

February 26, 2013

APPROVED on 3/12/13

Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Menominee County (MSU) Annex Bldg, 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: Coms. Furlong, Hafeman, Krienke, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Piche, Plutchak, Schei.

Absent: None

Moved by Com. Hafeman, supported by Com. Furlong to approve agenda. Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, supported by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion approved 9-0.

Public Comment: None

Presentations: Karen Thekan-Northpointe Annual Report

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

County Treasurer Diane Lesperance reported that the number of tax foreclosures is higher this year. Last year there were 50 and this year currently there are 88.

Action Items:

Moved by Com. Hafeman, supported by Com. Plutchak to approve a bid submitted by Jeff Carlson Jr. in the amount of \$905.00 for the sale of firewood/saw logs at Shakey Lakes Park. Payment is to be deposited into account 208-000-649.00 (firewood sales). Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, supported by Com. Schei, to table the Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Marinette Police Department and the Menominee County Sheriff's Department. Motion approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, supported by Com. Furlong to approve Miscellaneous Bills as paid on January 17, 23, & 31, 2013 in the amount of \$237,505.32. Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, supported by Com. Furlong to place miscellaneous boards/committees/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion approved 9-0.

New Business (discussion only)

Personnel Items:

Com. Meintz initiated discussion regarding the Menominee County Hiring Freeze/MERS liability. Com. Meintz feels it is necessary to freeze hiring in order to get control of the financial liability incurred by the Municipality Employees Retirement. Com. Plutchak stated the deficit needs to be assessed and action taken. Com. Nelson stated that costs have escalated over the years and need correction. There are other plans available. Com. Lang questioned how the hiring freeze will help the underfunding of MERS. Com. Nelson stated allowing new employees into the plan will allow it to continue to incur additional underfunding. Com. Schei asked if this hiring freeze would be for additional employees in the County or if it would mean not replacing current employees (ie:retirement) if they left. Com. Nelson asked if part-time employees moved to full-time status would be eligible for the benefit and

Administrator Bousley indicated that they would. Com. Meintz stated this would not be a long term freeze – 3 to 4 months ; employee contracts would need to be changed. Com. Lang did an office survey of staff cuts in the last 10 years and stated that the workforce is as lean as it can be and that this change would increase overtime and lower moral. This freeze will eliminate employees. Com. Nelson stated that would not happen and that the freeze would only be until the retirement funding was under control. Com. Lang questioned whether this could be accomplished in 3 to 4 months. Administrator Bousley informed the Board that the unions have to be willing to open up their contracts. Com. Furlong summarized by stating that more information is needed and will be gained at the Special Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 27th at 1:00.

Building and Grounds/Park Items:

Alger-Delta Coop. will be doing an electrical upgrade on G-12 due to load growth. There is a one mile stretch that goes off of G-12 and into Shakey Lakes Park. They are asking for the County to pay \$20,000, which is one half of the cost. The money would come out of the park fund balance. This project will be completed before the Menominee County Fair this year.

Miscellaneous Items:

The destruction of the Hermansville Building is still in progress. The grant proposal was denied. After much discussion it was determined that the specs will need to be revised and rebid.

Bylaws, Board Rules, County Policies & Charters of Standing Committees revisions were reviewed and additional changes made. They will be moved to the next Board meeting (discussion only)

Finance Items:

Miscellaneous Bills as paid on February 14, 2013 in the amount of \$91,229.65. Consensus of the Board is to move forward to next meeting for approval.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports – Consensus of Board to move forward

Public Comment:	Bob Desjarlais	Committee members are considered volunteers and not to be paid according to by-laws; questioned if the commissioners appointed should reimburse money paid to them
	Penny Mullins	three member Personnel and Finance Committee’s previous budgets were not completed timely; not in proper venue
	Diane Lesperance	audit cost clarification

Commissioner Comment:

Com. Hafeman stated PILT payments were fully funded by State
Com. Meintz reminded Commissioners of MERS meeting Wednesday, February 27 at 1:00
He also thanked Bylaw Committee for their efforts
Com. Piche informed the Board that the County withdrawal from counseling services has been resolved through the Sheriff Department

Any other items members may wish to present: None

Moved by Com. Meintz, supported by Com. Piche to adjourn at 8:32 P.M.. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Carol Johnson, Deputy County Clerk