

March 24, 2015

APPROVED on 4/14/15

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

Absent: Com. Nelson (excused).

Com. Meintz stated that the agenda would need to be amended to remove Action Item #6, a motion regarding back pay for several county employees. This item will be removed because Attorney Stoker has not yet given his legal opinion on this matter.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to remove Action Item 6 from the Agenda. Motion was approved 8-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2015 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2015 Closed Session. Motion was approved 8-0.

Public Comment:

- Millie Hofer – Commented on the Northpointe Board and she would like to be reappointed.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Diane Lesperance, County Treasurer – She has included a copy of the monthly financial statement and there is a fund balance of over 12 million dollars right now. She is also working with the townships on the tax settlements.

Moved by Com. Williams, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve the agreement between the Menominee County Board of Commissioners and the E 911 Personnel and the AFSCME Council #25. Contract effective October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Schei to lift/remove Menominee County hiring freeze beginning March 25, 2015 for the E911 Department. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve a forestry management plan from Upper Michigan Land Management & Wildlife Services, Inc. in the amount of \$2,500 to be funded from the Park Fund Balance account number 208-000-390.00. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve amendments to the Parks and Recreation Committee Bylaws. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Williams to appoint Millie Hofer to the first of two open positions on the Northpointe Board of Directors for (3) year term (4/1/2015 to 3/31/2018). Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Meintz to appoint Geraldine Murray to the second of two open positions on the Northpointe Board of Directors for (3) year term (4/1/2015 to 3/31/2018). Motion died for lack of support. The commissioners would like Administrator Bousley to advertise for the remaining open position again.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on February 26, 2015 in the amount of \$152,129.27. Motion was approved 8-0.

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

New Business (discussion only)

Personnel Items:

- a. Resolution 2015-06 ~ Retirement of Toni Erdman. – Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Hass would like the county board to recognize the retirement of Toni Erdman for her 30 years of dedicated service as an employee of Menominee County. Brian Bousley read the resolution. The consensus of the board it to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

- b. William Merkel, 20 year Prosecution Service Award. – Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Hass would just like it publically acknowledged that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney William Merkel was recognized by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan at the Mid-Winter Conference in February for his 20 years of service in the field of prosecution. There is no need for action on this item.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. County Board review of Disaster Declaration Process. – Per the Emergency Management Grant requirements, the County Board must review the “Response procedures and the Disaster Declaration Process”. Com. Furlong asked if this needed to be made into an action item tonight. Brian Bousley explained that it just needed to be documented that the board has reviewed the Disaster Declaration Process. The consensus of the commissioners is to move this forward as an action item and have it recorded that they have reviewed the process and approve of it.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to move the review and approval of the Menominee County Response Procedures and the Disaster Declaration Process forward as an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 8-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve the Menominee County Response Procedures and the Disaster Declaration Process. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 8-0.

- b. MSUE – 4H Agent. – The current 4H Agent for Menominee County has tendered his resignation and his last day was March 23, 2015. District Coordinator Paul Putnam addressed the board regarding a plan of action to restore the 4H Agent position. Paul explained that MSU will hopefully have someone in the position on a temporary basis by next week. He also will keep the board informed and hopes that Brian and the board can help interview a replacement candidate. Paul also discussed the partnership between 4H and Farm Bureau. Paul would like the board to consider increasing the 4H position from half-time to $\frac{3}{4}$ or full-time. Some ideas that he has is; the employee could be half-time 4H and half-time Community Development Leader, or work on Agriculture and tourism. To do this it would require additional financial support from Menominee County. It would also require a two or three year commitment. Paul stated that MSU would be responsible for paying the employee and all the benefits a long with any legacy cost. Menominee County would just be required to make some type of agreed cash infusion. He thinks that could be around \$30,000 - \$32,000. Com. Cech asked about the possibility of sharing the position with Delta or Dickinson

counties. Paul stated that he would like the board to move this to an action item tonight and to make a commitment to the position. Com. Piche feels that we should have a committee set up to review exactly what we would be looking for in this position. Com. Furlong stated that he likes what he is hearing, but thinks the Executive Committee should look at this first and bring something back to the full board in two weeks. The consensus of the board is to have Paul meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the options.

- c. UP State Fair Authority Governing Board. – Administration sent a letter to Janis Linderoth in February letting her know her appointment would expire on 4/30/15. If she would like to be considered for another three year term (5/1/15 – 4/30/15) she can complete an application. In March Administration received a letter from Jonathan Mead of UPCAP stating that the U.P. State Fair Authority Governing Board members terms are on a calendar year and Ms. Linderoth's term does not expire until 12/31/15. Brian Bousley feels that we should follow the board member terms that the UPSFA uses. This would require doing one of two things. Either extend Ms. Linderoth's current term to 12/31/15 and then appoint someone for a three year term (1/1/2016 – 12/31/2018) or just appoint Ms. Linderoth now until 12/31/18. The board discussed this issue at length. This would have to be changed in our bylaws. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the Executive Committee to review.

Finance Items:

- a. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses –The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the next meeting.
- b. Miscellaneous bills as paid on March 12 & 13, 2015 in the combined amount of \$77,161.72. – Com. Hafeman asked why the county was still paying AT&T. Brian explained that we will continue to have bills from AT&T because the Sheriff's Department and the Extension office have AT&T. They will start to be lower though because of the new contract that we have signed. Com. Hafeman also asked about mileage reimbursements for Jennifer Brunelle. She was wondering if she could be using a county car for when she is traveling. 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:

- Bob Desjarlais – Thanked the board for approving the use of Upper Michigan Land Management & Wildlife Services. He discussed what type of work can be done at the parks with logging and hiking trails.
- Charlene Peterson – Commented that she is the Vice-Chair of the planning commission and the State of Michigan mandates the lengths of certain appointee terms, so the county may need to follow the terms as set for by the U.P. State Fair Authority.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Williams – Discussed an article he read about community orchards. He is working with Josh Jones from the Menominee City Council to start one in the City of Menominee.
- Com. Schei – Thanked Bob Desjarlais for the information that he provided regarding the forestry management at the county parks. But, he personally does not want to see all the “big” trees cut down. He also discussed the need to replace the sign in front of Bailey Park. He noted that this item has been discussed before.
- Com. Piche – Commented that the forestry plan would probably try to keep some of the “big” trees.
- Com. Lang – Commented on the clear-cutting that the State of Michigan did on the land near his cabin. He did not like the way it looked.
- Com. Furlong – Commented on hiring the forester to create a plan for us. He also commented on the need for a podium or something for our presenters to stand at.
- -Com. Meintz – Commented that he agreed with the need for a podium. He further stated that he is impressed with the work Paul Putnam has been doing. He also hopes everyone is enjoying the warmer weather.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.
Motion was approved 8-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk