

April 22, 2014

APPROVED on 5/13/14

Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Harris Township Hall, Wilson, 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.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2014 Regular County Board Meeting and the April 8, 2014 Equalization Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Lil Schultz (Chairman of the Planning Commission – Recommended that the board should appoint Charlene Peterson and Gary Scholtz Sr. to the Planning Commission.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented about Marinette County’s hesitation to give up rights regarding BAMC and thinks this board should also consider that. He again commented on the 35 hour work week and if the employee’s salaries get cut then the department heads and elected officials should also have their salaries cut.

Presentations:

- Ray LaMarche – Anderson, Tackman & Co. PLC – Ray presented the annual audit report to the board. Menominee County financially is very healthy and is in a much better position than most counties.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports: None.

Action Items:

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Resolution 2014-05 ~ Authorizing updates to Bay Area Medical Center Articles of Incorporation. Discussion ensued. The commissioners discussed the need to allow the professionals run the hospital and not to interfere with their business. Brian Bousley and Ed Harding (CEO BAMC) explained that there are some changes to the resolution that was presented at the previous meeting. It was also explained that Marinette County had requested some changes. The board would like to approve the same resolution that Marinette County approves. The board would like to wait until next meeting when then changes are made before they approve this resolution. Com. Furlong withdrew his motion and Com. Nelson withdrew his support.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Furlong to table Action Item #1 (a motion to approve Resolution 2014-05 ~ Authorizing updates to Bay Area Medical Center Articles of Incorporation.) Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to grant BAMC, Menominee River Century Bicycle Riders permission to use River Park and Chappée Rapids Historical Marker for rest stops along their annual bike ride route. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve Resolution 2014-06 ~ Requesting the Governor Issue a State of Emergency in Counties in the Northern Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Motion was approved 9-0. (Attachment A)

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the application for Menominee County to enter into a partnership with Wild River Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) to apply for grant monies for invasive species management and education, at no cost to Menominee County. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to approve hiring a Full Time Cook for the Menominee County Jail. Pay grade 6 step 1 (\$13.76/hr. start plus benefits). Discussion ensued. Com. Nelson commented that this motion and Action Item #6 go together. He feels we should not hire since the hiring freeze is in place. Discussion revolved around the hiring freeze and the comparable cost of outsourcing the inmate meals to a private company. Motion failed 0-9 on a roll call vote.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve a bid by CBM Managed Services for Menominee County Inmate food services. Contracted amount is dependent on the number of inmates being served daily. Discussion ensued. This is only a one year contract. If the board is not happy after the year and the hiring freeze is no longer in place the board will look to hire a full time cook. Motion was approved 8-1. Com. Lang voted nay.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Piche to appoint Charlene Peterson & Gary Scholtz Sr. to the Menominee County Planning Commission for three year terms (5.1.2014 to 4.31.2017). Discussion ensued about Warren Suchovsky's qualifications. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the Deputy Register of Deeds position increase from Part-Time to Full-Time status effective 4.23.2014. Discussion ensued. Com. Hafeman asked about the hiring freeze. Brian explained that this position is currently filled by a Manpower employee. We would post internally and if no one internally post for the position it will remain with Manpower. We will not be going outside of those who are already employed by the county and in the current benefit system. Com. Furlong commented that this was moved forward by the Personnel Committee. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve a change to the Staff Cartographer/Tax Bill Coordinator position description to include "and currently hold State of Michigan Assessing Officer License", under the "Minimum training and experience required" section, effective upon vacancy of current position. No change to pay grade (7). Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve payment of Commissioner Per Diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on March 27, 2014 in the combined amount of \$95,025.71. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, 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. 35 Hour work week for full time employees. – Com. Meintz asked that this item be brought back before the board. He said he is not concerned about implementing this in the sheriff's department because of the 24 hour nature. Com. Nelson commented that there are some positions in the sheriff's department that could be 35 hours. This could help us reduce our cost and allow us to pay MERS. Com. Hafeman commented that it would also reduce SSI and Workman's Comp. Com. Nelson commented that if the unions do not do something about the current retirement system, the board will have to take some kind of an action to cover the cost. Com. Hafeman commented about the amount of money the county will be losing in property taxes this year due to the Veterans Exemption which is about .08%. Com. Lang stated that he is opposed to doing this. He feels that the county staffing is already bare bones. By doing this it would cost the average employee \$4,000 per year. We have also recently increased the employee's portion of the healthcare cost. Com. Nelson stated that this can all go away if the employees will just vote to change the retirement. Com. Lang commented that the board is hanging another hammer over the employee's heads. Com. Furlong agrees with Com. Lang. He also stated we are supposed to negotiate in good faith. The contracts say 40 hours per week and if we reduce the hours we will end up spending more money. There will be grievances and lawsuits filed. If we are going to do this it should be part of contract negotiations. Com. Piche is not against discussion of this topic but he does not want to alienate employees. We should go into this with caution and not get everyone upset. Com. Meintz commented that the board does not work for the employees of Menominee County. The board is responsible to the taxpayers of Menominee County. Com. Meintz also commented that this is something the board can do that the union has no control over. Com. Hafeman commented that overtime would not kick in until employees worked over 40 hours. Com. Nelson commented that the contract says Full-Time employees will be scheduled for 40 hours it does not say everyone has to be called Full-Time employees. Com. Schei stated that he is not in support of this change at this time. He thinks that the Finance Committee should look into this more. Com. Lang also discussed the elimination of 12 employees that were not replaced over the years and the burden this has put on the other employees. The consensus of the board is to gather more information and have the Finance Committee look at it.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. Electrical Surge – Upgrade project. – Brian explained that after the lightning strike within the Courthouse, we started looking at the problem areas and are in need of electrical surge upgrades throughout the courthouse and jail. What we currently have are outdated surge protectors that are not sufficient to protect our equipment. We are looking into the necessary equipment and upgrades. We would like the board to designate a dollar amount from the designated building project fund to a designated project for electrical surge upgrades. Brian further explained that we have two

quotes. One from UES and one from Twin City Electric. The quotes are for two different projects. UES is in regards to the surge protectors for the network and TCE is for putting in a new panel so that the boilers for the courthouse can be hooked up to a backup generator. The backup generator will be a separate purchase that we will have to make. Com. Furlong thinks that we should move this forward so we can start to protect ourselves if this happens again. The consensus of the board is to move these items forward for approval.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Resolution 2014-07 ~ Proclamation Head Start Month May 2014. – Brian read the resolution to the board. Com. Hafeman suggested that we move this item forward for approval tonight.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Furlong to move this item forward as an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve Resolution 2014-07 ~ Proclamation Head Start Month May 2014. Motion was approved 9-0.
(Attachment B)

- b. Resolution 2014-08 ~ Northwoods Rail Transit Commission Resolution for the Restated Articles of Organization and Interstate Cooperation Agreement. Brian read the resolution to the board.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to move this item forward as an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Meintz, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve Resolution 2014-08 ~ Northwoods Rail Transit Commission Resolution for the Restated Articles of Organization and Interstate Cooperation Agreement. Motion was approved 9-0.
(Attachment C)

- c. Resolution 2014-10 ~ Resolution of Support for the Promotion and upgrades To the DNR Campground Proposal for the Cedar River North Campground. – Brian read the resolution to the board. Com. Hafeman mentioned that it needs to be revised to state “so it be resolved” Com. Meintz stated that it is mostly just a letter of support and not technically a resolution. The board agreed that they would just like to approve the resolution as written.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Hafeman to move this item forward as an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Resolution 2014-10 ~ Resolution of Support for the Promotion and upgrades To the DNR Campground Proposal for the Cedar River North Campground. Motion was approved 9-0.
(Attachment D)

Finance Items:

- a. Menominee County Library Board ~ Millage. – Brian discussed the letter which was received from the Library Board. They have additional questions regarding the proposed millage. Com. Nelson commented that it is too late in the year to run a millage this year. He thinks the Library Board should come up with what they feel would be an appropriate millage amount based upon what they would like to see done at the library. Com. Meintz also commented that the Library Board needs to come up with an amount. Com. Lang wants to know what we are trying to accomplish here. He explained that the \$200,000 plus in funds comes from all the taxpayers of the county. Com. Nelson again commented on the fact that all other counties in the U.P. are not in the library business. Com. Furlong discussed that there are two libraries in the county and all we would be doing is taking money from one pocket and putting it into the other pocket. The consensus of the board is to just drop this item from discussion for the time being.
- b. Resolution 2014-09 ~ Deficit Elimination Plan. – Brian read the resolution to the board.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to make this an action item tonight. Motion was approved by a roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Meintz, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve Resolution 2014-09 ~ Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion was approved 9-0. (Attachment E)

- c. Law Enforcement Agreement ~ City of Stephenson. – Brian explained that this would be a renewal of the law enforcement agreement between the County and the City. The City of Stephenson has contracted with the County and the Sheriff Department to provide law enforcement within the city limits for the past 17 months and the current agreement will expire in June. The City of Stephenson is very pleased with the arrangement and would like to renew the agreement for an additional year under the same terms as stated in the current agreement. The contract was for \$25,000. Com. Nelson asked how much this cost the Sheriff Department to administer. Com. Lang asked if the City of Stephenson still has an officer, and a car. Mayor Lowell Bengry addressed the board. They no longer have a car or an officer. The City was spending more money on training and an officer than they are paying the county as part of a contract. The Sheriff Department was already patrolling the city before this so the county is pretty much receiving \$25,000 for something they were already doing. The City also offers a secured LEIN site and office for the deputies to use if needed. He also stated the City of Stephenson is very satisfied with the agreement and would like to see it renewed. Com. Furlong asked if the officers are writing tickets for ordinance violations. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- d. Miscellaneous bills as paid on April 10, 2014 in the amount of \$92,778.16. Com. Hafeman asked questions regarding charges on page 136 to AT&T. She also would like to know why the phone bills are not separated out and charged to each department. Brian explained that this practice changed a number of years ago. She also asked about the MGT Cost Allocation Plan, and the cost of pencils that the Sheriff Department has been ordering. Brian explained the pencils last 1 to 2 years and they are given out to students in the schools as part of the DARE program and other programs. 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:

- Lowell Bengry – Commented that the City of Stephenson is also dealing with the same MERS issues. He also stated that by dropping to 35 hours per week that will reduce the counties contribution to MERS.
- Ray Gurgall – Commented that 35 hours per week would work. If that doesn't work then the county should try for 37.5 hours per week. He also commented that the board has been talking about the pension system for 2 years and it is still not solved.
- Charlene Peterson – Thanked the board for reappointing her to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Hafeman – Commented that we need to get cost under control.

Moved by Com. Nelson , seconded by Com. Plutchak to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk