

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday ~ September 2, 2009
Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. (CDT) by Chairman Gary Eichhorn

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Present: Commissioners Lang, Furlong, Anderson, Peterson & Eichhorn

Public Comment: Mr. Bill Hanson rejected proposed budget reductions from the general fund. Ms Eileen Behrend rejected proposed plan to eliminate the Building and Grounds Supervisor. Mr. Randy Severinsen read letter supporting Officer Brian Helfert's work in the schools. Ms. Lisa Kaloefer presented two letters supporting Officer Helfert's work in the school. Ms. Olivia Dziedzic offered her support for Officer Helfert's position in the school. Ms. Kaylee Schetter offered support of Officer Brian Helfert's position in the Carney School. Mr. Dustin Lanaville offered support of Officer Brian Helfert in the school. Mr. John Dziedzic supported Officer Brian Heilfer's position at the Carney school. Ms. Jenny Grabowski, supported Officer Brian Helfert's work in the Carney school. Ms. Rhonda Grlack, a parent supports Officer Helfert's position.

Department Head Reports/Comments: None.

Motion to amend Agenda: Moved by Comm. Furlong, seconded by Comm. Peterson to add extension of Family Medical Leave for Deputy Don Martz to the agenda. Motion carried, 5,0

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Comm. Furlong, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 5-0

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Peterson to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried, 5-0

Presentations: None

Agenda Items:

1. Finance Items:

- a. **Discussion of FY 2009/2010 Preliminary Budget** - Comm. Lang presented a statement on the financially healthy condition of the County. He commented that the proposed budget is inflated: the heating and cooling for \$300, 000 is high and questioned if the repairs are needed. The video conferencing system at \$250,000 is high and new technology could do this job for \$39,000. Comm.

Lang questioned the need and preliminary costs for the BS&A.net/server/GIS/IT line item, the proposed \$60,000 for remonumentation when the total cost to complete the program is estimated to be near \$1,000,000. Comm. Lang stated the bell tower display cost estimate of \$78,000 was over inflated and the project can be completed for an estimated \$5,000 and the cosmetic ornamentation to the tower can be completed for approximately \$13,000. Comm. Lang also questioned the need for the Law Library when computer access is available; Comm. Lang also did not want to cut positions and questioned the need for the marriage counseling line item. The entire preliminary budget was then reviewed together by all commissioners by line item. Preliminary line items where Comms. were in agreement will be updated and brought forth in the next budget. Line items that were not agreed upon by a majority of the Comms. will be addressed at the next Committee of the Whole. The following line items will be discussed in greater detail at the next Committee of the Whole: Board of Commissioners (101-101), District Court (101-136), County Clerk (101-215), MSU Extension (101-261), Building and Grounds (101-265), Parks (208-000 & 208-751) which was inadvertently omitted from the preliminary budget discussion, Register of Deeds (101-268), Sheriff Department (101-301), Marine Law (101-331), Waste Management (101-526), Veterans Affairs (101-682), Appropriations – Payout (101-997), Operating Transfers (101-999), Special Revenue (205-000), Special Revenue Road Patrol (205-315), Road Patrol Special Revenue (205-316), Special Revenue County Parks (208-000), Special Revenue County Park (208-751), Special Revenue Park Improvement Fund (220-000), Special Revenue Law Library (269-000), Special Revenue Sharing (284-000), Special Revenue Child Care (292-000), Special Revenue State Special Child Care (296-000), Special Revenue DTRF (516-000). Capital Outlay Item Requests 101-215-970.00 and 101-148-970.00 for County Clerk computers and Probate Courts typewriter were supported by all Comms. Peterson, Eichhorn and Anderson supported the jail HVAC upgrade but not from designated funds. Family Court video conferencing outlay, Equalization server/GIS/IT position was mixed and the Interim Administrator will obtain more accurate estimates. Comm. Eichhorn, Peterson, and Anderson support remonumentation capital outlay. Comms. Anderson, Lang, Peterson recommended putting the Library Bus allocation of \$15,000 back into the budget. Comms. Peterson, Eichhorn and Anderson supported removing the Bell display capital improvement. Comms. Furlong, Peterson, Anderson and Lang support adding \$10,000 back into the Parks Improvement fund. Interim Administrator was directed to: talk with Department heads about additional possible cost reductions, research the cost of video conferencing, and Server/GIS/IT costs.

- b. Family Medical Leave Extension for Deputy Don Martz - was discussed for up to six (6) additional weeks and will be moved to the next County Board meeting.

Other Items Members may wish to present: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Jody Barrett of the County Clerk's Office recommended we add \$60,224 to increase in the unemployment compensation line item due to proposed staff reductions. Ms. Barrett also indicated that our budget is strong and we do not need to cut positions due to a strong designated capital improvements account.

Treasurer Diane Lesperance indicated that the auditor indicated that the County is in good financial shape and that he questioned the position cuts.

Ms. Penny Mullins of the Eagle Herald questioned why we did not review the parks budget.

Ms. Kathy Betters stated the Register of Deeds Office had two and not three full time employees and they generated revenue through their normal activities. Ms. Betters also described the mandated activities in the office and the importance of two full time employees.

Mr. Jason Lauzer expressed dissatisfaction with the Board, Interim Administrator and budget process and questioned preliminary budget values.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Peterson, supported by Comm. Anderson to adjourn this meeting at 8:36 P pm. Motion carried, 5-0.