

August 13, 2013

APPROVED on 8/27/13

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 the Harris Township Hall, Wilson, Michigan.

Chairman Meintz called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

Chairman Meintz stated the agenda would need to be amended to remove New Business Building and Grounds/Park Item A. (River Park – request to advertise for bids for drilling a well at River Park).

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak 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 23, 2013 Public Input Session of the County Board, and the Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment:

- Charlene Peterson – Asked the board if she would be allowed to make her comments during the boards discussion of the amendments to the Menominee County Bylaws.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented that the board should refrain from sending any Commissioners to the MAC conference. He also commented on the budget, and the fact that Larry Koesling at one time was the Veterans Service officer and Emergency Management coordinator.
- Mari Negro – Commented that public participation in the meeting is wrong, and should be limited to the public comment portion of the meeting only.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented that the Sheriff's Dept. has the largest budget, so the board should take the most from the Sheriff's Budget.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented that he supports speaking during the meeting.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Sheriff Kenny Marks gave a presentation on this trip to Lansing and a meeting he had at MERS. Sherriff Marks was asked several questions by Com. Nelson and Com. Meintz.

- Library Director Pat Cheski discussed the \$10,000 and \$37,000 that the County Board is looking to reduce from her budget. She stated that she will have to review this with the Library Board before she can discuss it with the County Board.

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve 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. Discussion ensued. Coms. Furlong, Schei and Hafeman discussed their support. Com. Piche stated that he brought this issue up at the Road Commission meeting and they are not in favor of it. They think the Governor should be spending money on roads and bridges instead. Motion was approved 8-1. Com. Piche voted nay. (Attachment A)

Moved by Com. Furlong, seconded by Com. Lang to approve 2014 MAC County Dues in the amount of \$5,543.46 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). Funds will be disbursed from account #101-103-802.00 (membership and subscriptions). Motion was approved 6-3. Coms. Krienke, Plutchak and Schei voted nay.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Furlong to appoint one applicant (Margaret Fagan) to the Library Board for the completion of the current term, to expire 1/31/2017. Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Plutchak to miscellaneous bills as paid on July 18, 2013 in the amount of \$162,106.30. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Piche 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. County By-law amendments as submitted by the Executive Committee. – Brian Bousley explained that the Executive Committee met on July 19, 2013 to discuss changes to some of the County By-laws. These are the three items that were addressed. First, Article VI: Committees. The EC would like it to read as follows: "All non County Board Committee members appointed by the Menominee County Board may receive a meeting fee. The meeting fee will be determined by each committee, the meeting fee will not exceed fifty dollars per meeting" Com. Nelson commented that the EC did not set a minimum meeting fee, and he feels that we should set one. Com. Meintz stated that he thought it was going to be up to the individual committees to set a minimum meeting fee. Com. Plutchak stated that it should be left up to the committees to decide on what they feel is an appropriate

meeting fee. Charlene Peterson was allowed to speak. She thinks that \$50/meeting is insane. She stated that the board is looking to cut money in the budget, and this would increase the budget. She feels that paying committee member's mileage is sufficient. There also should be guidelines based upon the length of a meeting. Com. Schei stated that this all came about because Bob Desjarlais made a comment that all committee members should be getting paid, and not just the commissioners. Com. Hafeman asked if this would increase the budget. Brian stated that it would, but we are not exactly sure how much at this time. Com. Lang stated it is not fair to pay some committee members, and not pay others. Com. Meintz asked if we should just scratch this idea and keep what we have in place. Com. Nelson stated that Com. Furlong brought this issue up before because of inequity. Com. Furlong discussed what he felt with the inequities. Com. Hafeman commented that maybe we should cut the per diems to commissioners and just pay mileage. Brian explained the two additional by-law changes the EC has proposed. Second, being R91-11. It would set the meal allowance as follows: Breakfast: \$9.00, lunch : \$11.00, Dinner: \$20.00. Third is Personnel Committee. It would add the following to the description of the Personnel Committee: "Set review dates for contract employees; develop an objective and measurable evaluation system for contract employees. Assist in the development of secession plans for future vacancies at the Department Head level. May appoint a member of the County Board to assist in union negotiations. Collaborate with Department Heads and Elected Officials, to develop cross departmental training. It is the consensus of the board to move all three items forward to the next meeting, but vote on each by-law change individually.

- b. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission – Wendy Gehlhoff. – Ms. Wendy Gehlhoff explained the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission. This is a Wisconsin organization. Michigan Counties would need to pass a resolution to join the group. Com. Meintz asked a few questions regarding the commission. Com. Schei asked if there would be an annual cost per county. Wendy explained that Menominee County wouldn't be charged, but the commission does charge \$500/year to Wisconsin Counties. She stated that two commissioners are usually appointed per county, but that doesn't have to be the case. Com. Meintz thinks this is something to look into. Com. Hafeman this is worth pursuing. Brian will continue to gather more information and report back to the board.
- c. 2013 Annual MAC Conference attendance – Sept. 15-17, 2013. – The 2013 Annual MAC Conference is scheduled for September 15-17, 2013 at the Bavarian Lodge in Fankenmuth, MI. Commissioners are to discuss who can/will attend this conference. Brian stated that 3 commissioners attended the spring conference. Com. Hafeman commented that it is expensive to stay at the Bavarian Lodge. Com. Nelson discussed attending the spring MAC conference. Com. Hafeman discussed what she and Com. Piche learned from attending the MAC regional summit. Com. Meintz asked if the board was looking to limit who should be able to attend. Com. Schei asked if the board needed to send someone to both the spring conference and this conference. Com. Nelson stated that he does not intend on attending the conference. Com. Meintz stated that he doesn't have a problem if one or two commissioners would like to attend. Com. Piche stated that he would like to attend. Com. Lang stated some of the benefits in attending are in the "out of class" interaction. The board's decision is for Com. Piche and one other commissioner to be allowed to attend.

Finance Items:

- a. 2013/14 Budget Draft #3 – Brian discussed the Finance Committee meeting. Com. Schei stated that the Finance Committee has met twice and went through the budget line by line. Com. Meintz stated that the Finance Committee met today and asked did any changes come from that meeting. Com. Schei stated that they need to meet with department heads and discuss some different areas. There is a surplus of \$750,000 that could be used as a possible payment towards our MERS liability. Com. Meintz asked if there were any additional cuts that need to be made. Com. Nelson stated that if we are able to get out of MERS we will need to pay \$1 million per year. Com. Nelson feels we need to cut more. Com. Meintz asked Brian if there have been any changes with the unions. Brian stated that he can't force them to the table. The current contracts go through 2014. They don't have to meet with us if they don't want to. Com. Nelson discussed the hiring freeze. Com. Schei asked if this Draft #3 shows some differences because of MERS. Brian stated there is a \$40,000 increase from MERS. Com. Meintz stated that the Finance Committee is working hard on this. Com. Schei stated that they have looked at all departments and not just scrutinized one department.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses – It is the consensus of the board to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on July 25, 26 & August 2, 2013 in the amount of \$141,101.91. - It is the consensus of the board 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 to the next meeting for approval.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment:

- John Anderson – Commented about the town hall meeting about two months ago with Senator Casperson and Representative McBroom and underfunded retirement plans.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on the By-law changes regarding per diems. He has not ever claimed a per diem, or for mileage. The committees should have the option to pay or not. He also thinks the County Board should also look at taking a cut in salary or mileage themselves.
- Charlene Peterson – Commented that the first By-law change should be discussed again at the next Executive Committee meeting. Thanked the board for letting her participate in the meeting. She also feels that the per diem should be reduced from \$50 to not more than \$20 and set up guidelines for these committees to follow.
- Gary Eichhorn – Commented that he disagrees with his friend Bob and doesn't think they should cut commissioner per diem and mileage. Thanked the board for coming up to Harris Township. Commented on the library's budget and there is always traditionally a carryover. He believes there is \$37,000. Also, he commented on the "antique" Bookmobile. He doesn't know how much use the Bookmobile actually gets.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on the Governor being at the Fair in Escanaba.
- Brian Helfert – Commented that instead of making budget cuts the board should look at tapping into the Fund Balance instead of making cuts.

- Ray Gurgal – Commented that he agrees with Com. Nelson on making cuts. Asked if we are getting any better service from the Sheriff’s Dept. than we did 5 or 10 years ago.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Lang – Commented that the board recently received a letter from Mr. Mullins from Enstrom Helicopter that Menominee County is not projecting a business friendly atmosphere. Maybe we should pass a resolution showing that we are supporting this and thanking them for their economic endeavors.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented on the MAC regional summit in Manistique. She commented on several items such as the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, property taxes, Arms manufacturing, unfunded mandates and tax capture.
- Com. Piche – Commented additionally on the tax capture that Com. Hafeman spoke about.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that using the Fund Balance does not make any sense because we continue to go backwards every year and there will no longer be money left for emergencies. He also commented on the shape of the courthouse. He also discussed the retirement system a little more.

Any other items members may wish to present: None.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Schei to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion was approved 9-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk