

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, January 20th, 2009

Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. (CST) by Vice-Chairman Dick Peterson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Present: Commissioners Lang, Furlong, Anderson & Peterson

Absent: Commissioner Eichhorn

Public Comment: There was no public comment

Department Head Reports/Comments: None

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Comm. Furlong, seconded by Comm. Lang to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 4-0.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Moved by Comm. Lang, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried, 4-0

Presentations: None

Agenda Items:

1. Personnel Items: Menominee County Road Commissioner ~ Comm. Lang suggests that the board use a scoring system to narrow the selection to the top 3 candidates. Administrator Neumeier reminds the commissioners that we only have 30 days from the effective date of Ms. Nerats' resignation (Dec. 27, 2008) to name another commissioner. Consensus of the board is to use a "top 3" scoring system for the selection process. Comm. Lang reminds the board that it's very important to keep the scoring sheets, which are subject to the FOIA.

Emergency Management Services Replacement ~ Administrator Neumeier informed the board that he had been speaking with the Marinette County Emergency Services Dept. to see if this position may be run through the Marinette County Emergency Services Dept. Mr. Neumeier also reports that after extensive research, he finds that because of dealing with two different state laws (MI & WI) this may be a very complicated process. Administrator Neumeier informed the board that some local counties (Delta/Dickenson/St. Ignace) run their Emergency Management Services through their 911 departments. Mr. Neumeier also states that this would provide cost savings to the county. He spoke with Debra Wormwood, Menominee County E-911 Director for her intake on this matter. She would be interested in taking the added responsibilities of the Emergency Management Services Coordinator with an increase in wages of \$7,500 annually.

2. Building & Grounds Items: None

3. Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Correspondence from Attorney Gerald Mason: Administrator Neumeier asks the board for direction to answer Mr. Mason's Letter. Comm. Lang asks, "How can we give Mr. Mason an answer by January 21st with this being a Committee of the Whole meeting- a discussion group, we can not make a motion tonight to give Mr. Mason an answer tomorrow". Comm. Peterson states "At this point, there is no lawsuit; therefore we should handle this as a threat". Comm. Furlong suggests that the board should at least give Mr. Neumeier some direction to respond to Mr. Mason before his deadline, even if that means just letting Mr. Mason know that this board, (COW) does not have the power to make decisions. This is a simple way to avoid a lawsuit at this time.
Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Hass expressed his concern at the Re-organizational meeting on Jan. 6th, 2009 in reference to the motion to rescind committee appointments made by the county board at the November 25th County Board meeting. Mr. Hass' again advised the board of his opinion. Comm. Peterson referred to the Menominee County By-laws, R1-8. He thinks the board should follow the by-laws. Comm. Furlong states, the county has a difficult enough time finding "volunteers" to place on the boards. He asks, "Is this something that we want to dwell on"? He adds, this is basically a "slap in the face" for those volunteers who want to serve. He states, we should rescind what we did and move on. Comm. Anderson states that we should wait until the next meeting to discuss this. Comm. Lang states that this is the meeting where we discuss items. Comm. Peterson recommends the board make a motion at the next scheduled County Board meeting and to allow Mr. Neumeier respond to Mr. Mason of the board's decision.
- b. Discussion of Board Rules/By-laws/Policies/Charters of Standing Committees: Administrator Brian Neumeier advised the board of the process on how the laws were amended in the past. The commissioners cross out and make changes on their copies and we can compile the changes with red strike-out changes and resubmit to the board with the changes for discussion and final approval. Another suggestion is to have the Executive committee (Chairman of the County Board, Finance Committee, and Personnel Committee) be in charge of making changes to the Rules/By-laws/Policies/Charters of Standing Committees.
- c. Clarification of Airport Commissioner Length of Term: Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Hass stated that the original 20 year agreement "1975" with the Airport Commission stated that the term of office for the airport commissioners was a 6 year term. In a renewal contract (1995), there was no term length for Airport Commissioners stated in the agreement. Commissioners have been appointed to the Airport Commission on a yearly basis since this agreement went into effect.

4. Finance Items:

- a. Maximus Consulting Services ~ Contract Renewal: Administrator Neumeier informed the board what this consulting service is used for. The reports (Friend of the Court/Probate Courts) issued by Maximus are used to generate \$230,000 per year in revenues. Consensus is to bring this item to the County Board for approval to renew the contract.
- b. Concerned Associates ~ Employee Assistance Contract: Administrator Neumeier informed the board of the importance of this service to the employees. This program plays a key role in keeping worker's compensation down by allowing workers to talk about work related/or personal issues, therefore allowing for less stress in the workplace and at home. Consensus is to bring this item to the County Board for approval to renew the contract.
- c. Comm. Per Diems/Expenses: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve the commissioner's per diems/expenses as paid.
- d. Miscellaneous Bills: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve miscellaneous bills dated Dec. 18th & Jan. 8th

in the total amount of \$131,419.90 as paid.

Other Items Members may wish to present: Comm. Lang states that there is a problem with the speakers system. The public can't hear the commissioners speak during sessions. Is there something that we can do to correct this problem? Steve Wery will research the issue and get some quotes for a replacement system. Comm. Lang asks if we can find someone to put together a seminar to train the commissioners on Michigan open meetings laws. They seem to be the most violated laws than any other. Comm. Furlong would like to know what the status is of Brian Neumeier's employment contract. Mr. Hass states his opinion; "There was no change to payroll during the last pay period, and as long as no changes in salaries are made, then there is no violation in state law".

Correspondence: Administrator Neumeier submitted a letter from Joe Linder, Nadeau Township Board Supervisor. Mr. Neumeier responded to Mr. Linder's letter with informational correspondence to provide Mr. Linder with more information about the Appointment to CUPPAD. Larry Pepin, Building Code Inspector commented on the speaker/microphone system in the courtroom. He also states that he commends the E-911 director for stepping up to take the additional duties of the Emergency Management Services Coordinator position with a \$7,500 salary raise. He states he took on the Soil Erosion position with all duties assigned for no additional pay and has worked this position for two years *without pay*.

Public Comment: Albert Multerer expressed his vote of confidence to the New Board Members; and NO vote of confidence to the Editor and Publisher of the Eagle Herald. He commented that they should stick to the obituary and Pet columns.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Furlong, supported by Comm. Lang to adjourn this meeting at 7:08 pm. Motion carried, 4-0.