

September 10, 2013

APPROVED on 9/24/13

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 Courtroom B, Courthouse, Menominee, Michigan.

Chairman Meintz called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. Piche to approve the agenda. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2013 Regular County Board Meeting and the August 27, 2013 Public Input Session. Motion was approved 8-0.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations: None.

Department Head/Elected Officials Reports:

-County Treasurer Diane Lesperance – She stated that Com. Nelson asked her to go through the balances in the accounts Menominee County currently has. The commissioners asked her a few questions about the different funds.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve the agreement with MERS and the Menominee County Road Patrol Deputies to allow the Road Patrol Deputies to be carved out of the current Sheriff Dept. division (20) to their own division. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Schei to approve the agreement with MERS and the E-911 Employees to allow the E-911 employees to be carved out of the current Courthouse division (10) to their own division. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve purchase of the Unitrend backup device from UES in the amount of \$9,481. Funds to be disbursed from account #101-997-999.17 (Contingency Fund). Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to approve adding a \$40,000 project in the current budget under the “designated building fund” (101-103-998) for the HVAC – Valve Replacement in the courthouse. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve the Memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Michigan State University. Menominee County will agree to pay \$30,000 to MSU for services as outlined in the MOA for the 2013/14 budget year. Discussion ensued. Com. Nelson stated that this amount is consistent with what Dickinson County is paying. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to approve payment of Commissioner Per Diems and expenses as recently submitted. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Schei, seconded by Com. Plutchak to approve miscellaneous bills as paid on Aug. 13, 16 & 21, 2013 in the amount of \$205,140.15. Motion was approved 8-0.

Moved by Com. Plutchak, seconded by Com. Hafeman to place 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. None.

Building and Grounds/Parks Items:

- a. None.

Miscellaneous Items:

- a. None.

Finance Items:

- a. Audit Services. – Brian Bousley explained that the contract is up with Anderson, Tackman. We need to advertise and take bids. We will post advertisements and bring them back to the board. Com. Meintz commented on how good of a job that Anderson, Tackman has been doing. They are very reputable. Com. Hafeman commented that they are already aware of all of our idiosyncrasies. Com. Nelson is happy with them and all of the extra work Ray Lamarche does for us. Com. Plutchak asked if we can reject any bids if we do not want a particular company. Brian explained that the County Board always reserves the right to reject any bids. The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval when the bids are returned.
- b. Commissioner Per Diems and expenses. – The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the next meeting.
- c. Miscellaneous bills as paid on Aug. 27, 2013 in the amount of \$69,962.01. - The consensus of the board is to move this item forward for approval at the next meeting.

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:

- Dale Axtell – Commented that if there is any money left in the budget the county should buy cushions for the pews in the courtroom.
- Carol Johnson – Commented again about MERS and we haven't addressed the fact that they started as a public company, and now they are public/private.
- Charlene Peterson – Thanked the board for letting her comment earlier. She is not signaling out any of the commissioners with her comments. She applauds their dedication.
- Diane Lesperance – Thanked Charlene Peterson for all of her research and time she has put in.

Commissioner Comment:

- Com. Hafeman – Stated that she hopes that the conference she and Com. Piche will be attending will give them insight. She also thanked the park rangers for all of the work that they do at the county parks. She also commented about the workshop on Block Grants that Brian attended.
- Com. Nelson – Commented about Representative McBroom and Senator Casperson have been talked to and made aware of the MERS problem. He also thanked the citizens that commented and were involved in the budget discussions.
- Com. Krienke – Discussed the Economic Development meeting today and about getting Nancy Douglas to come to the board on a quarterly basis to update the board. There are a lot of things in the works right now that are very promising.
- Com. Schei – Commented that he is fully supporting Com. Nelson and his efforts regarding the MERS situation. This budget will be the first step.
- Com Meintz – Thanked everyone that was here for the Public Hearing session before the regular meeting. He commented that there was a lot of good input from the public. He stated that people have commented to him the need to cut nonessential employees, and reducing work hours. He commented that Sheriff Marks statements from the first meeting last month in Harris Township regarding Geogebic County were incorrect. He discussed MERS and the lack of money that was put into it over the years. He stated that it is not a black hole. He discussed the value of the county commissioners and the time they put in and the money they are paid.
- Com. Schei – commented that if we put cushions in the pews maybe we would get more people to attend the meetings.

Any other items members may wish to present: None.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Plutchak to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

Charlie Meintz, Chairman

Marc Kleiman, County Clerk