

August 22, 2017
Approved September 12, 2017

Proceedings of Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Menominee County Annex, (MSU Extension Bldg.) S904 US HWY 41, Stephenson, Michigan 49887

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. Cech, Phelps, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Piche, Schei, and Gromala. Com Hafeman (arrived at 6:05pm)

Absent/Excused: NONE

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Cech to approve the agenda. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Cech to approve the minutes from the August 08, 2017 County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Petersen, City of Menominee Fire Department Chief, resident of the City of Menominee, and current Chair of the 911 Board. Chief Mr. Petersen spoke of the importance of 911, the need for updated equipment, and that the 911 service is essential to the citizens of Menominee County.

Brett Botbyl, City of Menominee Police Department Chief, resident of the City of Menominee, and a member of the 911 governing board. Chief Botbyl provided the board with information and examples in support of 911 to the citizens and to law enforcement agencies.

Andy Primeaux, 911 employee and resident of the City of Menominee, spoke of the need for equipment updates and spoke against outsourcing 911 services.

PRESENTATIONS:

NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS:

Library – Amanda Winnicki, updated the board on the Bookmobile project, the library’s successful grant writing efforts, implementation of WIFI at the library, summer reading program, and grants from numerous community foundations. Ms. Winnicki believes that with the support they have received they are well on the way to funding the Bookmobile

911 – Brian Barrette, spoke as to 911 funding, needs, and the service that 911 provides the citizens of Menominee County. Mr. Barrette spoke as to the 911 issues/problems being community issues/problems and that the longer they are put off the costs will continue to increase. It is not a question of if the console fails but rather when the console fails.

ACTION ITEMS:

Moved by Com. Schei seconded by Com. Gromala to approve a bid by Farber of Toledo OH in the amount of \$154,746 for the Library Bookmobile. Com. Schei commented on the efforts and the research involved in the proposal, that this unit is a heavier unit than the more expensive ones and is the best way to go. Com. Piche agrees with Com. Schei and comments that he has confidence in the mechanic that services the vehicle who has given input on the decision. Com. Meintz expressed concern not only as to the cost of the vehicle but also the Bookmobile program in general. Com. Nelson comments that the Bookmobile funding is through the Library and that they are not requesting additional funds. Motion was approved 8-1. Com. Meintz voting against.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve to approve a five year lease agreement with JS Electronics for tower rental at the Rangeline Road tower in Ingallston Twp. Rental shall be initially \$505 per month. (currently \$425/mo.). Com. Hafeman expressed concern as to the increased costs. Com. Nelson and Com. Schei commented that there have been increased maintenance costs. Motion was approved 8-1. Com. Nelson voting against.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve Commissioner per diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Gromala to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on July 26-28, 2017 in the combined amount of \$30,577.68. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous boards / committees / commission reports be placed on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Cech to go into closed session, for strategy and negotiations of the AFSCME (E911) collective bargaining agreement. (Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, 15.268 Section 8(c)). Individuals attending closed session are Interim County Administrator, and Board Clerk. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to return to open session at 7:28 pm. Motion was approved 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)**PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

- a. None.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/PARKS ITEMS:

- a. None.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- a. Airport Open House ~ September 09, 2017 ~ 9:00am – 3:30pm. Com. Schei updated the board of the upcoming activities at the airport. The 31st Annual Model Train Show, will be featured at the open house, along with 3rd Annual Craft Show, 12th Annual Car Show, and helicopter rides. The Model Train Show will be renting a portion of the main hanger with additional activities outside. The airport and the grounds will be open and operational. This open house has been in the planning stage for a long time and the cooperation has been tremendous. Sheriff Marks will have auxiliary officers available for security and assistance. Com. Lang feels that public relations is very good and there should be more events planned for the airport. Com. Gromala adds that the airport committee appreciates all the help and assistance to facilitate the event.

FINANCE ITEMS:

- a. 2017/18 Budget – Radio Console: In or Out? **Com. Nelson** addressed concerns with the county’s flexible fund balance and concerns he has with the 911 funding, the radio console and budget constraints. Com. Nelson would not be in favor of putting the console funds in the budget. **Com. Hafeman** believes the county needs to address needs vs wants and enumerated the security and operations expenditures that have been made and still pending. Com. Hafeman is not in favor of pulling more funds out of savings to cover operational costs or to raid savings for wants. **Com. Cech** stated that he believes the board must act in a manner that is in the best interest of citizens of Menominee County. He recognizes that our current budget is looking bad but Com. Cech supports the console and believes that it is a benefit to have 911 in Menominee County and that our population warrants 911 services. **Com. Lang** stated that it is his understanding that the county has \$10 million available and that the county should either use that money for the betterment of the county or return it to the taxpayers, that the funds for the console could easily be transferred. Com. Lang believes the money for the console is available. **Com. Piche** would like the funds for the console put in the budget although he is not committing to the purchase of the console at this time. Feels there is more research necessary before the console is purchased. Is willing to consider combining services however the benefits of combining must be proven and he hasn’t seen that proof as of yet. Com. supports putting the funds in the budget and continuing with benefit analysis. **Com. Gromala** agrees with Com. Piche and believes more proof is necessary. He is not convinced that moving 911 is in the best interest of the community. Com. Gromala supports putting the console in the budget. **Com. Nelson** addressed comments as to population of Menominee County and surrounding counties that may have consolidated services and comments as to lack of supporting proof. Com. Nelson believes commissioners should be responsible enough to do their own research. Further Com. Nelson does not believe the county has \$10 million available and that actually the county is underfunded. **Com. Phelps** agrees with Com. Piche. Based on his research Com. Phelps believes if there is a system failure, through a flip of a switch the 911 service could be provided by Delta County. Would like more facts from 911 re the console, the costs benefits of system updates, and asks if a less expensive unit could provide the same service. Com. Phelps does question if the situation is as dire as some believe. **Com. Schei** expressed concern as to hardware because he wasn’t aware that there were other consoles being considered. He feels this is a hardware issue and that if the hardware needs to be replaced, it should be replaced in the most cost effective manner possible. He is interested in knowing if other systems should be considered based on similar specifications. He is not opposed to considering a merger with another 911 service but believes that would be 2-3 years down the road. Com. Schei believes the funds should be put in the budget and research should continue. **Com. Meintz** is aware that in the event of a system failure there are contingency plans in place as mentioned by Com. Phelps and agrees with Com. Nelson that combining services is a possibility and it would not be the only services combined with other counties. Agrees with Com. Cech that mistakes had been made in the past that allowed 911 to be underfunded and believes that the board should address the long term sustainability of the 911 service. He feels that the board must address the needs of the people of Menominee County in the most financially responsible manner possible and that all options should be explored.

Com. Meintz called for a roll call vote to include the funding of the radio console in the 2017/18 budget. Consensus was to put the radio console in the 2017/18 budget 6-3. Coms. Hafeman, Meintz, and Nelson voting against.

- b. Commissioner Per Diems and Expenses. Forwarded to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on August 09, 2017 in the combined amount of \$214,017.92. Forwarded to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.

MISC. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS REPORTS:

- a. No questions/comments. Forwarded to the County Board for Approval as Recommended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Petersen, City of Menominee Fire Department Chief, thanks the board for its support of 911 system and addressed the comments re flipping a switch which transfers 911 calls to another system for example Delta County. Whereas the technology exists that would allow transferring calls they do not have the capability to communicate with or dispatch responders. They would have to be able to link to the radio frequencies of the responders.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Com. Cech – commented that the 911 console is obsolete and should be replaced with a unit that is compatible with other units being used in the UP.

Com. Phelps – responds to Mr. Petersen re flipping a switch, realizes the process is much more complicated. Is concerned in the difference between consoles and would like more data.

Com. Hafeman – commented on the UP Fair and specifically a dance presentation by the Hannahville Community. She was very impressed with the presentation.

Com. Lang –

Com. Meintz – commented on the UP State Fair. Menominee County and 4-H were well represented and that the kids did a stupendous job.

Com. Nelson – responded to Mr. Petersen re conversion and consolidation with Dickinson. Also commented on a recent newspaper opinion poll, stated he doesn't write newspapers but he understands managing government and government operations.

Com. Piche –

Com. Schei – agreed with Com. Hafeman about the dance presentation of the Hannahville Community.

Com. Gromala –

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Tom Faller Chief Deputy, County Clerk