

September 26, 2017

APPROVED on 10/10/17

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 Courtroom B, Courthouse, Menominee, 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, Gromala, Hafeman, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Phelps, and Piche.

Absent: Com. Schei (excused).

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Cech to amend the agenda adding Personnel Item "b" (Retaining counsel for the lawsuit filed by William Merkel). Motion was approved 9-0.

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

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2017 Regular County Board Meeting and the September 12, 2017 Public Hearing. Motion was approved 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

- Diane Lesperance, County Treasurer. Diane informed the board that she held the 2nd Land Auction and the last remaining parcel has now been sold.
- Marc Kleiman, County Clerk/Register of Deeds. Marc informed the new election equipment has been delivered and acceptance testing is being completed this week.

Action Items:

Moved by Com. Cech, seconded by Com. Gromala to approve the proposed FY 2017/18 Menominee County Budget as submitted. Discussion ensued. Motion failed by a roll call vote 3-5. Com. Hafeman, Meintz, Nelson, Pehlps and Piche voted nay.

Action Item 2 was not moved forward since Action Item 1 was not approved.

Moved by Com. Piche, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve sending the letter of support to Mr. Rice in support of the WRISC Phragmites Campaign. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to allow the County Clerk's office to change the Marriage License – 3 day waiting period waiver fee from \$10.00/waiver to \$50/waiver. Motion was approved 7-1. Com. Lang voted nay.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve FY 2016/17 Budget Amendment #11 (58-64) as recommended by the Finance Committee. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Cech to approve the recommendation from the Airport Committee to hire Panske Trim a Tree in the amount of \$3,500 to cut the tree tops at the end of the runway due to a recent FAA inspection. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve Commissioner per diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Piche to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on August 24, 25, 30, 31 and September 7, 2017 in the combined amount of \$195,933.29. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Cech, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve miscellaneous boards/committees/commission reports on file in the office of the County Clerk. Motion was approved 8-0.

New Business (discussion only)

Personnel Items:

- a. Airport Employee, 280 unused vacation hours payout. – Jeff LaFleur is in jeopardy of losing 280 hours of vacation leave due to not being able to use it during the past year. Com. Nelson commented that our policy only allows us to payout for 240 hours. He would have to carry over the other 40 hours. It is going to have to be looked into if the policy can be changed. If not the consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval of 240 hours of unused vacation payout.
- b. Lawsuit filed by Prosecuting Attorney William Merkel. – William Merkel has filed a lawsuit and restraining order against Menominee County regarding his MERS retirement benefits. The county is in need of legal counsel to represent them. The consensus of the board is to have Interim Administrator Sherry DuPont contact Attorney Stoker's office to inquire if they will represent Menominee County. If so, then she is advised to hire his firm.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items: None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Airport Open House plans ~ September 8, 2018. – The Airport Committee heard from Jay Wessely about the success of the Airport Open House this year. He would like the Board to commit to a date to allow the Open House again next year. Saturday, September 8, 2018 is the date requested. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward to the next meeting for approval.

Finance Items:

- a. Miscellaneous bills as paid on September 14, 19 & 20, 2017 in the combined amount of \$150,618.43. 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.

Public Comment:

- Penny Bourque – Commented on 911 and the need for a new radio console.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Piche – Commented on the EagleHerald article about County Clerk Marc Kleiman and how well it was written.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented on the 3 Way Road Project just being completed on her road.
- Com. Nelson – Commented on the 911 Surcharge and the fact that it is a tax on the residents of Menominee County.
- Com. Lang – Commented on merging 911 with another county isn't as simple and as much of a cost savings as you might think.
- Com. Cech – Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.
- Com. Phelps – Commented on the cost of 911
- Com Gromala – Commented that the Board opted for the proposed budget at an earlier meeting but tonight did not vote to approve it.
- Com. Meintz – Commented that it is a blessing to have the extra warm weather. He is also surprised that the budget did not get approved tonight.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Gromala 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)). Motion was approved at 6:50 p.m. by a roll call vote 8-0.

Returned to open session at 7:11 p.m.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk