

September 10, 2013

APPROVED on 9/24/13

Proceedings of a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2013-2014 County Budget conducted by 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 5:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A call of the roll indicated that the following Commissioners were present/absent:

Present: Coms. Hafeman, Krienke, Lang, Meintz, Nelson, Piche, Plutchak and Schei.

Absent: Com. Furlong (excused)

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

Presentations: Public Hearing on the Proposed 2013/2014 County Budget:

- Carol Johnson – Read a letter that she is putting in the Menominee County Journal for tomorrow. It is in regards to MERS and what the county board is trying to do about it. She again discussed all of the benefits of the Menominee County Library and the Bookmobile.
- Charlene Peterson – Read a list of solutions that she brought in since at the last meeting someone in the audience suggested we should put our heads together and come up with solutions. She stated 80% of the county budget is made up of salaries and benefits. Across the board cuts are not viable solutions for us. She stated that MERS is a huge problem. The county should go back to MERS since they have changed what we have originally agreed to. She sent a copy of this letter to Administrator Bousley so that he could forward it to all of the commissioners. She discussed making quarterly appropriation payments. Discussed the need to receive updates and progress reports from MSU and from Economic Development. Commissioners should also start by looking at themselves to set an example. The issue volunteers have with being paid for committee meetings is not about the volunteers receiving compensation equal to that of the County Commissioners, but it is the fact that the commissioners should not receive per diems for those committee meetings. If all volunteers on all committees start to receive compensation, it could cost the county over \$120,000. She also discussed the \$1,600 that the commissioners were paid for all of the Finance Committee meetings they had.
- Nancy Vanerba – She is concerned for the library. She does not want to see any services cut to the library. She stated her heart is with the library.

- Mari Negro – She thinks that the county board has done an excellent job with the budget and working with the MERS deficit. She thanked the board for all of their hard work.
- Com. Meintz – Corrected a comment Charlene Peterson made regarding how many members were on the Parks Committee. He stated there are 5 volunteers and 2 commissioners.
- Com. Schei – Commented on how many Finance Committee meetings the board had.
- Com. Nelson – Commented on the fact that there has not been any cuts so far in the proposed budget. There has been some creative accounting by Brian to move money around that should have been moved before to come up with most of the \$750,000. He also justified the number of Finance Committee meetings that were held.
- Charlene Peterson – She again discussed the per diems for the commissioners. She does not have an issue with them being paid for the regular board meetings and the Finance, Executive and Personnel Committee meetings. She just thinks they should not receive per diems for the other committees they sit on with county volunteers.
- Com. Schei – Stated he likes the idea of getting progress reports from Economic Development and MSU.
- Com. Meintz – Discussed commissioners “tightening their belts”. He stated that he does not always charge for meetings.
- Mari Negro – Discussed the \$50/meeting. She said it is just peanuts. She feels the commissioners are under paid for the amount of abuse they take. She again thanked them for the job that they do.
- Diane Lesperance – She stated that she agrees with Mari Negro. She feels that the commissioners put in a lot of time and effort.

Chairman Meintz called for public comment

Public Comment: None.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk