

# **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Tuesday ~ May 11, 2010  
Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B  
Menominee, MI 49858

**APPROVED 6/8/2010**

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 Furlong, Anderson, Lang, Eichhorn & Meintz

Excused:

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**Public Comment:** Commissioner Eichhorn welcomes Commissioner Charlie Meintz. Ruby Ivens-Asks the commissioners to speak into the microphones so the meeting can be heard.

**Department Head Reports/Comments:** Diane Lesperance: A financial report (Mar. 2010) was given to the commissioners prior to the meeting. Ms. Lesperance asked if the board had any questions about the report. No commissioners had any questions.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Com. Eichhorn would like to add item F under Misc. Items on the agenda to discuss television coverage for the board meetings. Some other counties do this and the people seem to like it a lot. Com. Furlong makes a motion to approve the amended agenda support by Com. Meintz. Motion approved 5/0.

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:** Com. Anderson moved to approve the previous minutes, support by Com. Lang.

**Presentations:** Barb Chenier – Public Health, Delta and Menominee Counties – 2009 Annual report: The FY is from Oct. 2008 to Sept. 2009. The report shows the initial stages of the work done on the H1N1 Flu outbreak, but the vaccine didn't come out until after the FY, so the final number of vaccines we gave out is not on this report. There was a significant response from other members of the community in giving out the vaccine. It was a community effort to get the word out and get people vaccinated. There was an accreditation review this year that is only done once every three years, we did very well 96%. Some cutbacks we have had to face; we previously had an Alcohol and other drug services counseling office in the Superior State Building that was moved to the annex building in Stephenson with the support of the County. We were able to keep the service and save some money. Financial data shows our highest years expenses were in 2006-07. Since then the budget has been reduced by \$600,000. Our average number of employees has dropped by 14. Probably half of them are part time. We have not dropped the programs, the services are there. We have prioritized to the people's needs. We hope the community values what we do. Com. Meintz asked if there will be more H1N1 vaccines this fall. Ms. Chenier: The new flu vaccine that comes out in the fall will have the H1N1 already in the formula. You won't have to get two next year, just one. Next year everyone over 6 months of age will be recommended to receive the shot. The Annual report can be found on the public health website. Com. Eichhorn asks if Ms. Chenier would be interested in giving a presentation to the township association in the county. Ms. Chenier responds, sure.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **1. Personnel Items:**

- a. Resolution 2010-10 ~ Honoring Sherry Smith, Menominee County Administrative Assistant: Furlong: I recommend we move it forward to the county board. Anderson: I disagree with it. If we're going to be handing out resolutions, we should hand them out to all of the employees. I don't understand why we're giving Sherry a resolution in the first place. Did Mike do something wrong. Furlong: Well we had an investigation and apparently Mike didn't do anything wrong. But Sherry didn't do anything wrong either and her name has been pretty much dragged through the mud as far as innuendos. Anderson: Mike never accused her of anything and as far as I know, I don't know of anybody who dragged her name through the mud. There were a lot of other employees who worked here without an administrator...Furlong: But spyware wasn't put on their computers, it was only on her computer. Meintz, being new, I've read this and I agree with Garry's comments. I'm not quite sure what the situation is where she was accused. When I campaigned I spoke with many people in the courthouse and many of them have been laid with extra duties. I'm concerned of the ramifications of selecting one employee and honoring them when there are a bunch of employees here with extra duties. Lang: I think we need to at least put it up for a vote. Eichhorn: I personally don't agree with it. The only place with any hint of an accusation came from the paper. I disagree with it. Sherry's done fine. Lang: The last assistant that stepped up to the plate in the absence of an administrator was not only recognized, but compensated for the extra amount of work. Eichhorn: Any other comment? Ok, I guess we don't move this forward.
- b. Computer Usage Policy: Anderson recommends to move the computer usage policy forward for a vote. Furlong: This is like a condensed version of the original one in the packet last month. He would like to have it looked at again before a vote. There are some things that were taken out that should be in there. Anderson: Brian, how did that happen? Bousley: I got some feedback from the department heads that it was too restrictive so he took out some of the things discussed with them and came up with this. Meintz: How do you justify what application is ok for the workplace and what isn't? Bousley: There are certain departments that will need certain things. It will need to be left to the department head's discretion. Department heads can monitor that. Eichhorn: I agree with James and Garry, the original version may have been particular and to the point, but James is right the condensed version is very generic. Consensus is to move it forward with the original version from last month and to change "should" to "shall" within the policy.
- c. Corrective Action Plan Implementation – Security Sweep: Bousley recommends the security sweep of the county computer server/computers have a third party. Meints recommend to move this forward.
- d. Hiring of Building Code Inspector: We're currently accepting applications for the building inspector. In the mean time, Larry Pepin is filling in until we get someone on board and he will work with the new guy for a while. Lang: This is a part time position? The summer time is a busy time for this person. How can you just tell the guy to put in his 20 hours a week and that's it? Bousley: That's what I was given. That's what's in the budget for this position. It was discussed if we use a part time person, then we don't have to pay retirement. Meintz: As a part time person, will you be able to forward the hours? If they work a 30 hour week in the summer, but not the winter, can this time be transferred to even out the hours for MERS? Bousley: No it's reported on the time worked per day. They can't have a pattern of working more than 7 hours per day for so many consecutive weeks or they fall into MERS eligibility and we'll have to pay in on retirement. Anderson: I think we should leave it up to Brian's discretion whether we need a part time or full time person. Lang: I'm not so sure that is a part time position. Can we hear from Larry? Pepin: Regarding the part time, I told you last year at budget time. You're cutting the nose despite the face. Any cuts in

hours, you should be looking at the cold months, Jan-Mar., but the rest you need full time. You can not cut hours during the building months. If you can juggle hours to make it work out, then I say hire fulltime person and work that person part time in the frozen months. Meintz: Have we done anything different with new employees with the MERS plan? Bousley: Not yet, we'll be discussing that later.

**2. Building and Grounds/ Parks Items:**

- a. Parks Rules Revisions: The only thing changed is that the Park Rangers need to be able to enforce the rules. No riding of horses in the park unless in designated areas. People riding horses in the park could be a liability. Anderson: Someone brought up the noise late at night, complaints. Now it's between 1 AM and 7 AM. Would like the parks committee to look at that. Meintz: I agree with what the parks people have done, but I think the min. amount to be paid for campsite cleaning should be \$50. Maybe people will leave the sites the way they were when they came. Eichhorn: Perhaps the Parks Committee can discuss this tomorrow night and we can vote on this at the next board meeting then.

**3. Miscellaneous Items:**

- a. June 22, & July 27, 2010 County Board Meeting Place discussion: The original schedule for the COW and CB meetings for the year 2010 shows June meeting in Hermansville/Powers. We need to decide where the meeting should be held. Also July, the meeting place is Carney, we need a specific location. Anderson: I'd like to see more of these meetings in the county and I'd like to see the COW and the CB in the county. I'd like Aug. Sept., and Oct. meetings held in Stephenson. And one of the meetings somewhere else in the county, another township. Furlong: I don't have a problem with road trips. Meintz: I agree with Garry I think it would be a good thing to have more meetings in the county. Let everyone know we're open to everyone's views. Lang: We might get to look like a traveling road show. We are in the county here at our courthouse. Eichhorn: I think the May meeting should stay put. We'll talk to Pete Kleiman for the June meeting at Harris township hall; or maybe the Powers gym or the community center in Hermansville. Last year we were at Pinecrest. Maybe Meyer township hall. Furlong: If you're going to have both the COW and the CB in the community, then they should be at the same place. Anderson: I agree with James. Eichhorn: I agree, we'll try to get both June meetings at the Harris Township Hall. The July meeting in Carney (try the school) Aug., Sept., and Oct. will be in Stephenson.
- b. Budgeted concerns of Mr. John Nelson – In 2007, the Administrator budget was 166,000 but the expenses were \$430,000. Capital outlay was not in the budget, but was in the year end. These were upgrades to the IT (BS&A software) and telephone system. There was discussion why the monies weren't in the Admin. Capital outlay in the budget. Smith: The budget is a work in progress. When the budget was accepted in late Sept. the capital outlay items weren't discussed/decided yet. The board didn't agree on the Capital outlay items until February, which was after the budget was accepted. After the board agreed on the Capital outlay items, the money was transferred from the individual department accounts (agreed upon by the board) to the Admin. Capital outlay acct. to pay for the upgrades. Com. Lang has concerns with holes in the budget as far as MERS is concerned. We have three positions that we pay for into MERS that are not currently funded. These should be accounted for in the budget.
- c. Commissioner expenses/reimbursements and meeting fees on website: Bousley: This was brought up on the March minutes but was never voted on. Eichhorn: the board did agree with it, but it was never voted on. Lang: Would like the reimbursements

reflected on the website also. Anderson: I think it should be there for everyone to look up if they need to. Eichhorn: I think James already expressed that it's already on the website in the board packets. Lang: How about if when we turn in our expenses we reflect each one we're reimbursed for with an "R" for reimbursed. Eichhorn: That makes sense. Furlong: Is one commissioner better than another commissioner if one gets paid more than another? Are we trying to show that one commissioner sucks up more of the taxpayer's money than the others? I don't understand the concept of this. It's already on the website in the board packets. Anderson: I think it should be on the website. We should be as transparent as we can be. Consensus is to move this to the board for a vote.

- d. Household Hazardous Waste – Additional Vendor Discussion: Bousley: I was approached by some people asking if the “additional vendors” will be with the HHW pickup this year. That’s something that the board needs to decide whether we’ll do it again this year or not. Meintz: I have a question, for a fee they can take a battery that you can take to Marinette Iron and Steel and get \$12/\$13 for? I don’t want vendors taking advantage of people in the community. We’re trying to do a nice thing for the people, they trust that we’re trying to do a good thing for them; we don’t want a vendor coming in and taking advantage. Eichhorn: I think if the people want to haul their things to town then they can. If I want to take it to a vendor and have them haul it, that’s up to me. Anderson: I understand what you’re saying, but if someone wants to get rid of their tires, they’ll pay the fee to get rid of them. Furlong: When this came up last time, I thought we gave the administrator the ok to talk to Peg Bastain about what happened last time; who the vendors were, how all that worked. Consensus is to move this to the board for a vote.
- e. Resolution 2010-11 ~ Support of Snowmobile/ORV Trail sticker Program: This was brought up by Com. Furlong. Right now MI charges \$16.25 for a trail sticker for one year and WI charges \$9.00. So if you’re in the Chalk Hills area and you want to go to Four Seasons, you’ll have to walk across the bridge if you don’t have a WI sticker. I think our bordering communities are missing out on cross boarder traffic because of this issue. You should be able to use the MI sticker to go into WI also. Meintz: The states have made their trails in some areas to cross over into another state, so you don’t have a choice, you have to use the trail and go into another state. Now you have to buy another sticker to use those trails? I think it’s wrong. Eichhorn: I don’t know how they can police it. Consensus is to move this forward for a vote.
- f. (ADDED to AGENDA) Discuss Television coverage for Board Meetings: Some counties televise their board meetings. Brian, if you can maybe look into the costs, or find out if it can even happen. Furlong: The city had something with Time Warner where they are entitled to free programming. Maybe that’s an avenue we can look at. Lang: What about the people who have a dish? Eichhorn: I guess it would be better, the people can see exactly what’s going on instead of what is written. Administrator Bousley is asked to look into it more.

#### **4. Finance Items:**

- a. Dan Hass’ recommendation to reimburse Mike Erdman for the Sonar Software: Anderson would like to recommend moving this forward, but I have some questions about the bill. Is it one or two bills? Bousley: There are two invoices; \$600 is the invoice that was first billed to the county. The \$623 bill was what was billed to Erdman. His billing statement had tax and fuel charges attached. Meintz: Why did Mike get charged tax and fuel charges? Eichhorn: probably because it went from the county to private. Meintz: What do we technically want to pay Mike then? Bousley: That’s for the board to decide. The \$600 bill was originally sent to us. I say we pay the \$600 bill. Eichhorn: I agree with Brian. We should pay the original amount billed to

- us. Furlong: I disagree, but I'm not going to argue cause I think we've beat this one to death, so you guys do what you want to do. You can't be crying poverty with county government and then go off and spend \$600 for something...
- b. Discussion of MERS plan revision: Anderson: I had a conversation with David Stoker and he said our MERS retirement plan is underfunded by 3.5 to 4 million dollars. I don't understand what that means; I'd like to find out what that means. Another thing, I think we can save some money if we group some of these things together. I think Brian should be directed to get hold of David Stoker to find out how we can do this. Bousley: The total amount we have invested here is about \$12 million. If you look at it that way, we're only underfunded by 25%. MERS has a policy that you have to be at least 80% funded to make any changes. Eichhorn: Defined contribution, is that something we can discuss or look at with new hires? Yes. Only the new hires. Anderson: Stoker says there is an area where we can save money, I'd like to see an opinion from him on this. Lang: If we're going to involve Stoker, I suggest we have Brian have the conversations rather than one of the county commissioners. I don't think it's proper for one of the commissioners...Anderson: I agree, I think Brian should come back with the recommendations from Stoker on what we can do to change.
  - c. Jail Telephone/Intercom system discussion: From minutes of Mar. 20, 2009. "Consensus was to have specifications drawn up and to allow sealed bids for the project." This did not happen. Eichhorn: Is the sheriff not too interested in it to let it drop? I thought it was up to him to put the specs together. Bousley: Whatever the reason, it fell by the wayside. That's why we're bringing it back up. Meintz: I visited the jail and there are possible liability issues with the system we currently have. I agree with you Gary, if it is a liability issue, then it's something he should be responsible for. Anderson: I think he ought to continue on with the bids, that's what he was supposed to do in the beginning.
  - d. Menominee County Deficit Elimination Plan: We received this a month ago and I wrote to them to have it extended. I wanted to dig into it a little bit more. Anderson: Let Brian do more digging. Lang: How do we get these deficits? Bousley: That's what I need to check into more. Some of these are delinquent because of State funding not being received before the Year End. Some are grants that haven't been received. Some are not negotiable like child care. If the judge puts kids into a home for care, we have to pay the bill. Last year there was a deficit budget in Child care also. Meintz: So as the judge he can spend whatever he wants to facilitate whatever needs he feels has to be done and we just have to support this, regardless? There is much discussion on the Child care deficit.
  - e. Commissioner Per Diems/Expenses: consensus is to move forward to the board for a vote.
  - f. Miscellaneous Bills: Anderson: James I thought we weren't charging for the executive meeting. I believe it was here at a public comment when Ruby Ivens suggested that we don't, but I was there for that meeting, I was there in good faith and how that got convoluted I have no clue. As far as I'm concerned, I went to my meeting and I charged for it. Anderson: I'm not charging, Bernie's not charging...Furlong: Well I charged because I was at a meeting. Anderson recommends moving the bills to the board for approval.

**Other Items Members may wish to present:**

- a. Eichhorn: Charlie brought up the liability issue with the intercom system in the Jail. One of the folks in my district brought up the question of liability with Texas Walker, the Sheriff running around with a big star on the side of his own vehicle, if we are responsible for it when he's out in uniform. I talked to Dan Hass, he said his personal vehicle ins. will

take care of it up to a point, whatever his coverage is and then the County will have to pick up the rest of it. I think we need to discuss it a little further. Have Dan put together a recommendation. Furlong: Have we talked to the Sheriff? Why's he using his vehicle? Eichhorn: No idea, I don't know if he was using it for campaigning or what, but I know he's up on the North end a lot with it. If he's in uniform in the middle of the day, whatever he's doing, he's there as the sheriff.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** Barb Chenier – Thanks the County Board for the work that was done in the health department building this year. Diane Lesperance – The computer policy was changed because of input of the department heads. There were specific reasons that the department heads discussed removing certain things from the computer policy. Diane asks the board to discuss the specific concerns with Brian before approving the policy.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Comm. Meintz, supported by Comm. Anderson to adjourn this meeting at 7:45 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.