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**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

October 16, 2015

## **Easling Pool Closed Temporarily; Transition to Y Operations Expected in December**

Traverse City – During its regular meeting last night, the county's Parks and Recreation Commission voted to temporarily close Easling Pool starting Tuesday, October 27, to deal with an unexpected departmental deficit.

According to County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson, the decision to close the pool temporarily came about after it was learned on Tuesday that an arbitration award will deplete the Parks and Recreation Department's fund balance. "We never imagined that the award amount would be so high," said Erickson.

County Parks and Recreation has been in negotiations with the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA to take over Easling Pool operations and, said Erickson, that target date has moved up from January 1, 2016 to early December 2015.

"We need to refund membership fees to patrons before the YMCA assumes operations," said Erickson, "and the savings from the temporary pool closure will be used to do that."

Erickson says that the six-to-eight-week closure will give the Parks Department time to make refunds, finalize the collaborative agreement with the Y, and work with the Parks Board to finish preparing its budget for 2016.

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