Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
August 18, 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 with the following additions: Ben Oleson Wind Ordinance, upon a motion from Nelson, seconded by Metz. No conflicts of interest were declared. The August 18, 2026, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Schmidt, seconded by Nelson.

Highway

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board to provide a department update. Gillespie informed the Board that if the County purchases the remaining portion of the Truck from Towmaster early, the County will receive a March/April 2027 delivery slot. Upon a motion by Gail, seconded by Schmidt, the Board unanimously approved purchasing the remaining portion of the truck at this time. Gillespie also informed the Board that if the County purchases the John Deere Tractor early, the delivery date will be January 2027, allowing the Highway Department to utilize it for early 2027 winter operations, if needed. Upon a motion by Nelson, seconded by Metz, the early purchase was unanimously approved. Upon a motion by Metz, seconded by Nelson, the application for the County Agricultural Grant was approved unanimously. Gillespie provided the Board with the following informational items: CSAH 9 striping will be determined this week; box culverts on CSAH 6 and Croke TWP, the road project is planned for 2028 and will help large equipment travel more easily and safely; CSAH 5 graveling is complete, and blading will continue. Gillespie also provided an update on the future bridge project for County Road 87. Houston Engineering, Inc. has been selected as the consultant for the bridge design. Soil boring is planned for August 13 or 14. The bid opening for the Active Transportation Grant (City of Wheaton Sidewalk Project) is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

West Central Initiative

Rebecca Peterson from West Central Initiative was unable to attend the Board meeting. She will reschedule for a later date.

Family Fun Night

Leah Krauth appeared before the Board with a summary from the 5th Annual Traverse County Family Fun Night. There were nearly 700 attendees. The Committee thanked everyone who supported the event and helped make the night a success. The Commissioners thanked the Committee for organizing the event.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board to provide a department update. He provided an update on elections. Johnson informed the Board that MCIT went through Great American Insurance Group to obtain a quote for an additional $1 million in cybersecurity coverage. The cost was $5,000.00 annually. The Commissioners asked Johnson to obtain additional information from MCIT and bring it back to the Board later. Johnson reviewed the preliminary levy with the Board. At this time, the levy reflects a 9.85% increase over 2026. The Commissioners asked Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator, to schedule budget meetings with each Department Head.

Planning and Zoning

Zoning Administrator Ben Oleson appeared before the board. He explained that the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments recommended no changes to the Wind Ordinance at this time. He also explained that an individual may request a change to specific language within an ordinance, which would then be brought before the Planning Commission.

County Coordinator

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

ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC.	$5,810.08
CENTRUY BUSINESS PRODUCTS	$5,297.86
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	$5,778.15
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ECPN	$9,013.76
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	$12,069.25
ESRI	$7,201.00
GALLS, LLC	$2,160.79
HORMANN/MARK	$2,200.00
MN STATE AUDITOR	$7,478.00
PRIME BUILDERS LLP	$2,850.00
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC.	$2,075.08
TRAVERSE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	$6,818.64
TRAVERSE COUNTY SOIL & WATER SERV	$24,363.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CE	$4,880.00
WESTERN PRAIRIE HUMAN SERVICES	$14,582.00
WEX BANK	$3,764.56
WHEATON EDA	$2,000.00
BRAUN INTERTEC COPRORATION	$2,963.55
CHAMBERLAIN OIL COMPANY	$6,304.20
CHS	$4,310.75
HORMAN WORKS, LLC	$3,232.50
M-R SIGN CO., INC.	$5,648.62
MN STATE AUDITOR	$2,190.00
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	$31,175.03
ZIEGLER, INC.	$5,100.91

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling $2,000.00 or less were 57 in the amount of $20,804.98.

The Traverse County HRA District 2 seat expires on October 4, 2026. Crystal Fischer currently serves the County. The HRA Board is meeting on September 1, and Jodi Hormann will ask Fischer if she is interested in being reappointed. The Board consensus was that if she is interested, the County does not need to advertise the position, as it took five years to fill the vacancy. If she is not interested, Zahl will place an advertisement in the newspaper.

Public Comment Period

There was a public comment regarding the positive decision to purchase the Highway truck and tractor.

Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Social Services Preplacement meeting, the Canvas and Planning and Zoning. Nelson attended Horizon Public Health, Planning and Zoning, Canvas, Horizon Performance, and Western Prairie Board Meeting.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

_____ _____

Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator Jerrel Olson, Chair