Traverse County Commission
Regular Board Meeting
October 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Jerrel Olson. Other Commissioners present were Dwight Nelson, Kayla Schmidt, and Mark Gail. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Upon a motion by Gail and a second by Schmidt, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following addition: dental and vision insurance. There were no conflicts of interest expressed. The September 15, 2026, regular meeting and the September 18, 2026, special meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and a second by Schmidt.

Highway Department

County Engineer Chad Gillespie appeared before the Board. Gillespie asked for approval of the following resolution, and the signature page, which was unanimously approved upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson:

Traverse County Resolution for SP 088-072-009

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of ***Traverse County*** to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ***Chairman – Jerrel Olson*** and the ***Auditor – Kit Johnson*** are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the **Traverse County** to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number **1062904**", a copy of which said agreement was before the **County Board** and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Gillespie asked for approval for the following resolution which was unanimously approved upon a motion by Nelson and seconded by Schmidt:

Traverse County Resolution

WHEREAS, SAP 078-606-028 is located on County State Aid Highway 6 (CSAH 6) and Municipal County State Aid Highway 6 (MCSAH 6).

WHEREAS, CSAH 6 West of Dumont is a Major Collector and connects US Hwy 75 to Mn St Hwy 27. SAP 078-606-028 will upgrade a portion of this route that is vital to our County's Transportation System. The planned improvement is from CSAH 5 to US Hwy 75 which is approximately 7.13 miles.

WHEREAS, this corridor functions as a Route of Regional Significance by supporting Farm-to-Market activities; enhancing connectivity and providing congestion relief to US Hwy 75, MN Hwy 27, and other interregional corridors; and advancing the economy in Traverse County, the City of Dumont, and the surrounding region.

WHEREAS, this project has elements planned to eliminate hazards which will reduce traffic crashes, deaths, injuries, and property damage.

WHEREAS, this route connects and provides a benefit to the various local businesses, Large Farming Co-Op (Wheaton Dumont Co-Op), Various Large Private Grain Elevators, and Emergency and City/County Services.

WHEREAS, Traverse County is dedicated to providing safer roadways for the traveling public whether it is large farm equipment, school buses, emergency service vehicles, or general vehicle traffic.

WHEREAS, this project is planned to be constructed in **2028** at a planning level construction cost estimate of **$2.73 million.**

WHEREAS, Traverse County will be applying for **$1.5 million** in LRIP funding for eligible elements and CSAH Construction funds will cover any remaining costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Traverse County Board of Commissioners supports the Local Road Improvement Program application for Grant Funds to improve this section of road and agrees to maintain such improvements.

Approved By: _____
Chair, County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
County Coordinator

Upon a motion by Nelson and seconded by Gail the purchase of two road rakes from Road Rake Attachments LLC for $11,000.00 was approved unanimously. Gillespie went over informational items which included an update to CSAH 16 Culvert Replacement, LRIP Application for the City of Browns Valley, and the City of Wheaton Active Transportation Project.

Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Trevor Wright appeared before the Board. Wright discussed his letter to the editor and the information he shared regarding facts for taxpayers and how to understand your property tax statement. Wright also mentioned that the jail rates will be increasing beginning in January. Discussion followed, including Wright will meet with the Budget Committee to go over the budget and the Commissioners asked him to reach out to Justin Roberts to have him come discuss Juvenile Detention Center options. Wright praised his staff for their quick response to a medical incident in Dumont.

Public Hearing

The Commissioners heard comments from the public in regard to the changes of the Land Use Ordinances. There was discussion among the Commissioners, and the decision was to table this until the next meeting in October.

Horizon Public Health

Angie Hasbrouck, Administrator and Tom Craig, Director of Finance and Administration appeared before the Board with an overview and yearly update. The mission of Horizon Public Health is to promote, protect, and improve the health and well-being of all people in our communities. Horizon serves the following five counties: Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse. They went over the events and campaigns that they have been apart of this past year.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Sara Gronfeld, District Manager was unable to attend today's meeting.

Solid Waste

Lynn Siegel, Emergency Manager/Solid Waste Manager, appeared before the Board. Siegel was looking for approval of the 2027 Solid Waste contract that we have with Mark Hormann. Siegel went over what Hormann does for recycling for Traverse County. There was discussion about liability insurance which Siegel is waiting for from Hormann. The Commissioners said to suspend the contract and services until we receive confirmation that he has liability insurance in place. They also discussed going out for quotes to ensure that Traverse County is obtaining the most advantageous price and value for services. Siegel informed the Board that she was approached by Steven Hormann regarding a Minnesota Pollution Control Grant for a glass crusher. There is a 25% match which S. Hormann would match. If the County receives the grant, Siegel said that we are allowed, per the grant, to gift the glass crusher as long as it benefits Traverse County.

County Coordinator

Upon a motion by Nelson and a second by Gail, the following bills were unanimously approved:

ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, INC.	$16,421.15
HOMETOWN PLANNING	$3,185.00
LARSON OIL, INC	$2,320.00
MORRIES ELECTRONICS	$3,422.20
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINN	$9,295.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JEVENILE CE	$4,880.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	$9,297.27
MARK SAND & GRAVEL DAKOTA CO	$2,043.40
NORTH COUNTRY CHEVROLET GMC	$72,127.64
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CO.	$18,954.07
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF WHEATON, INC.	$8,742.73
MINNEWASKA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERV	$11,152.21

Per M.S. §375.12, there were 31 claims of less than $2,000.00 totaling $9,350.86.

County Coordinator Lisa Zahl informed the Board that we received our Sr. Gold and MC Rx Renewal for the retirees; the increase was 6.78%. We also received our Health Insurance renewal which came in at a 10.5% increase. The Benefit Committee met and discussed possibly changing companies for both our Dental and Vision insurance. It was brought to our attention that the local Dentist and Optometrist will not be in network for our current coverage. The Commissioners asked that Zahl send out a survey to the employees before they would decide to change insurance companies. Zahl discussed the proposed Traverse Care Center/Prairieview Place lease extension which would be for six months. Beginning October 1, 2026, Minnewaska would assume responsibility for the water, garbage, internet and telephone bills associated with the leased space. Upon a motion by Schmidt and second by Nelson the Traverse Care Center and Prairie View Place lease extension was approved unanimously. Zahl went over some maintenance and improvement requests that the University of Minnesota Extension has proposed. These included flooring and painting of the new office, new windows and a new bathroom sink. The Board asked that Chad Klindworth, Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor get quotes and bring them back to the Board for approval. The MCIT Cyber Security Insurance was tabled until next meeting.

Public Comment Period

There was a comment regarding getting the Land Use Ordinances passed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Committee Reports

Schmidt attended the Bois de Sioux Watershed meeting, Traverse County Special meeting and the TCC/PVP Committee meeting. Nelson attended the Western Prairie Personnel meetings, Traverse County Special meeting and the Bois de Sioux Watershed meeting. .

Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator Jerrel Olson, Chair