

March 12, 2013

APPROVED on 3/26/13

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 a presentation by Tom Boerner regarding mineral rights.

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

Chairman Meintz noted that the minutes from the February 26, 2013 County Board meeting needed to be corrected to show the motion to adjourn was supported by Com. Piche and not Com. Pearson.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting and the February 27, 2013 Special County Board Meeting with the previously noted corrections. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations: Tom Boerner – Mineral Rights.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

-County Clerk Marc Kleiman – Informed the County Board that he has a deputy retiring in May and he would be filling the positions since it has already been budgeted for, and the need to have a person in that position was there.

-County Treasurer Diane Lesperance – Discussed that she was proceeding forward with settlements right now. This year they foreclosed on 67 properties but the owners have until April 1st to pay. She also discussed problems with the Step Forward program.

Moved by Com. Nelson, supported by Com. Hafeman to approve a hiring freeze for Menominee County Government to allow time for a new retirement division for new hires to be established and added to the current divisions. Discussion ensued regarding

the length of time the hiring freeze would be in place, the types of employees that would be effected, the reasons behind the freeze and if this was a freeze across the board, or if they could pick and choose. The commissioners stated they could not give a specific length of time the hiring freeze would be in effect. Com. Meintz and Nelson stated that the hiring freeze would be across the board and would affect all positions that fall under current retirement divisions. The positions that would not be included are the seasonal and temporary positions. The commissioners did discuss that a reason behind the hiring freeze is to use it as a bargaining chip to get the unions to agree to change the retirement plan for all new employees. Com. Furlong and Lang object to the hiring freeze. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 7-2, Com. Furlong and Lang voted nay.

Moved by Com. Furlong, supported by Com. Lang to approve the project proposal for Shakey Lakes Park electrical upgrade from Alger Delta. Menominee County agrees to contribute \$20,000 for the electrical line upgrade to the park. Funds to be disbursed from account #208-000-390.00 (County Parks fund balance). Motion was approved 9-0.

Chairman Meintz read the following motion: A motion to appoint two (2) citizen members to the Northpointe Board of Directors committee assignment for a three (3) year term. Term of appointments 4/1/2013-3/31/2016. Member (1) Mari Negro Member (2) Janet K. Dehn. The commissioners asked if they could vote on the two assignments separately. Chairman Meintz agreed.

Moved by Com. Nelson, supported by Com. Hafeman to appoint Mari Negro as a citizen member to the Northpointe Board of Directors committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. Term of appointment 4/1/2013-3/31/16. Discussion ensued. Com. Furlong asked Chairman Meintz why he chose Mari Negro. Chairman Meintz explained it was because of her conservative voting practice on the Northpointe Board. Motion was approved 7-2. Com. Furlong and Lang voted nay.

Moved by Com. Nelson, supported by Com. Plutchak to appoint Janet K. Dehn as a citizen member to the Northpointe Board of Directors committee. The appointment is for a three (3) year term. Term of appointment 4/1/2013-3/31/16. Discussion ensued. Com. Lang brought to the boards attention that Janet did not completely fill out her application for appointment. He also informed the board of an investigation that was conducted on Janet in 1989 and he did not think it would be appropriate to appoint her to this position. Com. Nelson felt that Janet should have the chance to answer to this information that Com. Lang was providing. The commissioners discussed that it would be appropriate to table this motion to give Brian Bousley some time to investigate this further.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, supported by Com. Schei to table the previously proposed motion. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, supported by Com. Piche to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on February 14, 2013 in the amount of \$91,229.65. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Meintz, supported 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. MERS – Discussion of what approach to take with employee retirement. – Brian Bousley explained that he spoke with MERS today and the policy that was in place for a fee of \$1,000 per division for each division you have over 5 has been waived. The union contract already states that any new employees will go from the B3 to a B2. This can be done right now with no problems. Brian also stated that if the county decides to go with a defined contribution plan then they will have to close divisions to new hires and this will accelerate the cost for that division. If the county would like to go to a defined contribution plan the unions will have to agree to open their contracts. Com. Nelson asked Brian what the cost difference is if we put new hires in the B2 as opposed to the B3 plan. Com. Nelson would like an exact cost on this, not an estimated cost. Com. Meintz stated that MERS has missed their projections the past few years. Com. Furlong stated that he is in favor of moving to a defined contribution plan. He thinks that we should work on getting everyone under one pension plan. Brian stated that there will be 6 unions to negotiate with.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. Resolution 2013-04~DNR Grant for Stony Point Boat Launch Improvements. – Brian Bousley has applied for a DNR Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to implement improvements to the Stony Point Boat Launch. Commissioners are to discuss and agree to match 25% (6,250) of the funding for this grant, if awarded to Menominee County. If Menominee County receives the grant, the money will be used to replace boat launch pads and some graveling of the parking lot. Com. Hafeman asked if \$25,000 would be enough to cover the project. Brian stated that it would. He also stated that the Parks Committee has already approved this. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- b. Cleaning Contract for the Courthouse/Health Dept. building. – The County cleaning contract for the courthouse and Health Dept. expires on April 26, 2013. Brian is requesting permission to request bids for another two year contract. 4/27/13 – 2/26/15. Brian explained there will be a mandatory walk through on March 28th for the bidding process. He will have the bids ready for voting at the first meeting in April. Com. Furlong would like to make sure that all people are bidding to the specs so that we do not have the same problems as we did last time.
- c. Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Marinette Police Department and the Menominee County Sheriff's Department. – This item was tabled at the last meeting because the commissioners were given the wrong contract. This contract is the correct one, which has been signed by the Mayor of Marinette. Com. Krienke asked a few questions about who is responsible for the Menominee County officers when they are working in Marinette. Brian explained that Menominee County pays and is responsible for their officers, and Marinette City pays and are responsible for their officers. Com. Meintz asked if we have contracts in place with Delta and Dickinson counties. Brian stated that he is not sure, but will find out. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Planning Commission vacancies. – The Planning Commission has two members expiring at the end of April. The administrative office has mailed letters to county entities requesting letters of nomination for the vacant appointments (per the Planning Commission Ordinance). The two positions that will be open are Erik Berg and William Anderson. There are 7 different categories to choose from for appointment to the Planning Commission. Applications will be returned before the first meeting in April.
- b. Bylaws, Board Rules, County Policies & Charters of Standing Committees. – On January 18 & February 14, 2013 the Executive Committee met to discuss changes in the County Bylaws, Board Rules, County Policies & Charters of Standing Committees. Discussion at the February 26, 2013 County Board meeting ending with making a few additional changes. Some changes are adding a Building and Grounds Committee and removing the CUPPAD Committee. It is noted that all committee members are volunteers of Menominee County and will not be compensated. Com. Hafeman stated that certain committees are statutorily required to receive a per diem. It was agreed that those which are statutorily required to receive a per diem still will. The Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee will go from being committees of the whole to committees made up of four commissioners. Com. Nelson feels that those two committees should be set up as follows: The Chairman of the board will not sit on either committee. Since there are then eight remaining commissioners four will sit on one committee, and four will sit on the other. No commissioner is to sit on both the Finance and Personnel Committee. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting.

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 February 28, 2013 in the amount of \$89,826.41. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:

Com. Schei asked Com. Meintz if he could give the board an update on what has been happening at the airport. Com. Meintz explained that they are going to be having an open house at the airport. He also discussed the expansion of Enstrom. Com. Piche asked about an email the commissioners received from the Airport Commission. Other commissioners commented that they did not receive it. Brian asked Com. Piche to forward the email to him, and he will send it to the other commissioners. Com. Nelson discussed the Northpointe Board and bonuses that were paid to Northpointe employees in December 2012 even though they were operating at a \$224,221 deficit. Com. Hafeman discussed the Public Health Board and their audit. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment:

-Charlene Peterson commented on Tom Boerner's resolution about the mineral rights, and would like to see the board approve it.

-Bill Hafeman commented about farms during the depression era that were assisted, but did not receive their mineral rights back. He added comments again regarding the Veterans Relief Fund, and that it would add about \$50,000 to the county. He also stated

that Shakey Lakes Park is costing Menominee County \$200,000 a year and the county should look at turning the park over to the State of Michigan.

-County Clerk Marc Kleiman commented on an earlier request by Com. Nelson of Brian Bousley to speak with Dickinson and Delta Counties regarding their staffing needs. Marc cautioned Com. Nelson that if you compare counties you are not comparing apples to apples. For example Delta County Clerk's office does not perform payroll, accounts payable or the general ledger. Those jobs are all currently being performed in the Menominee County Clerk's office.

-County Treasurer Diane Lesperance added additional comments about different counties perform different tasks.

Commissioner Comment:

-Com. Hafeman commented on the Obama Care bill that would require all part-time employees working 30 or more hours to be provided with healthcare benefits. She feels the county should limit part-time employees to a 25 hour per week schedule, and not to exceed 29 hours.

-Com. Nelson commented that he was not necessarily looking to compare staffing in Delta County to Menominee County, but to see if they are doing things differently from us that we can learn from.

-Com. Schei commented that if we are comparing ourselves with other counties we also need to look at the technology they may be using.

Any other items members may wish to present: None.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk