

January 7, 2014

APPROVED on 1/28/14

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.

Vice Chairman Schei called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, Nelson, Piche, Plutchak, and Schei.

Absent: Com. Meintz (excused).

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the agenda. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the December 23, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Discussion ensued. Com. Hafeman stated that she felt the minutes were missing a discussion that was held during Miscellaneous Items under New Business. The discussion was in regards to Miscellaneous Board/Committee Appointments. She stated that it was discussed that the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health position applications were due back on January 2, 2014 and the board would be making the appointment on January 7th. Clerk Kleiman stated that he did not recall that being discussed, only that the applications for committee appoints were due back by January 17th.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to amend the minutes from the December 23, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting to add the previously discussed item regarding the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health position. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the December 23, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting minutes as amended. Motion was approved 8-0.

*(The clerk reviewed the audio recording from the December 23, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting on January 8, 2014, and it was never actually discussed that the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health position applications were due back on January 2, 2014. This item was part of the board packet given to the commissioners, but never formally discussed during the meeting)

Public Comment:

- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on Agenda Item 2 that it was discussed at a previous meeting to limit part time hours to 25 hour/week and not 29. He also commented that the board needs to move forward with hiring another certified assessor in the Equalization Department.
- John Cappaert – Commented that he disagrees with the direction the board is going with the Equalization Department. He feels they should be looking into GIS mapping and utilizing BS&A by providing the information online instead of adding another assessor to the office.

- Bill Hafeman – Commented on the Equalization Department position and the runaround that the board seems to be getting. He feels the board should take the bull by the horns and just have these two county employees switch jobs (the one that currently works in the Equalization Department, and the one the board would like to see moved into the Equalization Department)
- Mari Negro – Commented that if the county put the BS&A software online it would be a poor decision. They should talk to the local jurisdictions first since a lot of that information is provided by them, and they should be entitled to charge for it.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented that the county board has previously discussed GIS mapping and the BS&A software.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

-County Treasurer Diane Lesperance – Stated she would be reserving her comments and discussion for later in the meeting when the board will be discussing the Meyer Township property request.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve a seven month “look back period” from March 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 for compliance of the Affordable Care Act. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Furlong to enforce any current regular part time Menominee County Employees work no more than 29 hours per week due to the Affordable Care Act during the look back period (and beyond if enacted). Discussion ensued. Com. Nelson stated that in the minutes from the June 2013 County Board Meeting it was the consensus of the board to set the limit at 25 hours per week. He does not know why Brian put it on the agenda as 29 hours per week. Com. Hafeman would like to have the motion amended to state “current and future regular part time” She would also like it to be set at 25 hours per week. Com. Lang and Com. Furlong would like to see it be set at 29 hours per week. Com. Nelson asked to rescind his motion. Com. Furlong stated he would not rescind his support. Motion failed 2-6. Coms. Furlong and Lang voted aye.

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

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on December 19, 2013 in a total amount of \$72,149.31. Motion was approved 8-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to appoint Robert Burie to the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health for a three year term (1/1/2014 – 12/31/2016). Motion was approved 8-0.

New Business (discussion only)

Personnel Items:

- a. Equalization Department Personnel – Com. Schei commented that we did receive an opinion from Dan Hass right before we last met on December 23, 2013 and he stated that there is a hiring freeze in place at this time. He also commented on whether this is going to be a union position or not. Administrative Assistant Sherry DuPont stated that it is in the courthouse contract as to the steps that need to be taken to add the position to the union contract. Com. Nelson commented that the board is just trying to reinstate the same position that use to be in the office with the same qualifications as previously listed. Com. Schei stated that Dan Hass has outlined a step by step process that has to be followed, and the board should abide by this. Com. Furlong commented that we will need to either amend, or rescind the hiring freeze resolution before we can fill this position. Com. Lang asked if this new position was going to replace the staff cartographer position, or if they are adding a 3rd seat in the office. Com. Schei concurred with Com. Lang’s question. Com. Nelson commented that he does not agree with Dan Hass’ opinion and we are not looking at hiring a new employee since there is someone already employed by the county that would be qualified for the new position. Com. Lang feels we need to get rid of the hiring freeze. Com. Schei feels that we can amend the hiring freeze. Com. Plutchak feels that we should at least start with getting the paperwork rolling on setting up a job description and have a DMG evaluation done to set the pay grade. We can do this now and have it ready for when the hiring freeze is lifted. The consensus of the board is to forward this item to the Personnel Committee to develop a job description for this position.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. Meyer Township property request – In December Brian sent a letter to the commissioners from Meyer Township requesting the property, at no cost to the township, next to the clubhouse in Hermansville (former red brick building). Com. Hafeman again discussed a grant from rural development that she thought could possibly be used by Meyer Township to purchase the land and put in a parking lot. Com. Nelson does not feel that type of grant can be used to purchase property. Com. Nelson also feels that the county board should just give the property to Meyer Township at no cost to the township. County Treasurer Diane Lesperance discussed the previously mentioned appraised value of the property, which was \$18,000. She would like to see the township receive the property, but would like it written that if the property is ever sold by the township for a profit that Meyer Township would have to pay the county for the profit that was made. She also discussed the \$3,500 that the county paid for the abatement of the small building that was left on the property. She stated that the county did not have to pay for the abatement, but they did. She thinks we could maybe ask the township to pay the county back the \$3,500. Com. Schei thinks the property should be given to the township as is. If they would like a parking lot on the property, the township can pay for it. Com. Hafeman thinks the \$3,500 is a mute point. Com. Furlong commented that we should just stop the runaround and give the township the property. Com. Nelson agrees with Com. Furlong, and he also agrees with Treasurer Lesperance that something should be written if the township in fact does sell the property later on. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting as an action item.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Disposal of Surplus property (2 ~ 2006 Chevy Impalas) – Brian has received a notice from the Sheriff Department that there are two vehicles that need to be disposed of. Com. Hafeman commented that she thinks the property should be posted internally first to see if any other departments would like to use the vehicles. The consensus of the board is to have Brian post this internally for any other departments first. If no department takes the vehicles it can be put on the next agenda as an action item. Com. Hafeman asked where the money would go from the sale of the vehicles if that happens. Com. Nelson and Furlong stated it would go into the General Fund.

Finance Items:

- a. CUPPAD Membership Dues for 2014 – Com. Nelson commented that these are annual dues charged by CUPPAD. Last year we decided not to pay the \$9,000 in dues, since we could still use CUPPAD's services, and it actually would cost us less money to just pay their hourly rates. Com. Furlong stated we should just pay the hourly rate when we need their services, and not pay the annual dues. The consensus of the board is to not pay the annual Membership Dues, and not move this item forward.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the next meeting.
- c. Miscellaneous Bills as paid on December 19, 2013 & January 2, 2014 in the amount of \$50,085.44. Com. Hafeman stated that she notices a lot of office supply expenses and asked if it is because we are at the end of the year and the departments are just trying to use up what money they have left for the year. She would like to offer up a proposal that those department heads that do not use up their entire budget be given a bonus of 10% of the amount left in their budget. And, no reduction in their budget for the following year. She thinks that it would be an incentive. Com. Schei stated that was an interesting proposal, but he did not think that was something the board could do. It would probably have to be brought up before the Finance Committee. Com. Nelson stated that he would have to disagree with Com. Hafeman, which he seldom ever does. First of all, the end of the fiscal year has been over with for awhile. He doesn't see anyone within the departments overspending. Treasurer Lesperance commented that the budget year ended September 30th.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:

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

Vice Chairman Schei called for public comment

Public Comment:

- Charlene Peterson – Commented that in the Personnel Manual on page 7 it outlines the steps that are needed to establish and classify new positions.
- Bill Hafeman – Commented that the board should act in the best interests of the county. They should just have the employee from the Equalization Department switch jobs with the other county employee that is more qualified.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on the appointment of Robert Burie, the term of 3 years was correct, but the range of time listed 1/1/14 – 12/31/17 was incorrect.

- John Cappaert – Commented the GIS mapping again and the need for transparency in government. Maybe the county could delay putting another person in the Equalization office until they could pay for GIS mapping.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Piche – Commented that he had something to discuss, but he would let Com. Hafeman address it instead.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented about the change in the law that gave veterans an exemption on their property taxes. She asked Treasurer Lesperance how much money the county would be losing because of these exemptions? Diane stated she was not sure how many people qualified. Com. Hafeman also commented on the letter to the editor in the EagleHerald regarding the board not taking action on resolving MERS and the hiring freeze. She also wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that he hopes Com. Furlong has a nice vacation. He also commented on the sound off in the EagleHerald about Com. Plutchak, about him not being friendly to business in the county. Com. Plutchak is a successful business owner and supports other businesses.
- Com. Lang – Feels that he has said enough tonight.
- Com. Plutchak – Thanked Com. Nelson for his comments and also discussed the sound off.
- Com. Schei – Commented about watching the news and Boeing and their 6,500 employees have agreed to change their retirement plan from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. He also commented on the newspaper.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

Larry Schei, Vice Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk