

October 22, 2013

APPROVED on 11/12/13

Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held in the Cedarville Township Hall, Cedar River, Michigan.

Chairman Meintz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A call of the roll indicated that the following Commissioners were present/absent:

Present: Coms. Furlong, Hafeman, Krienke, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Piche, Plutchak, and Schei.

Absent: None.

Com. Meintz stated that the agenda would need to be amended to table Action Item #3. A motion to appoint a member to the DHS/Pinecrest Board of Trustees. The reason he would like to table this item is because some information was brought to the boards attention regarding a possible candidate and the matter will need to be reviewed by Prosecuting Attorney Hass.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was approved 9-0

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Krienke to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Discussion ensued. Com. Hafeman noted that in the minutes there was a typo regarding the motion to approve Larry Wall as the Menominee Housing Program Grant Administrator. The first motion should have included the words "an action item"

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the amended minutes from the October 8, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Lin Peterson – Read a statement thanking the County Board for coming to Cedar River and also urging the board to approve the 2% raises for the Elected Officials.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on the CUPPAD and MDOT discussion items. Urged the board to look into the economic development issue with CUPPAD before making a decision and also inviting the DNR to give a presentation at a meeting regarding the ORV trail system.
- Charlene Peterson – Commented about CUPPAD and the fact that Menominee County already has a Planning Commission and Economic Development.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports: None.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the salaries of the current Menominee County Elected Officials to remain the same as last year (Clerk/ROD-\$54,847; Treasurer-\$52,107; Sheriff-\$61,706; Prosecuting Attorney-\$91,870; Board Chairman-\$4,500; Board members-\$4,000; Drain Commission-\$500). Discussion ensued. Com. Schei stated that the Elected Officials usually receive the same raises as the Department Heads and the union. The 2013/2014 budget was approved with the 2% raises built in. Com. Furlong agrees with Lin Peterson's comments. Com. Piche agrees the EO are hard working, but we need to get things under control. Com. Plutchak agrees with Com. Piche and spoke about the teachers in Menominee looking at a pay cut. Com. Hafeman discussed the increases the county will have in insurance and retirement this year. Com. Meintz agrees with Com. Plutchak and Hafeman. Motion was approved 5-4. Com. Furlong, Krienke, Lang and Schei voted nay.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the 2013 Menominee County Apportionment Report as submitted by the Equalization Director. (This report may later need to be amended due to the November election). Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve payment of Commissioner Per Diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on Sept. 26 & 30 2013 in the amount of \$107,530.23. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Schei to place miscellaneous boards/committees/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion was approved 8-0.

New Business (discussion only)

Personnel Items:

- a. MERS – Defined Contribution. – Brian explained that the Executive Committee at their last meeting discussed creating a Defined Contribution plan for new hires in Menominee County. He also discussed a correspondence he received from MERS regarding this issue. If the county were to create the Defined Contribution division for new hires then the accelerated amortization would apply. Menominee County will need to have a mandatory projection study prepared. The fee for this would be \$1,000 if existing Define Benefit employees are not given the opportunity to convert to the Defined Contribution plan. If existing Define Benefit employees are given the opportunity to convert to the Defined Contribution plan then the fee would be \$1,600. Com. Furlong asked if we would have to create multiple new Defined Contribution plans for all the different unions and groups. Brian explained that this would be the only division that would have to be created. Com. Furlong discussed the possible wording of the title on this new division. Com. Meintz commented that all of the existing plans would work their way into this plan over time. Com. Plutchak asked Brian which plan we would be going with (the \$1,000 fee, or the \$1,600 fee)? Com. Lang asked if anyone has sat down with the unions and discussed the options

available and weighed them out as to the benefits. Com. Nelson commented that with the Defined Benefit we can never get a fixed cost like we would be able to with the Defined Contribution plan. Com. Nelson also discussed how this would only be for new hires. All current employees would be able to keep their existing plans that they have been promised. Com. Krienke commented that current employees would not be affected. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. CUPPAD – Letter of Support Request. – Brian explained that CUPPAD is in the process of developing an application for the Governor’s “Regional Prosperity Initiative.” They ask for support from the County Board via a resolution and/or a letter of support. Brian explained that he called Rhiannon Haller, Assistant Community Planner for CUPPAD earlier today but did not get a lot of information from the call. Brian feels that we should have her come to our next meeting to discuss this. Com. Meintz explained the recent partnership between MI Works and CUPPAD. Com. Schei stated that if we spend money on this we better make sure we are getting something in return. The consensus of the board is to table this item until Brian can obtain more information.
- b. MDOT – Requesting comments/concerns – ORV Connector trails. – Brian explained that he received a letter from MDOT. They are preparing to implement connector trails at 12 locations throughout the UP. As part of this effort, they are requesting comments. Lin Peterson, Cedarville Township Supervisor, discussed this issue. She explained how they are working on connector trails that could connect existing trails to trails that lead to the casino and then on to the Felch grade. Hopefully this will spur more economic development. Com. Hafeman asked who pays for trail maintenance. Lin explained there are grants available for this from the state and local groups provide the maintenance. Com. Hafeman also asked if there was a liability issue. Lin explained the county is not liable. Brian explained that no action is needed on this item. It is just an information item. Com. Piche commented on what all of this ORV traffic does to the county roads.

Finance Items:

- a. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses. – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- b. Miscellaneous bills as paid on Oct. 7, 10 & 11 2013 in a total amount of \$124,687.85. – Com. Hafeman asked about payment for gravel and top soil at Kleinke Park. Brian Bousley explained it was to repair a few areas. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:

Com. Hafeman commented on the Library Board voting in a 2% increase for Library staff. She felt that this was wrong.
The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Hafeman discussed the UPACC meeting she attended in Hannahville. She talked about the new fiber optic grid, FAN, MSUE and video conferencing.
- Com. Meintz discussed a phone conversation with Dr. Coon from MSU regarding the \$30,000 we budgeted for MSU. They would accept that for this year. They are also actively searching for a new educator for Menominee County. He also wished everyone a Happy Halloween.
- Com. Schei commented that we should move forward with MSU with hesitation.
- Com. Lang commented on the UPACC meeting, Obamacare, Jerry Ducet being reelected and unfunded mandates. Also, Ben Bodkin from MAC is going to be moving on to the private sector.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk