

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday ~ August 10, 2010
Community Club
Hermansville, MI

Amended & Approved 9.14.2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. (CST) by Chairman, Gary Eichhorn

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:
Present: Commissioners Furlong, Anderson, Meintz & Lang
Excused: None

Public Comment: None

Department Head Reports/Comments: Debra Wormwood: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – 5 year plan. CUPPAD has sent out a statement of consent to participate. If no statement of intent to participate is signed, the county will not be able to apply for future grants. There is no cost for updating the plan. Grant projects are funded at 75% with 25% from the local government. Consensus is to move forward to the board for approval.

Approval of the Agenda: Com. Anderson approved the agenda, Com. Furlong seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Previous minutes from July 13, 2010 were approved by Com. Furlong seconded by Com. Anderson. Motion carried 5/0.

Presentations: None

Agenda Items:

1. **Personnel Items:**

- a. DMG Study – We got the recommendations of the DMG study back, not a full report. One change in the treasurer's Department one change in the Clerk's department and the tele-communicators for E-911 department. But there is a discrepancy with the tele-communicators being on a different DMG level than everyone else. I suggest we go to the personnel committee and discuss this further. It will allow the department heads to give us their opinion as well. Furlong: We could possibly have a personnel meeting early next week.

2. **Building and Grounds/Parks Items:**

- a. Bids for Engineered Drawings for Shakey Lakes Bath house/Sanitation Station, Septic/Drain field – Al has spoken to the health department as far as getting recommendations for the septic/drain field. We have bids of \$20,000 from UP Engineers, \$20,300 from Enterprise Engineering, and \$9,250 from DGR Engineers. What UP Engineers and Enterprise did is included the administrative work in their bids. We didn't ask for that in our bidding specs. I spoke with our building inspector today and he said a lot of that stuff can be handled in house. Furlong: I'm reading

through these bids, there's a lot of on site inspections and engineering work. I'm afraid if we go with the 9,000 bid, we'll need to have these other engineering administrative things later on and it'll cost us more in the long run. Anderson: I think DGR is what we're looking for. Brian, I think you should look into it a little more. And we should act on it at the Board meeting. All members concur.

- b. HVAC – Control unit for the upgraded system – Dave Dunn is here from Valley Mechanical. They won the bid for the HVAC project for the jail. There is no networking for the equipment you will be getting. Maintenance will be more labored with the stand alone units you have. If you add the control unit, you can network away from the building. You can have it monitored from afar. Training will be given if installed. The control company that we use is based out of Appleton but have local teams. Eichhorn: Who sets the parameters for the controls? The engineer will set them, but your maintenance will have a lot of input from all area needs. Your people will be trained to enter in codes and change parameters as needed. Eichhorn: What's the cost? Brian: \$14,500. Eichhorn: I have concerns. Anderson: So you're saying we can add this on any time we want to. Yes, but it will cost more than the \$14,000 due to more labor to get it in there verses it going in all at once. Furlong: There's no annual cost, no monitoring cost? Dunn: No there is no cost to have the control unit monitored. Anderson: How many actual systems are we talking about? I believe there's a total of 6 heating and cooling roof top units, 5 energy recovery ventilators attached, 3 forced air furnaces with condensing units and 3 or 4 point of use heaters. I believe there is over a dozen pieces of equipment. Furlong: Where are we at for the budgeted amount. We approved 229,000 for the HVAC. Brian: We have 200,000 budgeted and then we also have the 50,000 grant. Furlong: So we have \$250,000 and we're looking at \$245,000 for the whole thing including the control unit. Furlong: Do you have anything on what's all included? Brian: It's in the actual bid that they submitted originally. Eichhorn: If it could be consolidated into computer primary and stand alone as secondary then that would be ideal. If there are any computer failures, we can always fall back on the stand alone feature. Can that be checked into? Furlong: I recommend we move it forward as long as we have the answers we've asked for and get us a final cost for it all to happen. Meintz: Maybe we should talk to some people who have the system with the control unit and see how they like it. VA hospital in Iron Mt. And the Dickinsen County Ford Airport has it. Brian should give them a call.
- c. Video Teleconferencing (VTC) – prices for equipment for Jail, Family Court, and Courtroom A. – This is all above and beyond the \$22,000 grant but we've been given the same pricing as the equip used in the grant. The Sheriff will write a grant for the mobile unit for the jail. I recommend we do this. We have the money budgeted. Consensus is to move this forward.
- d. Minne Land Donation, River Road – I have the quitclaim deed. I do have a party interested, but want your opinion first. Anderson: How do we go about selling something like this, go out for bids? Brian: We should have it assessed a fair market value, see what it's worth. Eichhorn: Personally I think we should offer it to the adjoining property owners. It's only a sliver of land .24 acres. Furlong: Can we talk to Dan to find out what is the best way to go about selling this? Maybe we can save a lot of money getting it assessed. Eichhorn: What about using the assessed value and put it out for bids. Furlong: Any proceeds from the sale we'll recognize the Minne family for the donation. Brian: I recommend we build a gazebo to display the bell and put a plaque thanking the Minne family for the donation.

3. **Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. Draft Resolution 2010-15 – Resolution requesting investigation by the MI

- Attorney General, Mineral Rights – Brian reads a draft resolution from Dan Hass. Consensus it to move the resolution forward to the board for approval.
- b. Parks Committee member appointment – Bousley: The appointment expires Dec. 31, 2010, the question is do we appoint now or wait until later? Furlong: There is a cost to put the notice out to the newspaper and by the time we get letters and appoint, we'll have to do it all over again. We've gotten through a month already, I think we should wait. Lang: Do the Bylaws have any requirements? If not, then I agree with James. Bousley: I looked, No. Meintz: I agree with Bernie and James. Both Meintz and Furlong are on the parks committee and agree to wait for reappointment. Then the consensus is to wait to fill the appointment until just prior to the appointment expiration date.

4. **Finance Items:**

- a. Liberty Telecom Consultants, LLC - Bousley: Jason Reece did a presentation at our last meeting. His company will come in and do an audit on our phone bills/internet bills and if they find any savings for the county, they will get 50 percent of the savings. Furlong: Did you talk to any other companies they've worked with? They're so new and there is only two counties they're working with so far. They've just begun the audit process with them. There is no cost for the audit. Meintz: I say we go ahead with the audit, then if they find a substantial savings, we can make a decision from there. Anderson: We're not signing a contract with them then? Bousley: We would sign a contract for the audit. Then if they find something, then we'll sign a contract for their services. Lang: Once we agree to the audit, you're already involved in the process. It looks like a "if it looks too good to be true, then it probably is". Furlong: I recommend we have Brian talk to some of the other companies involved and move it forward. Meintz: if you can get some real number from them, that would be fine.
- b. Commissioner discussion of county projects for FY 2010-2011 – Anderson: I think the County Board needs to come up with some direction on which way to go. I think we've got a lot of roads in the county that we can be helping out on. I think we should enter into a 3-way road program, get Shakey lakes finished so they're more self sufficient, and courthouse over crowding. Lang: Where's the money going to come from? Anderson: Well we're going to have to find the money, budget it or change things, whatever. Lang: I won't approve a new project that has to be paid for by laying off more county employees. Furlong: I think the idea of the bathhouse getting completed. Space needs at the courthouse is always a major concern. The vestibule or airlock on the first floor should be one of our top priorities to save the county \$ on heating and cooling bills. Lang: How much money are you considering for the road program? Anderson: I'd like to see \$150 – 200,000 come from the county, \$150 – 200,000 from the road commission, \$50,000 from the township. That would give a township \$450,000 worth of work, or less on roads. It's a program that we did have at one time that helped a lot of townships that needed help. Lang: The road commission and the individual townships now do finance the projects. The only thing new is coming from the county. Anderson: And we used to contribute at one time. Lang: I know it was \$50,000 at that time. Here's something to think about. If it's 150,000, roughly 50% of the population of the county live in the city. Your taking 75,000 of tax money generated by the city and supplementing the townships for road repair. Anderson: I disagree with that. A lot of people from the city use the roads in the county. There's a lot of these townships don't have \$ to fix the roads that we all use. Lang: My point is that the townships aren't the only entities having trouble maintaining their roads. The city has problems too. If we're going to

subsidize a road, I think we should do it proportionately. Since the city has 50% of population in the county...Meintz: Are you sure about that Bernie? The new census is not out. Eichhorn: If that's the case, if the county roads we should consider actual mileage of roads. Furlong: The whole thing is a wonderful concept but where are we getting the money for this? Anderson: I think the county board really needs to look at this. I think it's an obligation we have to the people of Menominee County. Furlong: We had this three way program before, why did it end? Anderson: I think the money...Eichhorn: Several things, revenue sharing started dropping at that time...Lane: If you take 150,000 and divide it by 18 townships, you're looking at 7 or 8,000 per township Anderson: If we have a priority system in place and we do work in certain townships, it would be a big help. Meintz: Many concerns at the MTA meeting. Some townships can't even afford gravel. It should be done in a fair manner, a sliding scale of some sort to distribute the money. Lang: It should be done proportionately by population in the area. Meintz: As soon as the people from Menominee stop driving on our county roads, we'll be happy. I'm not begrudging anyone, I want to be as fair as possible. Anderson: I think the road commission should be involved in the priorities. Anderson: What are we going to do about a courthouse? My opinion is that the hospital could have been used for a Courthouse. Lang: Through the years we considered many buildings within the city. I don't think our space problems are that acute anymore. We built the annex, a cold storage bldg. There are very few entities you can take out of the courthouse. Eichhorn: The County is big. It doesn't have to be within two blocks from the courthouse. It could even be here in Hermansville. Lang: Have you considered who you can move out of the Courthouse building? Eichhorn: You could move Equalization. Lang: Administration, FOC, Veterans service but that's about it. Anderson: We could move the county seat and move the whole thing. Anderson: If we stay in the courthouse we have to look at replacing the windows and doors. There are a lot of things that I feel have been neglected. Meintz: I have concerns at the parks. I agree with James, we'll have to get the Max security jail cells done, the fire exit in the jail done, the vapor lock at the courthouse. I think it will pay for itself within a year's time just on the heating. There's lots of stuff that needs to get done because of the lack of maintenance in the last ten years. I know Bernie's concerned with maintaining jobs. Maybe that's where the county's been, concerned more about employees than keeping the facilities maintained. The employees are eating up our budget. Lang: You're in business; you've got to have employees. Lang: So are you advocating laying off employees in order to finance these projects. Meintz: I can be. Anderson: We don't know that Bernie. We've got to start looking at what we're doing. Eichhorn: Any other projects that you'd like to discuss Charlie? Meintz: Space is an issue. Just because we tried in the past and failed, doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to try. Lang: The failure is always money. How do you propose to solve the space problem, build a new courthouse? Anderson: We don't know, we're asking. The commission needs to talk about this. Lang: The Boswell School is for sale for \$69,000. Eichhorn: Do you want more discussion on this? Anderson: No I think we discussed it enough.

- c. Commissioner Per Diems/Expenses – Consensus is to forward to the board for approval
- d. Miscellaneous Bills – Consensus it to forward to the board for approval

Other Items Members may wish to present:

None

Correspondence: Brian: We received a letter from Attorney Wayne Erickson, regarding our mineral

rights resolution – frankly if someone suspects illegal activity in this county then they would report it to the Sheriff or the PA. If the matter is not criminal it must be civil, and in of no concern to the board.

Public Comment: Jon Anderson: Concern of a previous commissioner’s health. Would like to see the board pass a resolution for Floyd Berger’s service to the county. Ruby Ivens – Learned today that there are other committees that the members receive per diems and travel ex pense. Consider allowing this for the Parks committee members. Ray Charlier: How does the commission justify that the administrator at Pinecrest is allowed a \$17,000 raise. Eichhorn: We don’t control the Pinecrest board. We can certainly ask why. Dan Ruthier, DGR Engineering: Would appreciate the chance to re-bid if you revise the proposal.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Furlong, supported by Comm. Meintz to adjourn this meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried, 5 -0.