

November 26, 2013

APPROVED on 12/10/13

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 Courtroom B, Courthouse, Menominee, 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.

Chairman Meintz stated that the agenda would need to be amended to add Personnel Item A under New Business. This would be a discussion about the equalization positions. Also add Personnel Item B under New Business. This would be a discussion of the letter the Menominee County Judges wrote to the board in regards to courthouse security. In addition to the added items, Action Item #5, a motion to approve Resolution 2013-15 will need to be adjusted to read Resolution 2013-17.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

**Public Comment:**

- John Anderson – Asked if the property in Meyer Township was on the agenda. If it is not he will reserve his comments for the Public Comment portion at the end of the meeting.

**Presentations:** None.

**Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:** None.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve the Section 3 Implementation Plan for Menominee County (MSHDA/HUD). Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the Park Lease Policies and Procedures as amended 11/12/2013. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Agreement for River Park Development. Project number TF12-121. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Resolution 2013-16 ~ Development of River Park. Motion was approved 9-0. (Attachment A)

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Lang to approve Resolution 2013-17 ~ In Support of CUPPAD application on behalf of the Central Upper Peninsula Regional Prosperity Collaborative. Discussion ensued. Com. Furlong, Meintz and Hafeman stated that they disagree with this resolution. Com. Nelson stated that he would support this resolution. Motion failed by a roll call vote 2-7. Com. Lang and Nelson voted Aye.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the “revised” Agreement for Extension services provided by Michigan State University to Menominee County. Total cost for services during the period of Oct. 2013 through September 2014 is \$30,000. Payment to be disbursed from account #101-261-801.00. Discussion ensued. Com. Meintz thanked Doug Brahee and Dr. Coon for coming to the board meeting. Both gentlemen then updated the board on the status of the educator position. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the Final 2012/2013 Budget Amendments, (3total). (Reimbursements from UP911 Authority, computer replacements - \$44,804; Reimbursement for cancelled corrections officer training - \$1,150; Board of Canvassers travel expenses - \$50.) Discussion ensued and Com. Nelson asked Brian about the \$23,000 over budget that the Sheriff’s Dept had incurred. Brian responded that will be covered by the deficit elimination plan, after the audit process. Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on Oct. 16, 23, 25, 30 & Nov. 7, 2013 in a total amount of \$342,263.73. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to place miscellaneous boards/committees/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion was approved 9-0.

### **New Business (discussion only)**

#### **Personnel Items:**

- a. Equalization Position – Brian explained that this is an item that was discussed at the last Personnel Committee meeting. Peggy Schroud (Equalization Director) gave Brian a job description for a Staff Appraiser. Brian explained that this would be a reinstatement of an old position that Peggy previously held before becoming Equalization Director. Brian said that he has discussed this with the union and it doesn’t appear that they have an issue with it as long as the board properly posts for the position. Brian also discussed that there will be a need to restructure the Equalization office. Com. Meintz discussed the importance of this position and the sustainability of crucial offices. We can’t have the unions putting a choker chain on the county. We should put more pressure on them. Brian explained that Menominee County is an equal opportunity employer, so by placing someone into this position we are not guaranteeing them that they will be the next Equalization Director. When Peggy retires the position will have to be advertised and the person in the position of Staff Appraiser would have to be qualified, and apply for the Director’s position the

same as everyone else. Com. Lang also questioned if they were grooming someone to automatically move into the position of Equalization Director. He cautioned the board not to do that because of the possibility of a lawsuit. Com. Plutchak asked how long it would take someone to become trained as a level 3 assessor, which is what is required to be Equalization Director. Peggy explained it would take 3 to 3 ½ years for someone to become a level 3 assessor. Peggy feels that there needs to be two licensed people in her office. Com. Nelson commented that there are currently 2 employees in the Equalization Department and we can't afford to have 3. Com. Schei feels that we need to move forward with this as soon as possible. Brian explained by doing this there would be 3 people in the office. Com. Nelson stated that the other person in the office can just take a different job somewhere else in the county. Com. Meintz asked Brian why he hasn't answered all of these questions in the past 5 weeks since the Personnel Committee meeting. Brian explained that during the Personnel Committee meeting it was never discussed about eliminating the other position for the office. So given the new information presented to him tonight there was no way for him to have the answers. Com. Furlong stated that he does not want to see a disaster, and he does not want us to create a disaster. He asked why we just can't make Annette get the training to become a level 2 assessor and if she refuses to get the training then we can deal with it. Com. Piche feels we should have another Personnel Committee meeting to hash through all of these ideas that were brought up tonight. Peggy stated that it is already past the time to sign up for the level 1 & 2 assessor training. She said that Annette has spoken to her in the past that the board can't make her get the training, and that she doesn't want my job. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting, but to have a Personnel Committee meeting before that, and follow their recommendations.

- b. Courthouse Security – Letter from the Menominee County Judges. – Brian read a letter that was addressed to the board from Judge Hupy, Barstow, Barglind and Celello. Brian explained that this has come about because of the hiring freeze, budget issues and the loss of employees at the Sheriff Department. The judges would like to see a full time position in the courthouse providing security not just in the courtrooms but also the hallways and other offices. Brian explained that the Sheriff has to provide security in the courtroom, but the Sheriff is not required to provide security in the rest of the courthouse. Com. Nelson suggested that we look at hiring a private security company to provide security in the courthouse if the Sheriff is not going to do this. The commissioners discussed that if there was a need to hire a private security firm, then the cost of it would have to come from the Sheriff Department budget. Com. Plutchak asked if we've looked into hiring a private security firm. Com. Meintz commented, we're using temps in the other offices. Com. Meintz would like to move this forward to the next meeting and have Brian contact the Sheriff and also other private companies. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting.

**Building and Grounds/Parks Items:** None

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. CAA Gov. Board ~ member vacancy. – Brian explained that a Menominee County Representative on the Community Action Agency Governing Board resigned. Administration received a letter asking for the County Board to appoint another member. We have submitted an advertisement to receive applications until December 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. Applications may also be submitted via the County Website.

The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

- b. Menominee County Housing Program Procedural Guide – MSHDA. – The MSHDA funding program requires each county to update their Program Procedural Guide each grant term. Larry Wall has made changes according to current procedures/laws. Commissioners were sent this guide via email on 11/18/13 for their review prior to the board meeting. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

**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 November 21, 2013 in the amount of \$108,445.65. - 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 for approval at the next meeting.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

**Public Comment:**

- John Anderson – Commented on the need for another licensed assessor in the Equalization Department. He also commented on the appraisal of the lot in Meyer Township. He said it is not worth \$18,000. It might be worth \$4,000 - \$6,000 and he feels it should be given over to Meyer Township.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented on the lot in Meyer Township and that it should be given to Meyer Township. Also thanked commissioner Piche calling a spade a spade (referring to the Sheriff).

**Commissioner Comment:**

- Com. Hafeman – Commented that the Equalization Department plays a major role in tax collection. She is please with the interm director at Pinecrest and the positive work being done there. Commented on some grants that are available that would help Meyer Township purchase the lot in Hermansville from the county, and to have it turned into a parking lot. Also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Com. Schei – Thanked the public for being in attendance and the board for moving things forward tonight. Also Happy Thanksgiving.
- Com. Nelson – He commented that he attended last month’s Meyer Township Board meeting and they thought the lot in Hermansville was suppose to be given to them.
- Com. Lang – Discussed that the county lost another WWII Veteran (Jim Uecke) and he was very instrumental in helping fellow veterans in the county.
- Com. Meintz – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanked Dr. Coon for coming to the meeting. Thanked Peggy Schroud and told everyone to have a safe weekend.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

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Charlie Meintz, Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk