



**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Grand Traverse County provides mandated and necessary services that ensure safety and add value to our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2015

County Commissioners Continue Strategic Planning

Traverse City – Grand Traverse County Commissioners met at Twin Lakes Park on Saturday, October 3, to continue strategic planning.

Led by Barbara Jordan Ellis, owner of and senior consultant for the Center for Coaching and Leadership Development in Traverse City, commissioners finalized the mission statement and strategies to support that statement.

The mission statement is: “Grand Traverse County provides mandated and necessary services that ensure safety and add value to our community.”

Supporting strategies are to:

1. achieve long-term financial sustainability
2. improve internal and external communication
3. improve organizational accountability
4. collaborate to promote an environment that fosters economic development

According to County Commission Chairperson Christine Maxbauer, “The statement reflects our core values and purpose. It provides clear direction for budgeting and for all of our decisions on behalf of the community.” Maxbauer said she was “pleased” with the outcome of the strategic planning retreats. “All of the commissioners have contributed to this effort, which has helped prepare us to move together toward a more sustainable future for the county.”

On Wednesday, September 23, commissioners learned from a preliminary independent financial analysis report that in 2016, the county faces a \$3.4 million structural deficit, with increased shortages projected for the coming years.

The County Commission held its first strategic planning session on Sunday, August 23. A third strategic planning session may be scheduled in the near future, and a special budget meeting will be scheduled some time in October.

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