Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
June 16, 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, Kayla Schmidt, and Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion from Gail, seconded by Schmidt with the following addition: SAHA awards. No conflicts of interest were declared. The June 2, 2026, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion from Nelson, seconded by Metz.

Highway

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board to provide a department update. Gillespie provided the Board with a summary of flood costs from 2019 through 2025. Gillespie also provided updates on the CSAH 9 project and the CSAH 6 and Croke Township box culvert projects. The department purchased a tree puller, which is working well.

Western Prairie Human Services

Human Services Director Stacy Hennen appeared before the Board to provide a quarterly update. Hennen reviewed federal and state updates. She informed the Board that the department is currently fully staffed. Legislation prohibits the Social Worker title for staff who do not hold a bachelor's degree in social work. They are working on a title change for these staff members for July 2027. Cleaning service RFPs have been submitted. General Program Developments: Starting July 1, the state will administer the Behavioral Health Fund, previously managed locally, and the administrative fee previously received by the county will end in July. The state hired seven employees to oversee this statewide. The process is expected to be challenging. Hennen went over System Modernization, SNAP, MAAFPCWDA, Medical Assistance, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), Long Term Support Services (LTSS) and the Governor's Transformation.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board with a department update. Upon a motion by Schmidt, seconded by Gail, the following resolution was approved unanimously:

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; 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 2026.

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____
Gail	Yes X	No_	Absent____	Abstain____
Metz	Yes X	No_	Absent____	Abstain____
Nelson	Yes X	No_	Absent____	Abstain____
Olson	Yes X	No_	Absent____	Abstain____

STATE OF MINNESOTA
TRAVERSE COUNTY

I, Lisa Zahl, duly appointed qualified and County Coordinator for the Traverse County, State of Minnesota, do whereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Traverse County, Minnesota at their session held on 16th day of June, 2026 now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.
Witness my hand and official seal at Traverse County, Minnesota, this 16th day of June, 2026.

_____ County Coordinator

There are two elections this season, which will be held in August and November. Johnson also updated the Board on taxes, reports, and MCIT cyber security coverage.

County Coordinator

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

ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	$6,185.08
BAKER TILLY MUNICIPAL ADVISORS, LLC	$2,100.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	$5,728.15
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	$4,668.61
GALLS, LLC	$3,245.20
HORMANN/MARK	$2,200.00
MN STATE AUDITOR	$9,912.69
NORTHLAND TRUST SERVICES	$2,475.00
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS	$34,246.14
VALLEY OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC.	$3,503.09
WEX BANK	$2,776.33
WHEATON EDA	$2,000.00
CHS	$2,567.56
FERGUS POWER PUMP, INC.	$33,119.68
LARSON OIL, INC	$31,197.20
PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY, LLC	$5,885.40
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	$3,087.72
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF WHEATON, INC	$16,078.85

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling $2,000.00 or less were 53 in the amount of $23,898.14.

County Coordinator Lisa Zahl explained that the Minnesota State Demographic Center is required by law to produce annual population and household estimates for Minnesota's cities and townships. As of April 1, 2025, Traverse County's population is estimated at 3,129. Zahl informed the Board that the SAHA Housing Repair Grant Program received 18 applications requesting a total of $369,704.39 in funding. The committee approved 10 applications, awarding a total of $88,300.16 in grant funds. The next round of SAHA Housing Repair Grants will be available in the spring of 2027. The Board also received a letter from MNIT Services thanking the county for its participation in the PLSS Monument Grant.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended Horizon Public Health, Emergency Services Board, Western Prairie Preplacement, Planning and Zoning, Bois de Sioux Watershed and the Board of Equalization. Nelson attended Primewest, AMC Spring Meeting, Horizon Public Health, Soil and Water, Western Prairie Personnel, Planning and Zoning, Bois de Sioux Watershed and the Board of Equalization.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator Jerrel Olson, Chair