

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, July 8th, 2008

Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. (CDT) by Chairman Jim Lynch.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Present: Commissioners Lang, Berger, Kakuk, Lynch, Furmanski

Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Department Head Reports/Comments: None

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

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

Presentations: Steve Wery spoke about installing a Back Exit Door on the Jail's West side. Steve has spoken to a member of the DOC (Dept. Of Corrections) about the installation of a back exit door to the jail. We are currently in compliance with state inspections of the jail "as is". If we were to put a door on the west side of the building, it would cost a "huge" amount of money. It would have to be an electronic door...and a vestibule big enough to allow space for a gurney to pass through, would need to be built around the exit door for security reasons. Mr. Wery recommends the County does not spend the money for such an old jail. The concern with NOT installing the door is the safety of the prisoners. If we don't install another door, then in worse case scenario, if a fire were to break out in the jail, all prisoners would have to be evacuated through the kitchen exit door, the front door, or through the roof from a "safe zone". Smoke inhalation would most likely be the cause of any injuries/deaths occurring in the jail, not fire. Smoke alarm sensors are checked yearly by an outside source.

Maximum Security Cell Door: Mr. Wery gave his opinion on the Max. Security Cell Door. According to the state laws, given the age of the jail, Electronic Doors are not required by law. As long as the keys work in the doors, we are in compliance with the laws. Again, Mr.

Wery recommends NOT installing a Max. Security Cell Door at this time. Because of the age and wearing of the current cell doors, there may be a time in the near future to have the “need” to replace the cell doors, when this issue should then again be brought to the County Board.

Agenda Items:

A. **Personnel Items:** None

B. **Building & Grounds Items:**

- a. Bell Tower Restoration: In 2006 the County paid approx \$10,000 to fix leaks in the bell tower. These leaks resulted in roofing leaks into the 3rd floor courtroom. Now we are experiencing a similar problem because of deterioration to the Bell Tower. Mr. Wery supplied the commissioners with an estimate from Northern Restoration and Waterproof Systems, Inc. for the Restoration of the Courthouse Bell Tower. Restoration would consist of rebuilding the tower, one side at a time, with similar framing consisting of treated materials. The decorative oval windows would not be rebuilt to eliminate potential leak areas in the future, also saving money. The estimate received from Northern Restoration is for \$133,975. Administrator Neumeier asked the Commissioners for a consensus to allow other bids to restore the bell tower.
- b. Replacement of Courthouse Roof: Mr. Wery included an estimate from Independent Roofing & Siding Co. for the cost to replace the Courthouse roof. This estimate allows for current slate roofing removal, replacement of a 40+ year architectural shingle and to Fabricate and install new 24 gauge steel gutters. The cost estimated from Independent Roofing & Siding Co. is approx. \$60,000
Consensus is to allow Mr. Neumeier to accept bids for the replacement of the roof and the restoration of the Bell Tower.

C. **Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. Petition for Annexation: Village of Carney/Nadeau Township ~ Annexation paperwork is included in the agenda packet for the commissioners to view. Lands involved in the annexation are described in full. Proposed annexation is said to be necessary to promote the business economy and development of the Village of Carney.
Administrator Neumeier asked Attorney, David Stoker for guidance on the part of the Commissioners...he asks the board to wait on making any decisions in this matter until we hear from Mr. Stoker.
Mr. Lynch feels as though the Planning Commission will eventually be involved in this Annexation process.
- b. Authorization for Public Sale of Unclaimed Stolen Property: Sheriff Botbyl has included a list of items the Sheriff Department has been storing as unclaimed property. He asks the board to allow his department to sell the property. Funds received from the sale are to be deposited into the General Fund and man-hours

used for the sale may be transferred out from the general fund for employee payment.

The Sheriff is to have an updated list of all sale items for the Commissioners at the County Board Meeting on 22 July.

D. Finance Items:

- a. Comm. Per Diems/Expenses: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve the per diems/expenses as paid.
- b. Miscellaneous Bills: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve miscellaneous bills dated June 11th & 25th in the total of \$156,869.86

Other Items Members may wish to present:

- a. Administrator Neumeier submitted a handout (Annual Implementation Plan) from the UP Area Agency on Aging. A sample resolution is in the handout, should the commissioners choose to support the plan.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment:

- a. Mr. John Nerat commented on the importance of having an evacuation plan in force within the Jail. It is a very serious accusation to assume that prisoners may not escape a fire. To have prisoners evacuate through a roof top is unacceptable, in his opinion.
- b. Commissioner Berger commented on the fact that prisoners could lose lives because of fire if there is not another exit door installed, yet we're worried about Reconstruction of the Bell Tower and replacing the roof on the Courthouse. Priorities need to be applied when making these decisions.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Berger, seconded by Comm. Kakuk to adjourn this meeting at 7:58 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.