

May 26, 2015

APPROVED on June 9, 2015

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, Nelson, Piche, Schei and Williams.

Absent: None.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to approve the agenda. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Com. Cech, seconded by Com. Williams to amend the agenda to add to New Business, Finance Items C – Discussion on paying money to the five Department Heads that were underpaid by the old DMG scale. Motion was approved 7-2, Com. Hafeman and Com. Nelson voted nay.

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

Moved by Com. Williams, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2015 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports: None.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Schei to approve Budget amendments 10-13 as forwarded by the Finance Committee.

#10-Unused Hannahville Grant from 2012/13 - \$11,210.13

#11-Board approved in Oct. 2014 – Vestibule Project.

#12-Board approved on 5.12.15 – (Resolution 2015-09) Deficit Elimination Plan

#13-State Special Child Care fund-\$9,913.50 – to correct the funding accounts

Com. Furlong asked Com. Nelson to give him a little more background on these items. Com. Nelson explained the items. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve a journal entry to move \$300,000 (FY end 9.30.2014 – ending budget balance) from the General Fund to the Designated Building Fund (carryover fund), to be used as needed for building projects. Discussion ensued over how much money was already in the Designated Building Fund and if money can be moved in and out of this fund. Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on May 5 & 7, 2015 in the amount of \$65,792.21. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Williams 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. None.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. None.

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 May 21, 2015 in the combined amount of \$104,079.89. – Com. Hafeman commented that there was a fairly large food bill on the Master Card statement. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Discussion of back pay for the five Department Heads. – Com. Cech stated that he would like to bring this item back up for discussion tonight and make it an action item at the next meeting. When this issue was first voted on in April he suggested that the board give a bonus of \$2,000 to each Department Head as a bonus if the board could not give back pay. Since that meeting he has done some research, and has sat down with these employees to discuss this issue. The numbers that he is suggesting are based on the difference in the employee's salary from 2013-2014. The total amount would be close to \$27,000. Com. Nelson stated that he is not in favor of this. The previous boards decided to pay the Department Heads based on the other pay scale so

who are we to change what they did not knowing why they chose to do that. He also stated that he brought this up to many of his constituents and there is zero support for this. Com. Piche commented that he feels it is ok to discuss this issue and come to a resolution, but does not feel that it should be an action item at the next meeting. Com. Meintz stated that he understands where Com. Cech is coming from, but he does not agree with paying any additional money. Com. Lang stated that he has read the opinion from Attorney Stoker differently than some of the other commissioners and he feels this is the right thing to do. Com. Schei feels that Attorney Stoker's opinion is just that, an opinion and is not a binding judgment. He thinks the right thing to do is give a bonus. Com. Williams agrees that the board needs to discuss this more. Com. Cech stated that he spoke to Brian Bousley about finding a way to just increase the employee's retirement with MERS as some type of bonus, but this can't be done. Com. Furlong is ok with making this an action item at the next meeting as long as the board has exact figures to look at for the bonuses. Com. Cech stated that it will be a little over \$5,000 per employee. Com. Meintz stated that he would like to know where these Department Heads have been. He has not heard any of them complaining about not being paid. Com. Cech stated the exact total amount would be \$26,879. For Emergency Management it would be \$6,360 for one employee and \$1,123 for another. Com. Hafeman read Attorney Stoker's opinion and emphasized how the Attorney General has stated that these positions could not be paid additional money for services already rendered. If there were to be any type of compensation it would have to be prospectively in the form of some type of a bonus. Com. Nelson then stated you would have to remove anyone from that list that has retired or is no longer working for the County since they would not be eligible for a bonus. The board agreed that they need exact info on the amount of money per employee, and who can and can't receive the money before action can be taken. The consensus of the board is to move this to next meeting as a discussion item. Com. Cech can sit down with Brian Bousley and bring some figures back to the board. It would then be moved as an action item at the second meeting in June.

Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:

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

Public Comment:

- Pat Cheski – Thanked Com. Cech for coming to the Menominee/Ingallston Transfer Station meetings. She also discussed the need for recycling in Menominee County

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Furlong – Commented that the figure of \$42,826 that he quoted Com. Furlong during the discussion of Action Item #1 was for the Child Care Fund and not MSU like he had previously stated.
- Com. Cech – Thanked the rest of the board for listening to him and discussing the bonus pay issue tonight.
- Com. Meintz – Commented that it was a wonderful weekend for everyone. He reminded everyone to support our military and he thanked Com. Cech for the work he has done.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.
Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk