

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Jerrel Olson. Other Commissioners present were Dwight Nelson, Chad Metz, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved unanimously with the following addition: close meeting to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per Minnesota Statute 13D.03, upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The February 4, 2025, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz.

Highway Department

Chad Gillespie, County Engineer, and Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. Gillespie asked for approval for the AC Agreement for the project on CSAH 15 and the following resolution, which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz:

MNDOT Agreement No. 1058606
SP 078-615-017

**RESOLUTION
AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Traverse County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the *Chair* and the *County Coordinator* are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Traverse County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number 1058606," a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Approved By: _____
Chair, County Board of Commissioners Date

Attest By: _____
County Coordinator Date

Gillespie explained that the State Park Road Account Variance and the following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson:

Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners

A Resolution requesting a Variance from State Park Road Account Projects Minimum Geometric Design Standards for Project No. SAP 078-600-002

WHEREAS, approximately 0.524 miles of County Road 42 lies within the boundaries of Traverse County Park on Lake Traverse; and

WHEREAS, Traverse County is preparing plans for road improvements including paving utilizing State Park Road Account funding, designated Project No. SAP 078-600-002; and

WHEREAS, Minimum Design Standards for Park Road Accounts Not on the State Aid System requires 30 mph design speed criteria for horizontal and vertical curves for paved surfaces with ADT of less than 100 average daily traffic, lane width 11 ft, shoulder width of 2 ft, in-slope of 1:3, clear zone of 6 ft, and design strength of 7 tons; and

WHEREAS, the alignment has multiple curves that do not meet the 30 mph design speed; and

WHEREAS, the existing 0.524 miles of County Road 42 has a 10 mph design speed and is posted at 10 mph.

WHEREAS, the reasons for the variance request are that realigning the road to a 30-mph horizontal design would require eliminating the amenities of two bathrooms and 8 electrical camper sites; extensive tree removal; limits access to RV Dumping station and registration station; and utility conflicts; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners do hereby request a variance from the Park Road Account Projects, Minimum Design Standards to allow a 10 mph horizontal design speed in lieu of a 30 mph horizontal design speed for the project on County Road 42 in the Traverse County Park.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby indemnifies, save and hold harmless the State of Minnesota and its agents and employees of and from claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or by reason of Project No. SAP 078-600-002 in accordance with Park Road Account Projects, Minimum Geometric Design Standards and further agrees to defend at their sole cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced for the purpose of asserting any claim arising as a result of the granting of this variance.

Approved By:

Chair, County Board of Commissioners

Date

Attest:

County Coordinator

Date

Gillespie asked for approval to hire up to 4 summer help, this was approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz. The final payment for CP 24-02 to Wagener company for \$790.82 was approved unanimously upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz. Gillespie went over informational items which include; PLSS Grant, TeamLab Base One links, Browns Valley SRTS Planning Grant Meeting on February 20, and CSAH 16 culvert replacement. Gillespie answered a wheelage tax question from the Township Meeting regarding if a semi-truck pays the same as a car/pickup and yes, all vehicles pay the same amount.

Assessor

County Assessor Dianne Reinart appeared before the Board to set the Board of Equalization date. The date was set for Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the board to discuss Dispatch Radio Council. Wright talked about the importance of our armor radio system, which was put into place in 2012 and the radios are nearing the end of life. Wright received a quote from Brandon Communications for equipment and system setup in the amount of \$96,883.85 of which \$5,330.00 is the ESChat interface that Wright isn't sure if he

will purchase yet. There will also be a cost for the integration of the admin phones which will be around \$3,000.00 - \$4,000.00 along with the cost of installation from Morris Electronics. Currently, we have NG911 funds for \$37,060.00, which needs to be spent by June, and public safety fund funds of \$68,293.00 which we can use. Wright asked the Board for the ability to use up to \$105,353.00 for incidentals if needed. Metz made a motion to approve Wright's proposal and for the ability to spend up to \$105,000.00 for incidentals, seconded by Nelson and approved unanimously.

Auditor/Treasurer

County Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson went over the tax-forfeited sale which will be held on March 27, 2025, at 10:00 am which will include 11 parcels. The following resolution and the date and terms of the sale which was approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz:

“Whereas, The County Board of Commissioners of the County of Traverse, State of Minnesota, desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes,

Whereas, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved; That the Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

The terms and conditions of the public sale shall be described in the list contained here-in and approved by the Traverse County Board of Commissioners.”

Today is the last day of filing for the County Commissioner open seat. Programming the ballot scanners would cost \$1,600.00 so Johnson is considering not using them since it will be just one race. This would save the county roughly \$1,400.00 because we would have to purchase a ballot box. We have received \$2,113.90 in cannabis aid. Johnson isn't sure how we can spend it so he has reached out to the Department of Revenue and is waiting to hear back. The draft ordinances for the wind, solar, and battery were sent to MCIT, the one thing they will not cover would be the escrow account, the County could try to go into the private sector to get a policy but it would be an additional cost.

County Coordinator

Upon motion by Metz and second by Schmidt, the following bills were approved unanimously.

ANDERSON LAW OFFICE, PA	\$6,000.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,644.57
DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$3,570.55
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$6,961.91
GAZETTE PUBLISHING, INC.	\$3,069.80
HORIZON PUBLIC HEALTH	\$11,856.66
HORMANN, MARK	\$2,200.00
IND.SCHOOL DIST. #801	\$17,290.00
NORTHLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC	\$3,043.34
PENGUIN MANAGEMENT	\$3,180.00
STEPHANIE L. BRUSS PHSY. D., PLLC	\$3,250.00
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$5,002.10
TRUE NORTH SURVEYS, PA	\$31,750.00
WEX BANK	\$2,345.07

WHEATON AREA SCHOOLS	\$3,900.00
WHEATON EDA	\$2,000.00
CS DIESEL, INC.	\$2,183.48
CULLIGAN SOFT WATER	\$2,130.00
GIBSON COMPANY, INC.	\$10,601.14
LARSON OIL, INC	\$3,387.20
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE, INC.	\$6,028.66
MID-STATES HYDROAULICS & MACHINE INC.	\$2,882.75
RDO EQUIPMENT TRUST ACCT 80-5800	\$7,855.00

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 49 in the amount of \$18,325.43.

There are three seats expiring for the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments at the end of March. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise for one week. There is one seat open for the Bois de Sioux Watershed position, we are required by State Statute to run this for two weeks in the paper. The grant eligibility criteria and cost share rates for the SSTS Upgrade grant were approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Schmidt the meeting was closed to discuss strategy for labor negotiations per MN Statute 13D.03. Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson the meeting was reopened.

Public Comment Period

There was a question regarding Wheelage tax, the Commissioners asked that the Townships get back to them on the overall response on this subject.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended a MCIT webinar regarding open meeting laws, Western Prairie, Horizon Public Health, Extension Orientation, and Social Services preplacement meeting. Nelson attended the Personnel Committee, Horizon Performance Committee, Primewest, Western Prairie, and Soil and Water.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Jerrel Olson, Chair