

June 25, 2013

APPROVED 7/9/2013

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 the Meyer Township Hall, Hermansville, 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, and Schei.

Absent: Com. Plutchak (excused)

Com. Hafeman asked to remove Miscellaneous Items A (Resolution 2013-12 ~ Support the use of VTC (Video Conferencing) for local Assessors and Equalization Director Training) from the Agenda.

Com. Meintz would like to add to the Agenda Miscellaneous Item A (Discussion of the Stephenson Area Public Schools tax roll issue).

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Furlong to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 8-0.

Public Comment:

- Bob Desjarlais – Request permission to speak during the discussion of the Stephenson Schools Tax Roll.
- Gary Eichhorn – Under Building and Grounds/Park items he would like them to discuss the Red Brick building demolition in Hermansville.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Diane Lesperance, Treasurer – She explained the tax bills from local units will go out to the residents July 1st
- Brian Bousley, Administrator – Discussed the DEQ shutting down the demolition process. He stated that he has spoken to another contractor, and hopefully the building will be completed by the end of the week.
- Diane Lesperance, Treasurer – She also discussed there was an issue with the current contractor not having manifest slips for the landfill. This slowed down the demolition, but the issue has been taken care of.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Furlong to approve FY 2012/13 Budget amendments #2 as recommended by the Finance Committee. Motion was approved 8-0.

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

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on June 3 & 6, 2013 in the total amount of \$65,454.78. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Piche 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. Affordable Care Act ~ Part time hours. – Discussion of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Beginning August 4, 2013, Administrator Bousley would like to run a baseline of 29 hours per week for each part time employee to see how the numbers run prior to voting on the final hr./wk. allowance for Menominee County. (This may be adjusted prior to the effective date of the Affordable Care Act, 2014). Brian read the memo that he has prepared. Effective August 4th 2013 – All part time County Employees shall not be allowed to work more than 29 hours per week. All County Department Heads/Elected Officials/Judges shall not schedule part time employees more than 29 hours per week. All Departments Heads shall seek prior approval from the Administrator if you have to schedule an employee for more than twenty nine hours per week. (i.e training or and emergency situation). Com. Lang asked how many times the 30 hour per week rule can be violated before we are in noncompliance. Brian stated part time employees are to either not exceed 30 hrs/week, or 130 hours in a month. So, if they worked over 30 hours in a week we would not be in violation unless they ended up working over 130 hours in that month. Com. Hafeman stated that she wanted the scheduled hours/week to be 25 hours, not 29. Brian stated that he is not in favor of the 25 hours/week due to the fact of the hiring freeze, and it could cause part time employees to seek other jobs. Com. Nelson feels that it should be scheduled for 25 hours/week just in case we need to exceed those hours. That would also give us some flexibility. Com. Meintz agreed with the 25 hours/week. He stated that he has discussed this issue with other counties as well. Com. Piche can see good thoughts both ways. He asked if we could compromise and go with 27 hours/week? Com. Krienke thinks that we should error on the side of caution. Com. Schei stated this could all change before we even have a chance to implement any of it. Com. Nelson stated that we should go with the 25 hours to get a starting point. Com. Lang stated he would agree with the 27 hours/week Com. Piche recommended. Com. Furlong feels that this could be a problem with employee turnover. He agrees with the 27 hours. Com. Hafeman stated that 25 hours/week would be 3 days a week. Brian explained that different part time employees are scheduled differently. Most work 5 days a week right now for about 6 hours/day. Com. Hafeman also stated that she would like to change full time employee hours from 40 hours/week to 35 hours/week. Brian explained that in order for that to happen the contracts would have to be changed. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward with a 25 hours/week schedule.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Stephenson School District ~ Tax Roll Issue. – Steve Paliewicz, Stephenson Area Public Schools Superintendent and John Mans, Menominee County ISD Superintendent addressed the board. Mr. Paliewicz read a letter that he had written to all of the township treasurers that are in the SAPS district. Com. Furlong asked if the tax bills list what the residents owe for the debt reduction. Diane Lesperance stated that information should be listed. He also asked why there had to be a new state law passed, and why they couldn't have just issued refund checks. Diane explained that it would have been over 7,530 checks that would have to be issued. Plus, there are a whole lot of "what ifs" in sending out the checks. (i.e. have the people sold the property, have a couple got divorced, then who receives the checks, if someone has moved how do you find them). Com. Nelson stated that there is nothing else we can do about this issue. It has already been decided, and this ship has sailed. John Anderson, Local Tax Assessor, addressed the board. He feels the local people should have been contacted immediately and they were not. He doesn't agree how it was done, but like Com. Nelson stated the ship has sailed on this one. He also feels that the calculations that the state used are flawed. He stated there are 145 parcels that he is aware of that will not be made whole. Mr. Paliewicz stated that the school's attorneys told him not to contact the public right away. Com. Meintz wanted to know when the first knowledge of this issue was. Steve stated the end of April. Bob Desjarlais, Local Tax Assessor, agrees with John Anderson and stated that tax payers will be calling him next year when they receive their tax bills. Bob also stated that he believes the school's attorneys did not want this out in the public before the May School Millage Election because if the public knew the school would be afraid the millage would not pass.

Finance Items:

- a. DHS requesting reconsideration of meeting fee reimbursement. – Brian addressed the meeting fee schedules. The six boards that their members are paid per diems are all ones that state they "shall" or "may" receive compensation. Com. Hafeman researched the number of committee members who would have to be paid and those who are not paid. Com. Lang does not agree with the system we have now. He does not feel that it is fair. Com. Meintz asked how we can change this. This is an issue that would need to be sent to the Executive Committee to change our bylaws. Com. Furlong said that the push for volunteers was his idea. But, it is not working out. It should go back to the Executive Committee and the pay should be the same as the Commissioners receive. Com. Nelson agrees with Com. Furlong. Brian needs to schedule an Executive Committee meeting. Com. Hafeman does not want it to be retroactive.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses. – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on June 18 & 20, 2013 in the amount of \$59,995.25. – Com. Hafeman asked a few questions regarding a 911 bill, and a bill for \$90 to CVS for iTunes cards. 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 to the next meeting for approval.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment:

- Gary Eichhorn – He would like to see financial items that are on the agenda printed so the public can see. He commented on the history of the Road Commission and why they receive a per diem. He also asked who the Stephenson School’s attorney was.
- Jason Ives – He commented about his construction business and his recent convictions in Delta and Menominee Counties for Larceny by Conversion. He is very upset over how he was treated by State Police Detective Jean Belanger. He also is upset over his sentence recommendation of 1 year in jail and over \$70,000 in restitution.
- Bob Desjarlais – He would like to thank the board for allowing the public to take part in the Stephenson Schools discussion. He also is glad the Executive Committee is going to address the per diem issue.
- Diane Lesperance – She agrees with having the Executive Committee look at the per diem issue.
- Pat Dani – Commented on the demolition of the Red Brick building and asked what is the next stage.
- Laurie Riedy – Asked if the Meyer Township board will receive reports about what was going on with the demolition of the Red Brick building.
- Charlene Peterson – Asked if there was any update on the MSU extension office.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Furlong – He hopes the board learned a lesson with the demolition of the Red Brick building. He thinks that we should have hired an engineer to oversee the project and this could have been taken care of a few years ago.
- Com. Nelson – He commented that everyone is discussing what is wrong with our county, he would like to speak about something that is right. He commented on Betty Eichhorn being present at the meeting tonight and spoke of all the positive work she did with social services in Menominee County. He also stated that he looked over the proposals that were written for the demolition of the Red Brick building. That proposal was written well.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that she liked seeing the Road Commission using the Sheriff’s work crew. She also asked where the GIS mapping issue was.
- Com. Meintz – Commented that summer was going along nicely and he is looking forward to the budget coming out. He stated that the retirement issues have to be addressed.

Any other items members may wish to present: None.

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

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk