

December 8, 2015

APPROVED on 12/22/15

Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Menominee County Annex, Stephenson, 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:** Com. Cech, Furlong, Hafeman, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Piche, Schei and Williams.

**Absent:** None.

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

Moved by Com. Williams, seconded by Com. Cech to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2015 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Presentations:** None.

**Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:**

- Nancy Douglas – Menominee Business Development Corporation (MBDC). Nancy gave her quarterly report to the Menominee County Board. Some of the items that she discussed were: Two local RLF projects; Lloyd House 2 project; Lumberjack Hardwoods expansion; the two colleges that are working with the airport; cut in staffing at MEDC; the Pure Michigan campaign and the Back Forty Mine project.

**Action Items:**

Moved by Com. Williams, seconded by Com. Schei to approve purchase of a security (x-ray) scanner for Courthouse vestibule area. Payment to be paid from account 101-103-970.15 (CH Security Screening Area) and be reimbursed from grants received. Discussion ensued. Most of the discussion revolved around the fact that the vestibule is not completed yet and a security plan for the use of the scanner is not in place. The commissioners would like for Administrator Bousley to bring this information back in two weeks so the board can make a decision.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Hafeman to table the previously stated motion for two weeks so that Administrator Bousley can obtain more information before the purchase is approved or denied. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve commissioner per diems as recently submitted. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Cech to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on November 6, 19 & 20, 2015 in the combined amount of \$56,300.09. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson 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. PA Merkel – Asst. PA-New hire Salary request. – Brian explained that he received a letter from Prosecuting Attorney William Merkel asking the board to consider allowing his new assistant to be hired on with pay at a Grade 17 Step 3, rather than a Grade 17 Step 1. Mr. Rogg has vast legal experience and PA Merkel would like to start him at his experience level which would be a Grade 17, Step 3. Com. Nelson commented that he reviewed the budget and with not paying for an Assistant Prosecutor for the past 2 months and the reduction in MERS there is enough money to cover this increase. In addition, Mr. Rogg has plenty of experience to justify this.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to make the approval of paying the new Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Rogg a Grade 17, Step 3 an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve paying the new Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Rogg a Grade 17, Step 3 (\$62,980) pay grade change will be effective December 9, 2015. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

#### **Building and Grounds/Parks Items:**

- a. None.

### **Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. Misc. Boards – Advertisement. – Brian explained that the board has many appointments coming due (or vacancies to be filled) on many boards and committees within the county. Administration is advertising for the following vacancies: Building Code Construction Board of Appeals (2); Library Board (1); Fair Board (2); Community Action Agency (1); and Park and Recreation Committee (2). Applications are due back January 15<sup>th</sup>. The positions take effect February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Resolution – 2015-18 ~ Compliance with PA 152 of 2011. – Brian explained that each year the commissioners have to agree on compliance with PA 152 of 2011. Menominee County has always (since 2011) chosen to pay not more than 80% of the cost of medical benefits for employees and Elected Officials. Brian also read the resolution. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the next meeting.
- c. County Operating Millage Reduction. – Brian explained that there was discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting about the County having a surplus of approximately \$855,000 from FY 2014/15 and to possibly reduce the County operating millage and give some of that money back to the taxpayers next year. Com. Nelson explained that if we reduce the operating millage by .5 mills that would be a reduction of approximately \$360,000. He stated that if we aren't using the taxpayer's money we should be giving it back to them. We shouldn't continue to build a fund balance. Com. Furlong commented that last year's projected surplus was \$68,000 and we actually had almost \$900,000. Com. Nelson stated that budgets are not being constructed close enough. Com. Furlong asked how much does the County owe MERS? Com. Nelson stated about 6 million. He also stated that we can levy 7.5 mills and right now we currently collect 7.06 mills. Com. Furlong thinks that the Finance Committee should probably spend more time getting the revenues in line with spending. Brian explained that we saved about \$250,000 with our change in MERS, \$300,000 was taken in additional tax revenue and another \$200,000 came from the department heads and Elected Officials being tight with their budgets. Com. Schei asked if we reduce the millage will we be ok with the FY 2016/17 budget. Com. Furlong asked how we would be giving the money back to the tax payers. Com. Nelson explained it would come with the reduction in the FY 2016/17 budget. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting.

**Finance Items:**

- a. Invoice #3 WFP – 011 – Harris Township 3 Way Road Project \$51,549.78. – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses. - The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on December 3, 2015 in the amount of \$135,489.44. – Com. Schei asked if the light that was replaced at the airport was in these bills. Brian stated it was \$436.48. 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.

**Public Comment:**

- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on the courthouse security and compared Menominee County to Delta and Dickinson Counties.

**Commissioner Comment:**

- Com. Schei – Thanked former Menominee County Library Director Pat Cheski for her 18 years of service.
- Com. Meintz – Commented on the courthouse security and the different shootings around the country. He stated that we shouldn't go overboard and not to let all these things you hear about scare you.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.  
Motion was approved 9-0.

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Charlie Meintz, Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk