse County Fair

Josh Behrens appeared before the board with a 2024 fair update. The fair ended with a positive balance this year. Behrens explained that they depend on the donations that they receive to continue updating the fairgrounds and bring bigger entertainment to the fair each year. They would appreciate the County's allocation of \$15,000 for 2025.

County Attorney

County Attorney Matt Franzese appeared before the Board to discuss County assistance with tearing down one substandard property in Wheaton and one in Browns Valley. Each building has an adjoining wall to another business and neither City has the financial resources to afford to do it on their own. It

was the consensus of the Board for Franzese to get a quote for the demolition of the substandard buildings.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Olson and a second from Metz the following bills were approved unanimously.

JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$2,762.88
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	\$4,880.63
OLDCASTLE INFRASTRUCTURE, INC	\$3,015.10
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	\$2,165.00
COMPUTERSHARE TRUST COMPANY N.A.	\$72,760.00
INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORP	\$2,821.00
POWERS/AMANDA B.	\$4,218.75
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$61,200.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$4,787.66
MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY SERV	\$13,641.55

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 28 claims of less than \$2,000.00 totaling \$10,503.88.

Gail is going to step down from the Personnel Committee. Upon a motion by Nelson and second by Schmidt, Jerrel Olson was appointed to the Personnel Committee, and it passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Nelson and second, by Metz the meeting was closed to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per Minnesota Statute 13D.03. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson the meeting was re-opened unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There was a comment regarding the DNR digging an observation well where there is already an observation well. Schmidt will contact the DNR regarding this.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Viking Library Board, Bois de Sioux Watershed and a meeting with the Sheriff. Nelson attended the Personnel Committee meetings, Watershed and Western Prairie Executive Committee. Metz attended the meeting with the Sheriff.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Mark Gail, Chair