

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, September 9th, 2008

Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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: There was no public comment

Department Head Reports/Comments: Sheriff Botbyl reports that the drug drop program was a success. Approximately 200 pounds of over the counter & prescribed medications were collected. He also suggests to the board that this program be offered to the public more than once per year.

Sheriff Botbyl also reports that the jail is on it's 8th day of being over crowded with sentencing day on Wed. he'll have over 60 inmates.

Steve Wery Comments on the progress of the Bell Tower Restoration project. The West side of the tower is complete and ready for shingles. Steve is extremely pleased with what he sees! Reports from Moyle Development are that the bell tower deterioration was much worse than expected and was very dangerous as it was. For liability issues, we made the right decision to begin the project immediately. At this time the ornamental pieces from around the open "window" area are not fully intact when removed. The wood is very rotted which makes it difficult to keep them intact. As the project continues, Moyle will make every effort to get the remaining ornamental pieces down fully intact so we may get a molding company here to see if they can produce a mold of the pieces to complete the restoration project. Steve will keep the board informed of future progress.

Steve also informed the board of Mr. Plutchek's quote of \$1,835 to remove the Bell from the tower. It will involve 3 men and a crane for one day. More information (at a later date) will be brought to the board in ref. to the removal of the bell.

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

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

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Agenda Items:

1. Personnel Items:

2. Building & Grounds Items:

3. Miscellaneous Items:

- a. County "Take home" Vehicles: Because of skyrocketing gas prices, Administrator Neumeier asks the board to look at the cost of employees taking county vehicles home. He says this should be looked at on an individual basis being that there are different reasons for employees to be allowed to take home a county vehicle.
Commissioner Lang noted that the Building code supervisor's reason for having the County Vehicle was because of the Soil and Sedimentation responsibility he took on a while back. It was voted on by the commissioners that he be allowed to take home a county vehicle as part of his salary.
Commissioners would like specific information...what was the original intent for allowing each person to have a "take home" vehicle in the first place? And...Why is it in the county's best interest to allow each person to drive a county vehicle to and from work?
- b. ID Networks portable Livescan Unit: Sheriff Botbyl handed out information on the ID Networks portable fingerprinting unit. Currently every Thursday there are 10-15 people fingerprinted. We only have one fingerprinting unit available, located in a lock down section of the jail. According to regulation, when the sheriff dept. has to fingerprint juveniles, they are not allowed to have adult inmates and juveniles in the same area at the same time, so for security or liability reasons he is asking the board if he can purchase a portable fingerprinting unit to avoid bringing innocent people into the lockdown area. Also he says that the unit is portable to take to schools, or places of employment in Menominee County where employees need to be fingerprinted.
The handout shows a price of \$17,495 for the cost of the portable fingerprinting unit and the first year maintenance contract. This unit would also require a yearly maintenance contract of \$3,495 + 10% of applicable items.
Funding for this unit would be taken from the Prisoner Board Account.
- c. Declare 2005 Chevy Impala K-9 Vehicle a surplus vehicle: Sheriff Botbyl would like the board to allow the 2005 K-9 vehicle be sold as a surplus in a public sale for the highest bid, with a minimum bid applied. He informs the board that the new K-9 vehicle will arrive soon.
- d. PowerPoint projector and laptop: Sheriff Botbyl would like the board to consider allowing the Sheriff dept. to purchase a Laptop Computer and a projector (infocus) to show PowerPoint presentations. His intensions are to provide presentations for the Neighborhood Watch Program, ATV Training, Marine Safety and Water Rescue Training and possibly Anger Management and Drug & Alcohol Abuse presentations for the inmates. The sheriff intends to use funds from the Inmate Canteen fund and a State Grant for ATV & Marine Education.

4. Finance Items:

- a. Elected Officials Salaries: Elected officials salaries were discussed. A chart of current salaries and those to begin 01-01-09 was submitted to the board. Because the Elected officials fall under the courthouse contract, they will also receive a pay increase as the courthouse employees do on 10-01-09. The increases are to offset the cost of rising insurance rates. (01-01-09 the employee share of the premium is 7.5% of that employee's coverage level. 10-01-09 this premium will increase to 10%).
Commissioner Lang said that the board should set a yearly \$ amount for each elected official and it should remain as that for the complete 4 year term of office. Prosecuting attorney Dan Hass submitted a letter asking the board to allow him to transfer 1.5% of his 10-01-08 salary adjustment to the base salary of Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney William Merkel. Commissioners are concerned about this not falling within the DMG...and causing a problem with future salary increases. Commissioner Furmanski says "We would need a separate DMG to make a salary adjustment like this." Mr. Lynch suggests a resolution to state that Dan Hass and Bill Merkel's salaries won't fall within the DMG as written because of Dan giving Bill 1.5% of his salary increase.
Administrator Neumeier will look into options to consider Dan's request.

- b. 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.

- c. Miscellaneous Bills: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve miscellaneous bills dated August 11th, 13th & 20th in the total amount of \$175,209.07 as paid.

Other Items Members may wish to present: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment:

- a. Diane Lesperance commented on the need for a portable fingerprinting unit in Menominee County. All health care employees have to be fingerprinted and currently those employees from the Menominee area have to go to Escanaba to have this done.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Kakuk, seconded by Comm. Berger to adjourn this meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.