

July 23, 2013
Approved on 8/13/13

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

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the July 09, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATIONS: Dickinson County Commissioner Barbara Kramer gave a presentation in support of a bike trail, though the southern portion of the Upper Peninsula, which she plans on presenting to Governor Rick Snyder personally. Gov. Snyder has proposed a multi-use trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood. Ms. Kramer's proposal would offer an alternate route to the northern portion of the trail which would pass through Iron, Gogebic, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Schoolcraft and Mackinac counties.

The proposal, according to Kramer, has already received support/approval from Dickinson, Iron, and Schoolcraft counties. She will be meeting with Delta, Gogebic, and Mackinac county boards over the next few weeks. Following meeting the county boards the proposal would be presented to Gov. Snyder and the DNR.

DEPARTMENT HEAD/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS: Diane Lesperance, County Treasurer, reported that the county land auction was held today (07/23) and 8 of the county's 14 inventoried properties were sold for a approximately \$30,001. The county needed \$30,751 to be made whole and with several properties yet available the anticipated funds to be received from the September land sale the county should surpass the needed amount. The Step Forward program is coming along. There have been 3 individuals have been qualified and the county has received its first payment of taxes from the program.

ACTION ITEMS:

Moved by Com. Hafeman and seconded by Com. Nelson to approve budget amendments #3 (current budget 2012-13) as requested by the Finance Committee on July 09, 2013. Com. Meintz questioned the lack of specific dollar amounts entered in the agenda. Adm. Bousley commented that most of the monies are grants and refunds and in/out budget adjustments. Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Furlong and seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the West Central U.P. Community Corrections renewal application for FY 2014-15 funding. Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman and seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Resolution 2013-13 U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2014-2016 Multi-Year Plan for Services to the Elderly. Motion approved 9-0. (Attachment A)

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

Moved by Com. Furlong and seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on June 27 & July 3, 2013 in the amount of \$176,775.90. Com. Hafeman comments that there are still a lot of food charges on the credit card. Adm. Bousley responded that much of that is associated with training, etc. Motion approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson and seconded by Com. Plutchak to place miscellaneous boards/committee/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Com. Hafeman commented that it is nice to see new buildings on building code reports. Motion approved 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

PERSONNEL ITEMS:

None

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/PARKS ITEMS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- a. Resolution 2013-12 – A resolution of support for the promotion and development of a southern U.P. route for the Governor’s proposed Belle Isle to Ironwood Michigan Trail. Com. Meintz comments that he feels it is a very good idea and commented that Ms. Kramer gave a fantastic presentation. Com. Hafeman comments that she this as not only a viable alternative to the northern route but also as part of a loop around the Upper Peninsula. Com Hafeman further commented that she would like to see the loop also access other communities in Menominee county as well as the City of Menominee. Adm. Bousley commented that the beauty of the proposal is that it would allow for other routes that would access other communities within the county. Com. Nelson requests that Adm. Bousley reads the resolution. The resolution was read and Com. Hafeman comments that she would like to this item moved forward. Com. Meintz agrees. The consensus is that Resolution 2013-12 will be forwarded to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.

- b. Library Board Vacancy – Advertisement submitted for applications. No questions/comments. The consensus is to move forward to the County Board for Approval as Recommended

FINANCE ITEMS:

- a. 2014 MAC County Dues (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). Adm. Bousley commented that the dues are the same as previous years (\$5442.46). Com. Hafeman questioned on what criteria the dues are based, ie county population, etc. Adm. Bousley stated that it is based on a formula that includes population as one of the factors. Com. Meintz commented that he feels MAC has gone to bat of the U.P. especially after Coms. Lang and Furlong spoke with MAC representatives. Com. Lang commented that he feels MAC is especially aware of Menominee County. Com. Furlong stated that MAC is the county's lobbying arm and the only voice that we have in state government and the dues we pay is a very good investment for the benefits received. Com. Meintz feels this item should be moved forward. The consensus is to move forward to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and Expenses. No questions/comments. The consensus is to move forward to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on July 18, 2013 in the amount of \$162,106.30. Com. Hafeman questioned refunds at Shakey Lakes or any of the county parks. Adm. Bousley stated that refunds go through the parks manager and then to his office. Adm. Bousley further reviewed the process as to obtaining reservations and refunds for the county parks. Com. Hafeman inquired as to what services were performed by Valley Mechanical. Adm. Bousley commented that they were repairing/replacing defective/aging heating/cooling valves. The consensus is to move forward to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.

MISC. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS REPORTS:

- a. No questions/comments. The consensus is to move forward to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dale Axtell inquired as to the loud speakers and who was going to pay for the proposed bike trail.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Com. Schei thanked Mr. Axtell for his presence at the meeting and his comments. Com. Schei and Com. Hafeman the health board meeting and had an interesting discussion about their MERS retirement. Com. Schei commented that they were 107% funded however they are down to 103 or 104% funded at this time, their concern is that that need to have a firm hand on that so they don't go the other way. Com. Schei further commented on Detroit's unfunded balance and compared that to Menominee's. Com. Lang further state that Com. Lang was partially correct when he commented that Delta County's fund balance was not under control (they were currently at 80% funding).

Com. Hafeman commented as to the promotion (or lack thereof) of the County Fair and that it appeared that 4-H participation was down. Com. Hafeman felt that many of the exhibits were not well attended. Com. Hafeman further commented that she was impressed with the fashion show at the fair, that the bath house is beautiful, and the graveled area gives it the appearance that it is was finished.

Com. Piche commented that there currently fewer farm families which has an impact on the involvement in 4-H and that we shouldn't necessarily fault 4-H and that he isn't certain that there is a solution.

Com. Nelson commented that at the last meeting representatives from MSU were present and after that meeting they contacted him to say they were not charging Menominee County for the last quarter (\$9000). As for the county's funding for MERS, Menominee County is currently funded at 62% which is a far cry from 85%

Com. Lang agreed with the comments made in the Public Input Meeting for the 2013-2014 County Budget by Charlene Peterson and Pat Cheski. Com. Lang believes there are few frivolous expenditures made by Menominee County and that most of the expenditures that are made have really endured the test of time.

Com. Meintz to sum things up: Com. Hafeman's comments re the fair, there are many factors, lower budgets affect funding and promotion, attendance at activities is affected by the decreases in farming families and the reduced numbers in 4-H, weather is a factor (the heat earlier in the month might have deterred some for bring their livestock to the fair). As for comments during the budget hearing as to cuts nothing has been cut and the budget is basically the same as it was last year. There are issues that must be solved however he agrees with Com. Lang that many of the services that the county provides are essential. Somehow somehow we have to work together to correct our financial issues like MERS.

Any other items members may wish to present: None.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Schei to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Tom Faller Chief Deputy, County Clerk