

Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
June 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Jerrel Olson. Other Commissioners present were Dwight Nelson, Chad Metz, Mark Gail, and Kayla Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Gail and a second by Metz, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following addition: Extension Office computer. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The May 19, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Metz and a second by Schmidt.

Highway Department

County Engineer Chad Gillespie appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval to purchase a Western Star Tandem Truck Chassis for \$162,155.62 from TransWest Boyer Trucks. Upon a motion by Nelson and a second by Gail, this purchase was unanimously approved. Upon a motion by Metz and a second by Schmidt, the final payment for SAP 078-600-002 and the Traverse County PWA project to Joe Riley Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$10,756.56, was unanimously approved. Gillespie provided an update on the CSAH 9 project. He also discussed projects in Stevens County pertaining to the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. The Board discussed the project in Eldorado Township in depth, and the consensus was that they believe this project will be detrimental to our taxpayers because Twelve Mile Creek is not an adequate outlet and will cause additional flooding. Metz made a motion for Chad Gillespie to write a letter to Bois de Sioux Watershed, Eldorado Township, and the Stevens County Commissioners expressing the Board's concerns. The motion was seconded by Nelson and unanimously approved.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright was unable to appear before the Board due to a call. He provided an update that conditional offers have been extended to two new Deputy Sheriffs, and the County is waiting completion of background checks and drug testing prior to their start date.

Soil and Water Conservation District

District Administrative Manager Sara Gronfeld appeared before the Board. County program updates were provided. There were no new SSTS permit applications. The SSTS Low-Income Upgrade Grant received one application for the remaining funding. Gronfeld requested approval of the Redpath Project Replacement Plan Extension, which was unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and a second by Metz. Comprehensive Watershed Management updates were provided for the Bois de Sioux–Mustinka Plan and the Upper Minnesota River Plan. SWCD spring fieldwork continues with some projects completed. Soil Health Grants are available, however, funding is currently limited for cover crops, strip-till/no-till, and other practices. Federal funding contracts are accepting new applications. The Soil Health Demonstration Project received a \$3,025.00 Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Grant.

Courthouse Maintenance

Chad Klindworth, Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor, appeared before the Board to discuss the front steps of the Courthouse. We received a bid in March of 2025 from Prime Builders to resurface concrete stairs and secure the railing for \$2,800.00. At that time, the Commissioners requested that Klindworth obtain quotes for replacement of the steps. Klindworth contacted multiple companies; however, no contractors were willing to submit a bid. Because the stairs being are tied into the courthouse

brickwork, additional work would be required for replacement. He recently spoke with Prime Builders, and the company confirmed that its bid remains valid. Gail made a motion to approve the quote, seconded by Metz and approved unanimously.

County Coordinator

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

ADAVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	\$7,010.08
BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS	\$12,035.00
BROWNS VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$5,000.00
HOMETOWN PLANNING	\$3,185.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$2,478.97
MINNESOTA CIT OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION	\$4,645.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSO	\$15,000.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$5,000.00
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	\$87,932.00
VIKING LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$37,667.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CE	\$4,880.00
MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERV	\$23,131.12

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 34 claims of less than \$2,000.00 totaling \$12,125.74.

The Board reached a consensus to send the drafted letter regarding the rate increase to Otter Tail Power Company. County Coordinator Lisa Zahl presented a quote from Morris Electronics in the amount of \$977.22 for two new external hard drives for the County's computer backup system. Upon a motion by Metz and a second by Nelson, the quote was unanimously approved. Zahl reported that the Extension Office needs a computer for the summer intern. This computer will be used for 3 months each year. The Commissioners asked whether the Extension Office could use one of the County's Surface Pros that is not currently being used or, if an employee receives a new computer, whether the replaced computer could be reassigned to the Extension Office. Zahl will discuss these options with Morris Electrnocis.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Bois de Sioux Watershed District meeting. Nelson attended the Bois de Sioux Watershed District meeting, Western Prairie Executive Committee and Personnel meetings, and the Bois de Sioux Watershed Twelve Mile Creek meeting.

Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

Jerrel Olson, Chair