

August 26, 2014

APPROVED on 9/9/14

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2014 Regular County Board Meeting. Motion was approved 9-0.

Public Comment:

- John Anderson – Commented on the Equalization Department and how for years they had always had two people with the same level of certification and there was always someone available to help and answer questions. It has been very nice working with the Equalization Department since Kandace has started working in there.
- Bob Desjarlais – Commented on working with the Equalization Department. He also commented on the fact that the county will no longer be doing the audit of Principle Residency Exemptions. He noticed we had a bill from BS&A for \$3,000 for this software and doesn't think it should be paid if we are no longer doing the PRE. Also if this is not being done the Treasurer's office could probably cut a halftime person.
- Diane Lesperane, County Treasurer – Commented that her and the Equalization Director, Peggy Schroud, decided together to no longer conduct the PREs and as to the bill for \$3,000 she would have to look into it.

Presentations:

- Paul Putnam, District 1 Coordinator – MSU Extension. He was also accompanied by Stephanie Bruno, Snap-Ed program instructor. Paul explained that the new Educator, Katelyn Thompson will be starting on Tuesday, September 2nd. He is asking that Menominee County pay \$15,000 for this current year instead of the \$7,500 that the board is looking to approve tonight. He is asking for this since the 4H program and Snap-Ed program have been in place and now the Educator will be in Menominee County. In addition the next MOA will be asking for \$39,737 instead of \$30,000 which was asked for in 2014.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Diane Lesperance, County Treasurer – Annual Report. He explained the PA 123 Fund and the monthly balance sheet. She explained that there are still a couple of parcels left to sell from the tax foreclosure sale. In addition she explained why they chose to no longer perform the PRE audit.

Action Items:

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Budget Amendments #6 ~ 2013/14 Budget Year.

- a. Donations received for Flowers - \$189.00 – Buildings and Grounds.
- b. Transfer funds for Travel - \$400.00 – Child care fund.
- c. Additional expense on Hermansville Building - \$16,330.34 – DTRF PA123.
- d. Hannahville Grants - \$13,691 – Sheriff.
- e. Hannahville Grants - \$37,248 – Road Patrol.

Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve a recommendation from MGT to change the Staff Cartographer position in the Equalization Dept. to a Staff Appraiser position. Pay grade for this position will be a Grade 10 on the current DMG salary pay scale. Salary for the Staff Appraiser will be \$18.75/hr. beginning Oct 1, 2014. This is a union position. Discussion ensued. Com. Lang and Furlong discussed why they felt it was not appropriate to approve this change. Com. Plutchak, Nelson and Meintz argued on the reasons to support it. Motion was approved 7-2, Com. Furlong and Lang voted nay.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the Equalization Staff Appraiser position description as written. Motion was approved 8-1. Com. Furlong voted nay.

Moved by Com. Furlong, 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. Furlong and Nelson explained why they support this. Com. Krienke and Schei questioned why this should be paid at this time. Motion was approved 6-3. Com. Krienke, Lang and Schei voted nay.

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

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on July 17 & 31, 2014 in the combined amount of \$209,214.34. Motion was approved 9-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, 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. Discussion as the 8-12-14 meeting was to bring this item back for more discussion and more info. Brian provided the board with a breakdown of salaries and benefits for all

elected officials. Com. Meintz explained that he feels the elected officials knew what the salary was when they ran for office so he is not in favor of an increase. He would be more in favor of increasing the salaries before the next election. Com. Lang stated that he is in support of the 2% raise. These jobs are no different than any other jobs with the county. The elected officials still have increases in living expenses just like everyone else. Com. Fulong agreed with Com. Lang. Com. Schei reminded the board that the elected officials did not get a 2% increase last year when all of the other county employees did. Com. Hafeman agrees with giving the elected officials the raises but does not think the county commissioners or drain commissioner should receive a raise. Com. Plutchak agrees with the 2% increase. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval with a 2% salary increase for the elected officials except county commissioners and drain commissioner.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. MSU Extension Building – Hours of Operation. – Brian just wanted to update the board that we are currently using a person from Manpower to be in the office from 9:00 – 3:00. Also after the MSU Educator is in place we will have hours after 3:00 p.m. Com. Hafeman would like to see the county have telephone calls transferred from the Annex to the Courthouse when there is nobody at the Annex. Brian explained that we are working on doing that. She also would like to see posted on the door a message to call the courthouse if they need help. Paul Putnam also commented that he will try to work with Brian to coordinate coverage in the office.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Menominee County Fair. – Brian explained that the board discussed this item last meeting and wanted to bring it back for more discussion at this meeting. Com. Schei discussed that at the Finance Committee meeting an additional appropriation of \$3,500 was added to the \$5,000 annual appropriation. He stated that the \$3,500 was for the Fair Board to use to hire a Fair Manager. Com. Hafeman would like to see the two positions that are vacant on the Fair Board advertised for and filled and she would like to see the Fair Board meetings posted for the public to see. Com. Furlong commented that it is not unusual to pay someone to run the fair. The Fair Manager will be hired by the Fair Board and not the county. Com. Piche commented on all the work Brian has put into this item. Com. Hafeman commented that we might be able to get more financial support from businesses in the county. Com. Schei asked to make a motion to have the county financially support the fair for 2015. It was explained that when the board passes the 2014/2015 FY Menominee County budget with the \$8,500 appropriation for the fair in it they will be supporting the fair. Com. Schei then withdrew his motion. Com. Schei also stated that the Fair Board will be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Annex in Stephenson starting in September.

Finance Items:

- a. MERS Closed Divisions 2 & 15 pay off. – Brian explained that these are closed divisions and no new employees can enter into these divisions. The money would pay off the unfunded liability for each division. We are currently paying \$59,304 per year for the two divisions. The payoff amount would be \$389,387. Com. Nelson commented that we are on average \$80,000 short per employee. This amount of money would not be a guaranteed permanent pay off. If the market bottoms out MERS could come back for more money later. Com. Furlong is not comfortable with the idea of just giving MERS a large sum of money. Com. Nelson stated that he supports Com. Furlong's idea to withhold the money, but he understands the reasons why Brian would like to pay these

- divisions off. Com. Hafeman stated that in a year from now the State is going to come in and require us to provide a plan as to how we are going to handle our unfunded liabilities. She wonders if we can use this as part of it. Com. Meintz understands both sides of the argument, but he really dislikes MERS. Com. Piche would like to hear from Brian and his opinion. Brian stated that we have set the money aside for this and we need to start taking action. He also stated that closed divisions operate differently than open divisions. Com. Schei stated that he would support Brian's recommendations to pay these divisions off. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting.
- b. MAC 2015 Membership Dues. – Brian explained that administration received an invoice for the 2015 MAC County Membership Dues in the amount of \$5,543.46. Brian stated it is the same amount as last year and he recommends paying it. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on July 17 & 31, 2014 in the combined amount of \$209,214.34 – Com. Hafeman asked about the AT&T bill and when our phone service will be switched over. Brian stated that everything will be hooked up on August 28th. She also stated that she is keeping track of the cost of the inmate meals so she can compare. Com. Hafeman asked Brian about the Manpower position and how many different jobs that person was doing. Brian explained that previously they were working both in the Register of Deeds office and at the Annex, but now they are just at the Annex. 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:

- Paula Ayotte – Commented on the work being done on the Vega road she doesn't like what the board is proposing and thinks it is going to make for a dangerous situation.
- John Anderson – Commented that he would like to thank the 7 commissioners who approved Action Items 2 & 3. He commented about the \$10,000 raise for the Administrative Assistant and he also commented about how much Com. Lang actually knows about the Equalization Department and the fact that he has never in all the years he has been coming to meetings seen Com. Lang vote against giving an employee a raise.
- Stephanie Bruno – Thanked the board for their support. She stated the phone system at the Annex allows for employees to receive voice mail. Also, the Fair Manager position needs to have the job description rewritten because it is lacking in many areas.
- Ray Gurgall – Thanked the board for their approving the payment of \$7,500 to MSU. He feels that is money well spent. He commented about the Fair Board and he also would like to welcome everyone to Hermansville and thank them for coming.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Piche – Commented that he is the County Board representative on the Road Commission board. He would like to meet with Ms. Ayotte after the meeting to hear more about her concerns. He also commented about all of the positive articles in the local newspapers. He liked the fact that they are telling us good things that are happening. He also mentioned the bad talk regarding 4H Coordinator Scott Carhoun tonight, but he read an article in the Menominee County Journal about the positive things he is doing.
- Com. Meintz – Commented that people have questions about what is going on out at the airport. He stated the Prosecuting Attorney Dan Hass informed him just today that the Airport Commission meeting for the 28th can't be held but they will be scheduling another meeting soon.
- Com. Schei – Commented that he attended the Anchor Coupling expansion and it was very well done. He also toured the renovated Lloyd Building on 1st Street.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that she was also at the Anchor Coupling expansion and Lloyd Building. In addition she went to the Teen Garden at Duby park with Com. Piche and Schei. They are doing very good things there.

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

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk