

July 9, 2013

APPROVED 7/23/2013

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Presentations:**

-Kandace Curran ~ Update on 2013 Fair Activities. The fair will be July 19-21, 2013.

**Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:**

-County Treasurer Diane Lesperance – Menominee County will be holding its annual land auction two weeks from today. There are 11 parcels up for bid. The State of Michigan did not take any of the parcels but the City of Stephenson took one and Gourley Township plans to purchase the 40 acres in their township. The current land owner of that parcel is petitioning the Circuit Court to still be allowed to keep their land. The building in Hermansville has been taken down. It will be cleaned up and finished soon.

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

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on June 18 & 20, 2013 in the amount of \$59,995.25. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Schei to place miscellaneous boards/committee/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion was approved 9-0.

**New Business (discussion only)**

**Personnel Items:**

- a. Affordable Care Act ~ Part time hours. – Brian discussed with the board that just last week the Federal Government postponed the requirements of the Act. New information is suppose to come out this week. Implementation will be in 2015 instead of 2014. Com. Lang asked how this affects the 29 hrs/week. Com. Meintz stated that the part time hours issue could be tabled for now until we receive more information.

**Building and Grounds/Parks Items:**

- a. None.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. WCUP Community Corrections – funding renewal application FY 2014/15. – Becky McIntyre, Community Corrections Manager, is here to speak to the board. She is asking that they approve their grant application. This is a renewal of the application that was passed by the board last year. The funding was cut by \$3,800 for this year. Becky informed the board that the same programming will remain in place. Becky explained more about the Community Corrections programs to the board members who were not on the board last year. Com. Meintz asked if they would be asking for any additional funds from the county. Becky explained that they would not at this time. Com. Hafeman asked how much the grant was for. Becky explained it would be \$319,000 for next fiscal year. Com. Piche commented about the work the Community Corrections program was doing with the Road Commission. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- b. UPAAA (U.P. Area Agency on Aging) – Multi-year (2014-2016) plan for services. – The UPAAA is providing a Multi-year plan for Services to the U.P. Older Adults. Should we chose to support the plan, we are asked to approve a resolution showing our support. This will need to be done by July 30, 2013. Brian read the proposed resolution. Com. Hafeman gave some additional background information. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

**Finance Items:**

- a. 2013/14 Budget – Draft 2. – The Finance Committee would like input from all Commissioners on the 2013/14 Budget. Brian gave everyone a copy of the budget. Brian informed the board that we will be holding an input session before the next County Board Meeting. Com. Meintz asked a few questions, and made a few comments about MERS. It appears that we are going backwards again will MERS even though the market has been good. He feels that we need to focus on serious budget cuts. We also need to talk to our State Representatives and we need to get out money out of MERS and into a private investor that will give us a better return. Com. Nelson discussed a little more about MERS and how it is written into State Law and it would take a lot to change it. He spoke about the shortfall in MERS and that we need to squeeze some more money than the \$750,000 that he originally recommended. Changing the system is what is needed and the county is going to be

strapped because of this for the next 15 years. Com. Schei discussed this morning's Finance Committee meeting and it is going to be a really tight budget. Com. Furlong commented on the retirement system. It didn't happen overnight. The board has been looking into it. Com. Nelson spoke more about needing another \$250,000 to put towards MERS. Com. Furlong asked if we are going to just give MERS the \$750,000? He said Com. Meintz said we would be better off just putting that money in an interest bearing account. Com. Nelson explained that MERS will give us at least 5% return on our money and an interest account will be lucky to give us 1%. We will have to start paying off our liability by 2015. That is when the new Gatsby bill will take effect and we will have to show how we are going to pay off our debt because we will not have a balanced budget. Com. Nelson does not want to blame previous boards for this problem. He is sorry he said that earlier. Com. Schei and Com. Lang discussed what then had heard Delta County had done to reduce their liability with MERS. Com. Lang also discussed the additional cuts that the Finance Committee wants to make. Com. Lang is ok with taking the excess money from the budget and applying it to MERS, but not making any cuts. Com. Schei stated that Com. Lang should have brought these issues up at the Finance Committee meeting instead of bringing them up now. Com. Piche stated that there is a problem with the whole nation, not just in Menominee County. He said take the auto industry for example. There will be a public input session before the next County Board Meeting where this will be discussed.

- 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 27 & July 3, 2013 in the amount of \$176,775.90. - The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

#### **Misc. Boards/Committees/Commissions Reports:**

Com. Schei discussed the Fair Board Meeting. Com. Furlong apologized for missing the Parks meeting. He thought it was being held in Stephenson, and it was at Klienke Park. 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:**

-Mari Negro – Stated the board is doing an excellent job. She also invited everyone to attend the Menominee County Democratic Party picnic in Stephenson on Saturday.

#### **Commissioner Comment:**

-Com. Plutchak – Stated he is happy to see the Hermansville Hotel has been torn down. He also stated that the MERS thing needs to be tackled.

-Com. Nelson – Thanked Diane and Brian for getting the building down in Hermansville.

-Com. Schei – Stated the new bathhouse is open at Shakey Lakes Park and they are still working on the driveway around it.

-Com. Krienke – Stated that he looked at the new bathhouse and he feels the driveway can wait until next year to finish.

-Com. Meintz – Discussed putting limestone down at Shakey Lakes around the bathhouse. He also asked Com. Lang if he will be coming to the County Fair and if he would like to do a bull riding event.

-Com. Hafeman – Feels that we are starting to make progress on the budget issues.

-Com. Piche – He sits on the Road Commission Committee and he discussed the State and the abandonment of rail road crossings and if they chose to abandon the crossing the Road Commission would receive \$125,000 that could be used at their own discretion.

**Any other items members may wish to present:** None.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

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Charlie Meintz, Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk