

October 8, 2013

APPROVED on 10/22/13

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.

Cedarville Township Supervisor Lin Peterson welcomed the board to Cedarville Township. She also read a statement supporting and thanking Brian Bousley and Nancy Douglas for all the help they have been to Cedarville Township with their economic development.

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

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

Absent: Com. Furlong (Excused)

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the agenda. Discussion ensued. Com. Schei does not feel that the board should be discussing the Personnel Items under New Business until they have gone before the Personnel Committee. He also feels that they should not be on tomorrow's Executive Committee Agenda. Motion was approved 7-1 Com. Schei voted nay.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 8-0.

Public Comment:

- Charlene Peterson – Commented on the need to have a full-time Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Lin Peterson - Commented on the need to have a full-time Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Gary Gerue - Commented on the need to have a full-time Emergency Management Coordinator.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Diane Lesperance – Stated that they are conducting foreclosure visits right now. She also commented that the Hermansville demolition project is continuing to move along.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve a bid by Anderson, Tackman & Co., PLC in the amount of \$27,000 for Audit Services for Menominee County for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2013, 2014 & 2015. Payments to be disbursed from Acct. #101-103-801.01. Motion was approved 8-0.

Ballots were passed out to all 8 commissioners present to vote for the two Board of Canvassers positions expiring on October 31, 2013 (one Democrat, and one Republican) Votes were tallied and Democratic Candidate Mary Jo Wennergren received all 8 votes and Republican Candidate Wesley Branyan received all 8 votes.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to appoint Mary Jo Wennergren as the Democratic Representative on the Menominee County Board of Canvassers. Term to commence November 1, 2013 and expire on October 31, 2017. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to appoint Wesley Branyan as the Republican Representative on the Menominee County Board of Canvassers. Term to commence November 1, 2013 and expire on October 31, 2017. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve payment of Commissioner Per Diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Krienke to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on Sept. 9, 11 & 12, 2013 in the amount of \$86,819.28. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Hafeman 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. Emergency Management Coordinator – Vacancy. – Brian Bousley explained that the current EMC, Trina Rabida is resigning as of October 9th. Trina and Michigan State Police Lt. Donald Brown are here to answer any questions and to explain the importance of keeping the EMC position as a full-time position. Trina passed out a letter, and read it to the board addressing this topic. Com. Schei asked if we would lose any money if this position is not filled. Trina explained that the Emergency Management Performance Grant reimburses the county for 37% of the wages of the EMC. Lt. Brown discussed the regional meeting that is held in Marquette on the first Thursday of every month. It is important to have a representative attend these meetings on behalf of Menominee County if they do not hire a new EMC right away. Com. Meintz asked if there are any counties that have a combined EMC position. Lt. Brown stated Schoolcraft and Delta counties have combined, and Houghton and Keewenaw counties have combined their EMC position. Brian explained that in the past we had the position combined with the 911 Director, Debra Wormwood. He said this did not work because of the responsibilities of the job. Debra did state she would be willing to help out until the position is filled. Com. Nelson commented on the amount of money that is currently budgeted for the position and the reimbursement amount. Coms. Nelson, Meintz and Hafeman commented on the great work that Trina has been doing as the coordinator. Com. Nelson believes that the Executive Committee should look at this issue further at their next meeting tomorrow morning.

- b. Building Code agreement with Delta County. – Brian Bousley explained that Dan Menacher is currently working full time at Delta County, Building Code. He (and Delta Co.) have agreed to contract with Menominee County for his services with Menominee County to maintain state compliance per the laws PA 230 of 1972 and Soil Erosion and Sedimentation control within the county. Brian also explained Delta County signed the contract last week. He thinks this should be moved forward for a vote tonight.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Krienke to make the approval of a Building Code agreement with Delta County and action item. Discussion ensued. Com. Schei asked if it would be 10.5 hours per week? Brian explained it would be a maximum of 550 hours per year. Motion was approved by roll call vote 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the Building Code agreement between Menominee and Delta County. Motion was approved 8-0.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Planning Commissioner – Volunteer per diem fee. – Brian Bousley explained that the Planning Commission met on September 23, 2013 and discussed payment of committee member per diem fees. A motion by Warren Suchovsky, supported by Paul Anderson was carried, “County Board should establish the volunteer per diem fee equal for all board members including the County Commissioner members assigned to the respective boards”. Brian explained at the last Parks Committee meeting they echoed the same feelings. Com. Hafeman stated there is no contingency money in the budget to pay for committee fees. The commissioners discussed how meeting fees would be paid and they would have to be paid from the budgets the committees currently have because they would not be given any additional funds. Com. Nelson feels this is a mute point since the board already decided to let the individual committees decide on their per diem fees and they only have their budgeted amount of money to use to pay the fees. The consensus of the board is to drop this item and not discuss it further.
- b. Menominee Housing Programs – Grant Administrator. – Brian explained that Larry Wall has been our Grant Administrator for many years. Menominee County was just approved for a two year grant (MSHDA) in the amount of \$175,000. We need to update Larry’s contract with the county to allow him to administer the funds and paperwork necessary to comply with the grant. Brian stated that Larry is doing a great job and we should just move this to an action item and approve him as the Grant Administrator.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Schei to make the approval of Larry Wall as the Menominee Housing Program Grant Administrator an action item. Motion was approved by roll call vote 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Hafeman to appoint Larry Wall as the Menominee Housing Program Grant Administrator. Motion was approved 8-0.

Finance Items:

- a. Salaries of County Officers – Elected Officials. – Brian explained that per Act 154 of 1879, salaries of each salaried county officer, which is by law fixed by the county board of commissioners, shall be fixed by the board before November 1, of each year. Brian explained in the FY 2013/2014 budget that was just approved last month the county budgeted for a 2% raise for the elected officials listed: (County Clerk/ROD, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, and County Prosecutor) The courthouse union received a 2% raise this year and it has been past practice to give the elected officials the same raise. Com. Hafeman feels the salaries should remain the same. She stated that the County already provides health insurance and retirement and does not feel the elected officials need anymore. Com. Lang asked how the salaries were established. Brian stated that occurred before his time as administrator. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the same salary the elected officials are currently receiving.
- b. Equalization – 2013 Apportionment Report. – Per MCL 211.37 & 207.12, The Apportionment Report must be approved by the County Board of Commissioners prior to October 31 each year. Equalization Director Peggy Schroud has submitted the 2013 Apportionment report for approval. Peggy explained that this report may need to be revised if the taxpayers vote in an additional millages on the November 2013 ballot. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses. - The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- d. Miscellaneous bills as paid on Sept. 26 & 30, 2013 in the amount of \$107,530.23. – Com. Hafeman asked as question about a bill for carpet. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:

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:

- Charlene Peterson – Commented about the Planning Commission and asked for the volunteers on the commission and the County Commissioners to be on the same pay level.
- Diane Lesperance – Commented that the elected official received a 2% raise last year, but with the change in social security their pay checks actually decreased.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Schei – Commented that he wants to make sure the board follows our bylaws and doesn't think the Executive Committee should be addressing the EMC position. It should be addressed by the Personnel Committee.
- Com. Meintz – Commented about the confusion in per diems being paid to volunteers vs. commissioners. He stated the raise in social security last year was not the County Boards fault.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that Delta, Dickinson and Menominee Counties should get together to discuss the Northern Healthcare and that Richard Mapes wants to set up a separate board. She feels that he is only doing this so he draw an additional salary.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk