



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: October 6, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Nate Alger, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Administrator's Report

SUMMARY:

October 2021 Administrator's Report

ATTACHMENTS:

[October 6 2021 Admin Report \(1\)](#)

October 6, 2021

Administrator's Report

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

The agreement with Workday was signed by Chairman Hentschel on September 29th and we are awaiting the response from Workday as to the next steps. We are expecting the transition from our existing platform to take about a year. We have identified an implementation team of internal staff that will dedicate their time to the transition.

Wage and Compensation Study

We are working with MAG to receive a final report from them and expect to have that report in the next couple of weeks. Once the final report is received, the Wage and Compensation Committee will present it to the Board of Commissioners.

Budget Process

We are finalizing the budget process and Mr. Bott and I will be conducting a final review of the requests from the various departments and elected offices prior to making a final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. There is significant activity, such as APR funding discussions and the wage and compensation study, that has delayed the process slightly, but we will have a recommended budget to you in October.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

There are still not final rules specific to the American Rescue Plan, but we have been engaged in as many discussions and webinars as possible about the ARP funds. Mr. Forsyth has spent a significant amount of time reviewing the interim rules and we believe we have a good handle on how we can use the funds. I recommend that we continue with our plan to have a Study Session to discuss ARP funds and how we should proceed.

Airport Governance Transition

The ceremony and transfer of the Airport Operating Certificate from the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission (NRAC) to the Northwest Regional Airport Authority (NRAA) will occur on October 1st at 1:00 pm. The transfer of the Certificate finalizes a long process of transition that involved significant effort on behalf of the Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County Boards, the NRAC, and their subcommittees. We see this transition as essential to allow our airport to continue to prosper and to respond to the needs of our growing region.

Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) annual conference.

The MAC annual Conference was held on Mackinaw Island from September 26th to September 28th. Commissioners Hentschel, Commissioner Morris, and I attended the conference that was the first in person MAC conference since the beginning of the pandemic. There were many breakout sessions in

addition to the Plenary sessions such as, 911 funding, Broadband discussions, Mental Health Funding, Strategic Planning for Counties, ARP funding, etc. We were also able to enjoy discussions with other County Commissioners and County Administrators where we discussed our shared experiences over the last year and a half. I would encourage all Commissioners to consider attending future MAC conferences and thank you Commissioners Hentschel and Morris for attending this year.

Medical Director's Contract

As you are all aware, Doctor Collins contract expired on September 30th, 2021. Wendy and I met with Dr. Collins on September 22nd and informed him that we would not be recommending a renewal of the contract and would let his contract expire as was worded in the contract. I do not believe it is appropriate to publicly discuss the contractual relationship with our Medical Director as it pertains to the employment relationship of our employees at the Health Department. It has been my experience that when an employer discusses performance in an open forum there is a possibility that those involved are subjected to unnecessary criticism and embarrassment. Additionally, Departments and Administration do not bring contract expirations to the Board of Commissioners unless they are seeking renewal.

That said, the reporting of this decision has brought many questions and many people have drawn incorrect conclusions about why the decision to not renew Dr. Collins' contract was made, so I feel it necessary to clarify the record. I have been engaged in significant conversation with our Health Officer and her leadership team regarding the performance of the Medical Director, Dr. Collins. These discussions *predate* the resolution that the Board of Commissioners passed on August 18, 2021, and prior to Dr. Collins' forum article in the Traverse City Record Eagle.

Through my discussions with the Health Officer, I have heard that she and her staff have had growing concerns about Dr. Collins' over the last couple of years and that she currently does not have a level of trust with Dr. Collins that would allow him to continue to be the contracted Medical Director. Ms. Hirschenberger recommended that due to the concerns about Dr. Collins' performance, the lack of trust and support with Dr. Collins, and doing what is best for the Health Department moving forward, that we did not seek a renewal of his contract as a Medical Director, and that she be allowed to engage an interim Medical Director as is allowed by state statute. I supported the request of Ms. Hirschenberger as I believe the request to be in the best interest of the Health Department and Grand Traverse County going forward.

I did not receive any direction from any Commissioner prior to making these decisions nor did the Deputy County Administrator who, together with Ms. Hirschenberger and Jodi Kelly, met with Dr. Collins at the request of the Health Officer prior to his letter being published. Ultimately, the decision not to renew the Medical Director's contract was made by Wendy and me jointly and in the best interest of Grand Traverse County.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this report.



Nate Alger
Grand Traverse County Administrator