Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
September 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Vice-Chair Dwight Nelson. Other Commissioners present were Kayla Schmidt, and Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions: Traverse County Website, upon a motion from Gail, seconded by Schmidt. No conflicts of interest were declared. The September 1, 2026, Board minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Schmidt, seconded by Gail.

Highway

County Engineer Chad Gillespie and Highway Supervisor Brian Koch appeared before the Board to provide a department update. Gillespie went over the 2027 equipment budget, which included two Front Mounted Motor Grader Discs, a Triple Axle Trailer, a Seril Koni Truck Life and an Asphalt Roller. Gillespie provided an update on the CSAH 16 Culvert Replacement.

Western Prairie Human Services

Human Services Director Stacy Hennen appeared before the Board to give a quarterly update along with the 2027 budget request. Hennen went over the Federal and State updates and agency updates. Hennen also went over the 2027 levy request. Traverse County Social Services has had some significant increases in the past four years. Traverse County SEAGR percentage increased which caused a 9.93% levy increase over 2026. One of the driving forces was our out of home placements. The Western Prairie Board has offered to give Traverse County the interest that was earned from the money Traverse County set aside for Western Prairie, this would help offset the levy increase, it would bring the increase down to 7.91%.

Auditor/Treasurer

Auditor/Treasurer Kit Johnson appeared before the Board to provide a department update. The Commissioners set November 30, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. for the Truth in Taxation meeting. Johnson 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 quote is $5,000.00 annually. He explained that the payment and the claims go through MCIT. This was tabled until the next meeting. Currently we are sitting at a 10.87% increase over 2026. The Budget Committee meet with the Department Heads and went over their individual department budgets. Johnson informed the Board that the Fund Balance as of the last audit was 6.32 months, the State Auditor recommends at least 5 months in reserves. Schmidt made a motion to not approve the 2027 levy, there was not a second, the motion failed. Schmidt made a motion to set a special meeting for September 18 at 9:00 a.m., seconded by Gail and approved unanimously.

West Central Initiative

Justin Moen, West Central Initiative, appeared before the board. He went over what West Central Initiative does for Traverse County. And he handed out the 2027 budget request which increased $50 over 2026 to $2,800.00.

County Coordinator

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

ALERE TOXICOLOGY	$9,300.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	$5,778.15
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	$10,308.51

ELLINGSON PLUMBING, HTG & AC	$2,002.67
GAZETTE PUBLISHING, INC.	$3,045.00
HORMANN/MARK	$2,200.00
MN DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	$9,481.47
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	$3,280.16
PRIME BUILDERS LLP	$11,700.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CE	$4,880.00
WHEATON EDA	$2,000.00
CHS	$2,379.65
DETCO	$4,728.28
ENVIORNMENTAL SCIENTIFIC	$2,750.00
HEARTLAND LAND CO OF WHEATON LLC	$6,680.00
JOE RILEY CONSTRUCTION INC.	$2,100.00
OLSON TILE AND EXCAVATING LLC	$9,346.98
TRI COUNTY COOP OIL ASSOC	$51,230.19
ZIEGLER, INC.	$4,663.08

Per M.S. 375.12, the number of claims totaling $2,000.00 or less were 58 in the amount of $21,317.19.

Schmidt made a motion to reappoint Crystal Frischer to the H.R.A. Board, seconded by Gail and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There was a public comment regarding the Jail and Sheriff's budget.

Committee Reports

Nelson attended Primewest and the Primewest Initiative Committees, Western Prairie Board meeting, two Budget Committee meetings, Soil and Water and Horizon Public Health. Schmidt attended two Budget Committee meetings and Social Services Preplacement meeting.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator Dwight Nelson, Vice-Chair