

August 11, 2015

APPROVED on 8/25/15

Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Cedarville Township Hall, Cedar River, 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.

Chairman Meintz stated that the agenda needs to be amended to add to New Business Finance Items A: In addition to the 3-Way road invoice for Faithorn Township we need to add Lake Township invoice for \$31,008.75 and Holmes Township invoice for \$30,854.07.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to amend the agenda under New Business Finance Item A. 3-Way road invoices for Faithorn Township - \$17,625.38, Lake Township - \$31,008.75 and Holmes Township - \$30854.07. Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2015 Public Input meeting and the July 28, 2015 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

**Public Comment:**

- Gary Eichhorn – Commented on Invoice 7 of 7, fall registration for the U.P. Assessors training that was submitted by County Treasurer Diane Lesperance. He does not feel that it is appropriate for the county to be paying for her to go to this training as it is not part of her job.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on Diane Lesperance request for reimbursement. Feels it should be denied and she should be asked to reimburse the county.
- Janis Linderoth – Commented that she is the Menominee County Representative to the U. P. State Fair Board and she would like to remind everyone of the upcoming fair in Escanaba.

**Presentations:**

- CUPPAD – Vision of Regional GIS. This was a presentation on their proposed GIS partnership with counties and township.

**Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:**

- Kenny Marks – Menominee County Sheriff. Sheriff Marks gave the board some background information regarding the Animal Control Ordinance and the Animal Control Officer position.

**Action Items:**

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to approve Resolution 2015-15 ~ U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2016 Annual Implementation Plan for Services to Older Adults. Motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0. (Attachment A)

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Cech to approve a bid by Kozikowski Well & Pump Inc. in the amount of \$13,986 for the River Park drilled water well project. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Lang to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on July 16, 2015 in the amount of \$63,702.17. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Williams, seconded by Com. Cech 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. Animal Control Enforcement in Menominee County. – Brian explained that this issue has been looked at by the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee and at the last County Board meeting. Brian has spoken to the City of Menominee regarding their animal control ordinance enforcement and how something could be worked out between them and the county. We are waiting for more information from the city. Com. Hafeman discussed the 1981 Menominee County Animal Control Ordinance. She stated that the ordinance is outdated and the judges will not enforce it. Brian explained that the ordinance needs to be rewritten. Com. Hafeman commented that it would be nice to have a couple of people doing animal control in the county since Menominee County is so large and it can take an hour or more to travel from one end of the county to the other. Com. Meintz asked if we contract this

position out, does that person need to be deputized to write tickets. Brian explained that the tickets for enforcement would be written by the police officers. The position would mostly be education, licensing and dog catching. Com. Nelson commented that the board should entrust Brian to come up with a plan and bring it back to the board. He said we could ask for an RFP. Com. Williams commented that we need to have a very clear and understandable ordinance in place before we hire someone, or contract with someone. Com. Hafeman wants to see wording in the ordinance that requires dog licensing and a fine if not done. Com. Lang would like to see what this position is going to cost. Com. Williams commented that we can't be the only county in the state that is having this issue. There has to be an ordinance or structure from another county we can use to help us. Com. Meintz asked if there are any grants through USDA that are available for this. Sheriff Marks stated that the Hannahville Indian Community has been very helpful in the past with grants. Com. Furlong and Com. Schei both agree that we need an ordinance in place first. The consensus of the board is to have Brian gather more information and have this as a discussion item at the next meeting.

- b. Board of County Canvassers. – County Clerk Marc Kleiman explained to the board that this is just an informational item. Two seats on the Board of Canvassers are expiring on October 31, 2015. One seat is a Republican Party representative and the other is a Democratic Party representative. Both county parties have been notified and must submit a list of candidates by September 1, 2015. The board will elect both positions at one of its meetings in September.
- c. Resolution 2015-17 ~ MI Works – Upward talent council. – Com. Nelson explained that the State of Michigan has stated the three separate Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! Boards will be combined into one regional board. This board will be made up of 15 members (one from each U.P. County). They will still keep the three separate boards for meeting purposes.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to make the approval of Resolution 2015-17 ~ Upward Talent Council an action item at this meeting. Motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Williams to approve Resolution 2015-17 ~ Upward Talent Council. Motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0. (Attachment B)

- d. Twin County Airport. – Brian gave the board an update on the status of the Twin County Airport. Brian, County Treasurer Diane Lesperance and County Clerk Marc Kleiman met with Marinette County and we are in the process of moving over the financials for the airport. The Twin County Airport will hold its first meeting next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the airport. Com. Schei commented that things have been very busy at the airport.

**Finance Items:**

- a. 3-Way road invoices for Faithorn Township - \$17,625.38; Holmes Township - \$30,854.07; Lake Township - \$31,008.75. – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- 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 July 30, 2015 in the amount of \$171,627.73. – Com. Meintz is questioning one of the bills regarding County Treasurer Diane Lesperance. The bill was for \$125 for UPAA (Upper Peninsula Assessors Association) fall school registration. He stated that a treasurer can't be an assessor for jurisdiction. He does not feel that the county should be paying for this. Com. Cech commented that Diane was questioned at a recent meeting about not knowing what she was doing with foreclosures. He stated that this might be good to help her in her job with the foreclosures. Com. Nelson commented that the townships and cities collect their taxes and give them to the treasurer so he doesn't understand the need for her to be an assessor. He also feels that the county should not just be giving money away. \$125 here, \$500 there it all adds up. Com. Cech stated that he feels the public comments were out of line and didn't feel it was appropriate for the public to be attacking and slandering someone. Com. Furlong asked what the school was for. Brian stated that he would need to check into it. Com. Nelson would like to know if it is statutory or not for the County Treasurer to also be an assessor. Com. Hafeman commented that if this training was to help with foreclosures it would be one thing, but if not, it isn't appropriate. Com. Furlong stated that if we are going to go back and look for one person, then we should go back on everyone and see if the trainings and schools they are going to are appropriate for their jobs. All commissioners agree with doing this. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval, with Brian looking into the bill for the UPAA fall school and going back one year to check on all county employee trainings that were paid for by the county.

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

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

**Public Comment:**

- Kim Swille – Commented that she contacted a commissioner about the Animal Control issue in September of 2014 and she also contacted Representative Ed McBroom. She stated the former ACO was Yvonne Pennington. She also commented that there are a lot of grants available to help pay for this.
- Nancy Dechert – Thanked the board for continuing to look into the ACO position and offered to help in any way.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented that the UPAA fall school is a place for assessors to get their certification hours.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented that it is a good idea to look back at the bills for a year and to see what training/schools shouldn't have been paid for.

**Commissioner Comment:**

- Com. Williams – Commented that we all appreciate public comment but it needs to be kept to the point without innuendos.
- Com. Piche – Commented on the MI State Fair that will be held in Escanaba and encourages everyone to attend. He also thanked all the people and businesses that help make the fair happen.
- Com. Cech – Commented on the work that Sheriff Marks and Work Van coordinator Bill Hanson do. They would be given a pat on the back. Even though the State will be shutting down the program, the Sheriff is going to find a way to keep it going.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that everyone should take some time to review the county budget on the county website.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that she hopes the county can get the Animal Control Ordinance updated.
- Com. Lang – Commented that the State of Michigan can learn a good lesson from the U.P. State Fair Board.
- Com. Meintz – Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. He commented on the ACO position and he also encouraged everyone to enjoy the fair.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.  
Motion was approved 9-0.

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Charlie Meintz, Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk