

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, February 10th, 2009

Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

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 Eichhorn, Furlong, Anderson & Peterson

Absent: Commissioner Lang (entered the meeting at 6:07 PM)

Public Comment: (Did not state name) Appreciation to the board for the courage to stand up for the county. Would like commissioners to consider holding meetings in the Hermansville area. Eagle Herald, horrible journalism.

Ruby Ivens – expressed thanks to the board for getting the microphone problem fixed. Still can't hear the Administrator with his back to the public.

Department Head Reports/Comments: Kenny Marks, Sheriff – had a presentation on the Proposed Pinecrest substation. This 85 year old building is owned by Delta/Dickenson/& Menominee Counties. Ideal Centralized location –Powers, MI- can save the county money with decreased mileage on vehicles, fuel costs and enable officers to respond to calls much faster in the north area from this location. Rent will be free of charge to the County. Cost will be minimal to get the office up and running.

Judge Hupy briefly discussed what functions the Probate and Family Courts have.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Comm. Furlong, seconded by Comm. Peterson to approve the agenda with the following amendment: Miscellaneous Item a. Menominee County Road Commissioner Compensation (**remove Mary Maas and the effective date.**) **This motion is intended for ALL Road Commissioners.** Motion carried, 5-0.

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

Presentations: PUBLIC HEARING: MSHDA Housing Rehabilitation Program/2009 Grant Application. Larry Wall discussed the Housing Rehabilitation Program and the different ways the program can help community members. Grant monies, maximum allowed for Menominee County is \$175,000 which covers a two year period. A Resolution was submitted for discussion and the consensus of the board is to place it on the next County Board agenda for approval.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Personnel Items:** A personnel Meeting was held on Feb. 9th in the Administrator's office. Pending Negotiations for the Sheriff's Supervisory Unit and The Road Patrol Unit were discussed. Very briefly the part-time position in the Treasurer's office was discussed. Apparently Diane Lesperance is getting some very good applications. Road commission compensation was also discussed.

2. **Building & Grounds Items:** Jerry Betters and Pinecrest have been very cooperative with the idea of the substation for the sheriff dept. in their facility.

3. **Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. Menominee County Road Commissioner Compensation: Three proposals were submitted as examples of what the Road commission could be offered as compensation. It is discussed that a savings of \$17,000 can be saved from the Road Commission Budget if the Commissioners were not offered health ins. Brian Neumeier is asked to check into the current health plan to see what the paid up dates are and when the current plan can be discontinued. Consensus of the board is to bring proposal 3 (*Current County Board of Commissioners Compensation*) to place on the next County Board Agenda for approval.
- b. Resolution 09-06 ~ Support for County Remonumentation Program: There has been a huge cut in the County Remonumentation Program this year. In 2008, Menominee County was granted \$80,000. In 2009, the Grant amount started at \$39,000 and then was reduced to \$19,000. The resolution is asking for support to recover some of the \$15,000,000 that was taken from the Remonumentation program in 2006 for the purpose of balancing the State Budget. Consensus of the board is to place on the next County Board Agenda for approval.

1. **Finance Items:**

- a. 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.
- b. Miscellaneous Bills: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve miscellaneous bills dated Jan. 22, 2009 in the total amount of \$102,476.11 as paid.

Other Items Members may wish to present: Brian Neumeier stated that the Preliminary numbers are in from the auditor for fiscal year 07-08. The General fund is looking good...\$371,825 under budget... The Child Care Fund is looking bad...\$194,957 over budget with a two year deficit of \$289,198.

Sheriff, Kenny Marks would like the Commissioners know that he will be selecting an Undersheriff soon, which will cause him to be one deputy less to maintain manning in the area. He says he can cover by using the school liaison officer temporarily where he needs extra help. He wants the Board to know that he will be recruiting officers in order to have a list of candidates.

Correspondence: Commissioner Peterson handed out minutes from a Finance Committee meeting held in the Administrator's office on Feb. 9th, 2009. Items discussed were the Child Care Fund and the 9-11 surcharges. Comm. Lang adds at a recent MAC meeting, the counties are concerned about the funding of their 9-11 programs. The only options we have are: the vote of the people (millage), County General Fund, or close the doors. Commissioner Lang would like to have Brian Neumeier compose a letter to Senators Prusi and Nerat to inform them of our concern for Menominee County's 9-11 program funding.

Correspondence was given to the commissioners prior to this meeting with Attorney Stoker's opinion; an order to show cause and an ex-parte temporary restraining order from Gerald Mason's office.

Commissioner Anderson recommended placing these items on the next County Board Agenda as it would give more time for the Commissioners to read the correspondence. Consensus of the board is to have Attorney Stoker's Opinion and Gerald Mason's letter put on the next county board agenda.

Public Comment: A Gentleman spoke about the good job the commissioners are doing and hopes they can get the county back in order.

Commissioner Eichhorn states “he is the chairman of the board” and On Jan. 6th the county board moved to rescind appointments, elected officials salaries, and Brian Neumeier’s contract extension. On Jan 28th Comm. Eichhorn called Brian to find out if the letters to rescind appointments had been sent out yet. Brian told him No, because we’re waiting for a legal opinion. Eichhorn instructed Brian Neumeier to send the letters to rescind to the appointees. Commissioner Eichhorn stated, we can’t have the administrator pick and choose what actions to follow and when he wants to follow them. Comm. Eichhorn also stated that he was not pleased with the comment Comm. Furlong was quoted as saying in the newspaper. Comm. Furlong stated, in the Administrator’s defense, that he too thought the board was waiting for a legal opinion prior to taking any action on the motion made on Jan. 6th. Comm. Lang stated that he thought the Commission has put Brian Neumeier in a bad position, asking/telling him to act before a legal opinion is offered. Lang was also under the impression that no action would be taken, for the good of the county, until a legal opinion was offered.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Lang, supported by Comm. Anderson to adjourn this meeting at 7:11 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.