

July 26, 2017

APPROVED on 8/8/17

Proceedings of a Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Menominee County Annex, Stephenson, Michigan.

Vice-Chairman Cech called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.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, Nelson, Phelps, Piche, Schei.

**Absent:** Com. Meintz (excused).

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

Moved by Com. Gromala, seconded by of Com. Phelps to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2017 COW meeting. Motion was approved 8-0.

**Public Comment:**

- Dale Burie - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Dave Anderson - In favor of the Aquila Resources and the mine.
- Dan Dziedzic - In favor of the Aquila Resources and the mine.
- Dale Anderson - In favor of the Aquila Resources and the mine.
- Mike Tanguay - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Curtis Smith - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Regina Chaltry - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Andie Ritch - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Nancy Buyarski - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Tony Corey - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Valerie Kuntze - In favor of the Aquila Resources and the mine.
- Mary Hanson - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Scott Lindquist - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.
- Robin Quigley - In favor of the Aquila Resources and the mine.
- Joan Sawyer - In opposition to the proposed mine. County needs a strong resolution.

**Business Items:**

1. Terra Langham, Regional Manager MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) ~ review of the County actuarial and come up with a long term plan for the county. The projected returns have been lowered from 8.0% to 7.75%. This is the first time they have been lowered since the 1940s. The returns have been 9.61% over 35 years and 6.00% over the last 5 years. Our liabilities are growing faster than our returns. One reason for that is the increase in the mortality tables. MERS had an 11.0% return in 2016. Terra would encourage the board to make additional payments toward are liabilities if the county can afford to.

The Board took a recess at 11:06 A.M.

The Board returned to session at 11:20 A.M.

2. Commissioner Workgroup – Resolution Language. – Com. Lang and Cech have submitted a resolution opposing the proposed back forty mine. Com. Lang does not want to ban mining in Menominee County, he just does not want to see a mine in this location along the Menominee River and he does not want to see the use of cyanide. Com. Nelson would like to have the Michigan DEQ come and present to the board and allow for the commissioners to ask them questions. Com. Piche commented that the board is not going to be able to make everyone happy. He likes the other resolution that was submitted titled Environmental Protection of Air & Water Quality. He does have some changes though. He would like the 4<sup>th</sup> Whereas struck and replaced with the 5<sup>th</sup> Whereas from Com. Lang and Cech’s resolution. And under Therefore he would like to change “reject” to “rework” and “deny” to “reconsider”. Com. Schei, Hafeman and Phelps agree with the changes that Com. Piche has proposed. Com. Gromala commented about his grandchildren and that he is opposed to the mine. Com. Lang commented on resolutions that the board passed in 2003 and 2010. He would like to see his resolution moved forward. Since there are two different resolutions being supported the board would like both resolutions brought forward to the next meeting for a vote.

**Public Comment:**

- Larry Schei – Commented on the Pledge of Allegiance and the difference between Republic and Democracy.
- Dale Burie – Commented on the DEQ and that they would not attend a meeting.
- Mike Tanguay – Commented on the DEQ not attending.
- Andie Ritch – Thanked the board for moving the resolutions forward and will respect their decisions.
- Nancy Buyarski – Commented on the DEQ and the responsibility of the board.
- Tony Corey – Thanked the board and asked that they include the Menominee Nation in the resolutions.
- Regina Chaltry – Commented that she is in favor of the longer resolution.
- Robin Quigley – Invited the board and everyone to Aquila Resources open house and BBQ on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Dan Dziejczak – Encouraged the board to ask the DEQ questions.
- Mary Hanson – Commented that the board should listen to their constituents and the majority are opposed to the mine.
- Joan Sawyer – Commented on the grave sites at the mine area.
- Scott Lindquist – Commented on the DEQ

Moved by Com. Hafeman, seconded by Com. Nelson to adjourn at 12:17 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

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William Cech, Vice-Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk