

August 12, 2014

APPROVED on 8/26/14

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 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, Plutchak, and Schei.

Absent: None.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve the agenda. Discussion ensued. Com. Schei stated that he would like to see the agenda amended to add Discussion of the future of the Menominee County Fair.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Meintz to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the future of the Menominee County Fair under New Business, Miscellaneous Items C. Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2014 Special County Board Meeting; July 22, 2014 County Board Public Input-2014/15 Budget Meeting; and July 22, 2014 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Bill Hafeman – Commented on the reasons why the Menominee County Fair should be moved to Nadeau Township. A two page document was given to the commissioners by Mr. Hafeman.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports: None.

Action Items:

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve Re-monumentation Peer Group Members as recommended by the County Surveyor, Bill Lenca. Primary members are Mel Davis, Chuck Oslund, & Terry Wanic. Alternate members are Michael Peterson, Jeremy Pipp, Steve Applekamp & Robert Goodreau. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve Resolution 2014-14 ~ Menominee County Place-Based Targeting Strategy, MSHDA. Motion was approved 9-0. (Attachment A).

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve payment in the amount of \$7,500 to MSU for the fourth quarter (July-Sept.) MOA assessment fee. Discussion ensued. Com. Krienke asked if the Educator was in place yet. Brian explained that they have not started. Com. Nelson commented that we have not received what we have been promised by MSU. Com. Hafeman commented that maybe we should look elsewhere such as with Wisconsin and MI Works. Com. Meintz discussed the programs we have received from them so far (Snap-Ed and 4H) and that we have not paid them any money yet this year. Com. Lang asked if we pay this amount will we lose their attention? Com. Hafeman, Plutchak and Schei believe there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. They would like to see this item tabled. Com. Piche and Com. Nelson rescinded their motion.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Plutchak to table this action item until further information can be gathered. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve payment of legal fees associated with the Writ of Mandamus involving the Menominee County Board of Commissioners and the Twin County Airport Commission from account 101-997-999.01 (Airport Commission Appropriation). Discussion ensued. Com. Furlong asked what the cost was. Brian explained the only cost at this point was a \$150 filing fee. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve payment of Commissioner Per Diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 6-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on June 24, July 2, 3, 8 & 10, 2014 in the combined amount of \$102,935.56. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Schei 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. Salaries of County Officers – Elected Officials. – Brian explained that per State law, the salaries of each officer shall be fixed by the county board by November 1 of each year. The 2014/15 budget currently has a 2% increase budgeted for the Elected officials. Com. Hafeman commented she is opposed to the Drain Commissioner and the County Commissioners receiving an increase but she is ok with giving the other elected officials a 2% raise since the board did not give them a raise last year. Com. Plutchak stated that he agreed with Com. Hafeman. Com. Meintz stated that he understands what they are saying, but if you look at the books 2% adds up to a lot of money. Com. Schei stated that he would like to see a breakdown of the benefits given to the elected officials. He also stated that this would affect the amount of their MERS. Com. Nelson asked Brian what the projected increase was going to be in health insurance for next year. Brian stated that we budgeted for 12% but it is actually going to be closer to 6%. Com. Meintz commented that he would like to know at what percent the elected official group is funded in MERS. The board will bring this back for discussion at the next meeting with the additional information that was asked for.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. MSU Extension Building – Hours of Operation. – Brian explained that we are having an issue with personnel coverage of the County Annex building in Stephenson. We currently have MSU personnel in the building that cover the front office area when they are at the building. The problem is they aren't there every day (or are in and out). We also have a juvenile probation officer and public health personnel in that building that help answer questions for the public, but this is not their job. We currently have a temporary (Manpower) person covering the Building Code & MSU office from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. daily. Brian also stated that we have budgeted for a person to be there 25 hours per week and this limits the hours of operation. Com. Nelson asked about the Emergency Manager being able to help out. Brian stated the Emergency Manager recently had shoulder surgery and is not at work yet. Com. Hafeman asked about the problems with answering the phones and having the phone calls transferred down to the courthouse. Brian stated they are working on addressing that issue right now. Com. Meintz also asked about the substantial amount of remodeling that has been going on at the Annex. Brian stated that he will continue to work on possible solutions and keep the board informed.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. DHS Member term to expire 10/31/14. – Brian explained that Mary Bradley's appointment will expire on 10/31/14. Brian would like permission to advertise for this appointment. Com. Hafeman explained that Ms. Bradley has been ill. Com. Hafeman also asked if this would affect the new arrangements with Pincrest and the Governor's appointments. Brian stated that it would not. The consensus of the board is to have Brian advertise and move this item forward for approval when applications are submitted.
- b. MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution. – The MERS 457 program is an employer sponsored deferred compensation program with pretax contribution option, taxes on the contribution are deferred until they are withdrawn. There is NO COST to the employer. The employee is responsible for funding this program. MERS 457 offers individuals a self-directed account in which the employee chooses a portion of their salary to be contributed. The employee decides the level of contributions and how to invest the assets. After leaving employment, the benefit is based on the total amount of money in the account. Commissioners are asked to approve the MERS 457 Program. Tammy from MERS was present to answer questions. Com. Furlong asked if the county could still use this program if we switch our retirement system from defined benefit to defined contributions. She said that the program would still be available. Com. Furlong also went on to explain that the more people that join this new plan, it would save the county money on the taxes paid per employee. Com. Hafeman asked if it was pre or post tax money. Tammy stated it can be done both ways. Com. Krienke asked if the money goes into the same kitty as our other MERS retirement and if it would have the same fate. Tammy explained it is invested differently and they have shown a 9% rate of return over the last 30 years. She reiterated that this is at no cost to the county and if the employee wishes to join they can. Com. Furlong stated that he is in full support of this. Com. Nelson stated that the county would only save minimal money by joining this program. He is concerned at the cost it we would incur by have one of our employees entering information and monitoring this program. He also stated that he would be in favor of this, but would like to include it when and if we switch to a defined contributions program with MERS Com. Schei asked if we have a timeline that we have to approve this by. Brian explained that there is no timeline. Com. Meintz agrees with Com. Nelson. Com. Furlong would like to see this up for a vote at the next meeting. Com. Schei also

agrees with Com. Nelson. The consensus of the board is to not approve or deny this program yet. This can be brought back up again at a later date.

- c. Discussion on the future of the Menominee County Fair. – Com. Schei stated that the board needs to decide if we want to continue to have a County Fair. He feels that there need to be a Fair Manager in place and working on the fair all year long, not just a month before the fair starts. We use to have a full-time employee that spent half of their time working on the fair all year long. We will need to support the fair financially. The \$5,000 that we appropriate now is not a true amount for the cost of the entire fair. Com. Nelson asked Brian if he can come up with a financial breakdown on what it cost to run the fair. He feels we should have the financial information to look at before we can make a decision. The park workers also spend time preparing for the fair and working during the fair so it will be hard to determine that cost. Com. Meintz explained that the park makes more money during the fair because of the increase in campsites and gate fees. Brian explained that this year camping was down and attendance at the fair was also down. There was an estimated 400 people at the fair. It was discussed how people had complained about the lack of food vendors and exhibits at the fair. This year was a little more difficult to put together since a Fair Manager was only put in place in June and the Fair Board only had two meetings in June. Comments were made as to how well Dickinson, Marinette and Marquette Counties run their fair. Com. Schei stated that there is a fundraiser in October that is a major source of money for the fair. We need to get moving before then. Com. Meintz discussed the differences with the layout of the Nadeau Township rodeo grounds and the Shakey Lakes Park. Com. Meintz stated that he is torn with this and how much money we should be spending on the fair. Com. Piche asked when the next Fair Board meeting is. Com. Schei stated that the last one was cancelled because there was not a quorum. Com. Meintz asked Brian if there were any time sheets showing how much time the Fair Manager spends working on the fair. Brian stated that they have not been turned in yet. The consensus of the board is to bring this back as a discussion item next meeting with more financial information.

Finance Items:

- a. Commissioner Per Diems and Expenses. - The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- b. Miscellaneous bills as paid on July 17 & 31, 2014 in the combined amount of \$209,214.34 – Com. Hafeman asked about a bill on page 89 for AT&T. She wanted to know why we are still paying them. Brian explained that the changeover is taking a little longer than expected. She also asked about a payment that was over \$5,000 and how that could be authorized without board approval. Brian explained it was from Larry Wall and the MISHDA program. Those bills do not need the approval. She also commented on the jail food cost and we will need to keep track of those expenses. Com. Meintz asked a question about the county credit card. There was a charge to Amazon for \$119.90 on page 4 of 8. And it was paid out of Other Legislative. Brian explained that it was for the wrist bands at the fair and we are being reimbursed for them. Com. Meintz stated that he still is not comfortable with the use of credit cards by the county. 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 for approval at the next meeting.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment:

- Gary Eichhorn – Commented about the Elected Officials salaries and that they knew how much money they would be paid when they ran for the office. He also commented on the 457 MERS plan and it is a good idea to group it together with the defined contribution plan.
- Bill Hafeman – Commented that it would probably take about 2 years to move the County Fair to Nadeau Township. He also stated that he was not notified about the last Fair Board meeting.
- Ray Gurgall – Commented that he would like to see the fair moved to Nadeau Township. He also thinks the \$7,500 should be paid to MSU.
- Kathy Branz – Commented that she worked for 20 years with the Dickinson County Fair Board and their meetings were always scheduled in advance.
- Charlene Peterson – Commented about the Menominee County Fair being a complete bomb this year. She has been helping with the fair for many years and also sees the need for some changes and also all of the hard work it takes to hold the fair.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented that he would like to thank the County Board for getting behind the issue with the Twin County Airport Commission.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Piche – Commented that it was good that we spent a lot of time tonight discussing the fair. He also spoke with a local Stephenson businessman that would like to see the fair brought back into Stephenson.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that she agrees with questioning the viability of the fair and that we might be better off moving it. She also commented about how much money that we have spent out at Shakey Lakes.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that he would like to thank Bob Gurgall for setting up the Meyer Township Hall for the meeting tonight. He also received a call from Spalding Township Supervisor Jim Moraska and discussed how the township fire numbers are not getting into the 911 system and there is no consistency. The Township Supervisors need to be reminded to send the numbers to 911.
- Com. Meintz – Commented that there have been a lot of sound comments tonight. He wants to remind everyone about the U.P. State Fair that opened yesterday. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Hafeman to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk