

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
March 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: AMC Making Solid Land Use Decisions training, upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The March 3, 2025 Public Hearing and the March 4, 2025, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz.

Highway Department

Brian Koch, Highway Supervisor appeared before the Board with a department update. The following resolution was approved unanimously up a motion by Metz and second by Schmitz:

Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners

A Resolution Placing an All -Way (4-Way) Stop Controlled Intersection at
2nd Ave and 2nd St in Browns Valley, MN on MCSAH 105

WHEREAS, the intersection of 2nd Ave and 2nd St in Browns Valley, MN is a portion of MCSAH 105.

WHEREAS, this intersection is near the School and Church having high levels of pedestrian crossing movements.

WHEREAS, the latest version of the MUTCD manual indicates in Section 2B.17 All-Way Stop Control Warrant E: Other Factors “Option C: Where pedestrian and/or bicyclist movements support the installation of all-way stop control.” may be installed.

WHEREAS, Traverse County wants to increase the safety of this intersection beyond the current SRTS (Safe Routes to School) planning that is happening.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Traverse County will install the needed Stop Signs to make this intersection an All-Way Stop (4-Way) Controlled intersection.

Approved By:

Chair, County Board of Commissioners

Date

Attest:

County Coordinator

Date

Koch explained that Bois de Sioux Watershed inquired if we would pay half the cost of removal and relay of a double line of 138” RCPA on County Road 86, this is considered a bridge. BDSW received a quote from John Riley Construction, Inc. for \$42,565.00, Koch explained that this would be an unbudgeted expense. Schmidt made a motion to do a 50/50 cost share of this project, seconded by Nelson and approved unanimously. Koch asked for approval for a CDL tuition payment and employment agreement to be put into place for the Highway Department. This would pay up to \$3,000.00 towards the program in order for an employee, who doesn’t have their Class A, CDL Driver’s License, to get it. There will be a resolution that will be passed by the Board before each approved agreement. This was passed unanimously upon a motion by Metz and second by Nelson. Koch gave the Commissioners a bridge update.

Joint Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment Appointment

There are three positions open on the Joint Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments, Steven Schmidt, Paul Frisch, and Doug Frisch. Steven Schmidt and Paul Frisch have an interest in reappointment and Doug Frisch would like to step down. The Commissioners received three letters of interest. Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Paul Frisch and Steven Schmidt and to appoint Steven Deal for a 3-year term beginning April 1, 2025, seconded by Nelson and approved unanimously.

Bois de Sioux Board Manager Appointment

There is one position open on the Bois de Sioux Board, Steven Deal. Deal showed interest in being reappointed with no other letters of interest. It was unanimously approved, upon a motion by Nelson and second by Metz, to reappoint Steven Deal for a 3-year term beginning on May 1, 2025.

Auditor/Treasurer

County Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Johnson informed the Board that tax statements will be going out in the next couple of weeks. The delinquent tax listing and the Expiration of Redemption, by statute, have to run in the paper for two consecutive weeks. The tax-forfeited sale will be held on March 27, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Commissioner's room. The following resolution was approved unanimously upon a motion by Metz and seconded by Schmidt:

ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD RESOLUTION

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TRAVERSE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION; ESTABLISHING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD WHEREAS, **Traverse County** is required by Minnesota Statutes 203B.121, Subd. 1 to establish an Absentee Ballot Board effective March 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this board will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee ballots in **Traverse County**; and

WHEREAS, the Absentee Ballot Board would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy county auditors trained in the processing and counting of absentee ballots;

WHEREAS, this resolution will cover all elections held in Traverse County in 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the **Traverse County** Board of Commissioners hereby establishes an Absentee Ballot Board that would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy auditors to perform the task.

COMMISSIONERS	VOTE			
Schmidt	Yes X	No_	Absent_____	Abstain_____
Metz	Yes X	No_	Absent_____	Abstain_____
Nelson	Yes X	No_	Absent_____	Abstain_____
Olson	Yes X	No_	Absent_____	Abstain_____
	Yes_	No_	Absent_____	Abstain_____

Johnson asked for approval to issue the Wheaton Golf Course a 3.2 beer license, a wine license with strong beer, and a consumption and display permit. Nelson made a motion to approve the above-mentioned licenses and permit seconded by Metz and approved unanimously. Upon a motion by Metz and second by Schmidt, there was unanimous approval to do an internal transfer of \$30,000.00 to the Traverse Care Center fund and \$10,000.00 to the Prairieview Place Fund. Johnson informed the Board that he did some research regarding the Escrow Account language that is in the Wind Ordinance and there are two options and setting up a trust with a bank for these escrow funds would be less costly to administer.

Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator, Ben Oleson, appeared before the Board. Schmidt made a motion to approve both the Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Ordinance and the Wind Energy Ordinance as recommended and unanimously approved by the Planning Commission, seconded by Nelson followed by discussion. Schmidt rescinded her original motion. Schmidt made a motion to adopt the March 11th version of the Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Ordinance and the Wind Energy Ordinance with the following changes: change the minimum parcel size from 80 contiguous acres to 40 contiguous acres; change the financial requirement of decommissioning from three times the individually estimated decommissioning cost for each WTG at issuance of a permit to one and a half times up front followed by another 0.5 times at year 5; and reinsert the following: Wind Turbine Location. No wind turbine shall be constructed within one mile of another wind turbine, so as to allow aerial spraying to continue unimpeded. A variance may be obtained, a neighboring landowner may object by showing materially adverse effects on the operation of Ariel spraying or other farm operations of the landowner. This motion was seconded by Nelson and it passed 3-1 with Olson opposed. The summary ordinances were approved unanimously upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Metz.

County Coordinator

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

ANOKA COUNTY TREASURY OFFICE	\$2,000.00
CITY OF ST. CLOUD	\$7,045.32
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,564.57
DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	\$3,570.55
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$3,402.12
ERIC'S AUTO AND GLASS	\$6,583.28
GAZETTE PUBLISHING, INC.	\$2,084.30
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$4,985.60
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$7,156.03
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CT	\$15,657.00
WEX BANK	\$2,000.20
DIAMOND MOWERS, INC.	\$3,452.36
LARSON OIL, INC.	\$8,718.80
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE, INC.	\$3,555.11
TRAVERSE COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER	\$13,220.76
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	\$7,162.98
ZIEGLER, INC.	\$13,616.21
DHS	\$3,094.14
HEARTLAND MOTORS	\$34,572.91
NCIT	\$7,200.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY	\$2,500.00
LSS	\$6,034.96
CEP	\$5,007.03

TC COLLABORATIVE
PLACEMENTS

\$20,036.00
\$23,111.24

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling \$2,000.00 or less were 68 in the amount of \$21,937.21.

There is a training put on by the Association of Minnesota Counties called Building Foundations: Making Solid Land Use Decisions that is designed for those making county land use decisions. Upon a motion by Metz, second by Nelson, and approved unanimously, the County will allow up to \$1,000.00 which includes registration and mileage for those on the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment members who would like to attend.

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 the Social Services Technology Committee, Western Prairie Social Services, Horizon Public Health, Township meetings, Planning and Zoning and MN Rural Counties. Nelson attended the Planning and Zoning, PrimeWest, Western Prairie, Horizon Public Health, Township meetings, and Soil and Water.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Jerrel Olson, Chair