

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday ~ September 8, 2009
Menominee County Courthouse - Courtroom B
Menominee, MI 49858

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. (CDT) by Chairman Gary Eichhorn

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Present: Commissioners Lang, Furlong, Anderson, Peterson & Eichhorn

Public Comment: Ms. Noreen Johnson, Ingallston Township – “Penny Wise, dollar foolish” Does not support proposed budget cuts. Support Steve Wery’s position on the maintenance and improvements on all parks. He has a vision for the parks in Menominee County it shows in his work. Steve Soby – submitted 90 + signatures in support of the Buildings and Grounds/Parks Supervisor position.

Department Head Reports/Comments: None.

Motion to amend Agenda: Com. Peterson would like to table Item 4c until the next meeting. Com. Lang is against postponing the budget until Friday. “We have a lot of people here to find out what we’re going to do with the budget”. Com. Furlong agrees with Lang, he says we should discuss this now. Erdman stated due to short staffing in the office, we’re unable to come up with more accurate figures for specific items. Amending the agenda to table item 4c “Discussion of the budget items not agreed upon at the 9/2/09 COW” was agreed upon by Coms. Peterson, Anderson & Eichhorn. Coms. Lang and Furlong disagreed.

Approval of the Amended Agenda: Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 5-0

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Comm, Peterson would like to make two amendments to the previous minutes “page 2 of Sept. 2nd minutes, Peterson voted against putting the Library Bus back into the Budget and he also voted to add the \$10,000 back into the Parks improvement fund.” Com. Eichhorn added that only he and Furlong voted to add the \$15,000 to the Library Bus fund. Com. Anderson moved to approve the amended minutes of Sept. 2nd, Com Peterson supported. Motion carried, 5-0

Presentations: None

Agenda Items:

1. Finance Items:

- a. Discussion of Administrator Position – Mr. Erdman states his opinion remains the

same. He thinks we need a full time administrator. Com. Eichhorn would like to as soon as the budget is approved, move on this. Get together and establish a correct theory of what we want and move it as quickly as possible. Com. Furlong states, we have a good starting point, we have a job description. MI/Works did a good job with the City, I think we should talk to them. It looks like, from reading a letter from MSU that Nov. 31 is your last day (to Erdman). Erdman replies, “Yes, that’s right”. Com. Lang asked, “Why wait until after Oct. 1st we’re behind the eight ball on a lot of things, we’re behind because we don’t meet our own schedules. Com. Eichhorn said, ‘We can discuss this again on Friday since we’re getting together on the budget’”.

2. Building and Grounds Items:

- a. Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Erdman tells the board we’ve received letters of interest from community members. He points out the need to have a more formalized document or application process. Com. Anderson recommends we move this forward, supported by Com. Peterson.

3. Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Menominee County Road Commission Resolution and Investment Policy – Coms agree to move this item forward for approval.
- b. Democratic Appointment to the Board of County Canvasser – A letter received from Ruby Ivens just prior to this meeting is read. She is submitting names of candidates to the County Clerk, apologizing for late submission. Mr. Erdman recommends we move this forward. Com. Furlong takes issue with this. A letter was send out to the parties to submit 3 names and letters of interest for recommendation to each party. We don’t have that. He would like this to go back to the County Clerk and do what is required by law and then bring it back to the board for submission of an appointment. Com. Furlong would like to see the 3 letters of interest and 3 names submitted by the current party Chairperson. All commissioners are in agreement.
- c. Republican Appointment to the Board of County Canvasser – Discussed above...bring back to the board when we have the information requested by law.
- d. Petition of Annexation – Village of Carney/Nadeau Township – Com Eichhorn asked if the Prosecutor has had a chance to look this document over? Mr. Erdman stated no, it has not been given to Attorney Hass. Com. Eichhorn is concerned that we’re in compliance with everything needed. Com. Lang stated this came before the board once before and his opinion hasn’t changed. We were led to believe all requirements were met. At this point, he’s in favor to the annexation. Com. Eichhorn agrees that this is a worthwhile project. Mr. Erdman stated he has been involved with the sanitation issues of the area and that this could help with solving the sanitation problem. Com. Furlong says we should go take a look and see what the local input is. Com. Peterson asks Mr. Perron to give some updated information on the annexation. Most questions in the past were pointed at future land use. The village believes this will enhance our land for economic development. Com. Lang asks Mr. Perron, “Why is it necessary to annex the property to accomplish your economic development plan? Mr. Perron answers, “It really isn’t, in a sense that’s not the purpose of doing it. BTI industries petitioned the village, to become a part of the village to help us. Their reason is because they’re from the village. Right now they’re only talking about using about 80 acres of the land for the sewage treatment plant. The other part of the

property can be used for example, as an industrial park. Com. Eichhorn agrees with Com. Lang, he thinks we should move this forward.

4. Finance Items:

- a. Ms. Ruleau has submitted a proposal to add another probation officer. This person will help 20 clients at a time. This is a new position, a new probation officer. She can apply for a 50/50 state grant. We pay half of the costs. There is a potential of approval of a Hannahville 2% grant which would lower the costs to the county. Com. Furlong states he already has a problem with cutting positions, now you're asking to add a new position. Com. Eichhorn asks Mr. Erdman, "What is the potential cost savings". Roughly \$141,000. Com. Furlong asks, what about reimbursements for the child care? Approx. ten percent of the total bill is collected from the parents. According to Sharon they are actively doing everything they can to collect reimbursements. Dawn Dennis-Ruleau states the auditors say we are at the top for collections of reimbursements.
- b. Harris Township outstanding bill from Manatron – This bill is for Harris township. Menominee County has the contract with Manatron. Harris Township described that the previous administrator changed to BS&A half way through the year with the Manatron process. They paid for what they thought they used and stopped paying when BS&A went into effect. It is recommended to send the billing back to Harris Township to pay the bill.
- c. Item 4-c is tabled until next meeting, Friday Sept. 11, 2008. "Discussion of Budget items not agreed upon at 9/2/09 COW"
- d. Commissioner Per Diems/Expenses – Com. Anderson recommends we move this forward except there is a correction on his per diems. I marked down the executive Committee meeting. I'm not part of the executive committee. I'd like to remove that and the mileage for this meeting (8-28-09).
- e. Miscellaneous Bills – Mr. Erdman recommends to pay the bills.

Other Items Members may wish to present: Com. Lang states, even though the County board received the proposed budget a mere three hours before the last meeting. The Eagle Herald was able to FOIA a copy before the meeting. Mrs. Peterson and an unidentified person had copies during the meeting. So how is it that Jason Lauzer has to wait ten days for his FOIA for the same materials to be responded to? Mr. Erdman responds, As for the Eagle Herald, Ms. Mullins, she did hand me a FOIA as I was walking up the steps. I wouldn't give her the document until after. We had a staff shortage in our office due to a medical emergency. I put together as much as I could. But I didn't feel comfortable sending it out, not knowing if I had all of the information. Mr. Hass provided language for an extension of the FOIA. It's no more than that. I didn't want to choose the wrong draft to send. Because Sherry was not available to be at that meeting, I gave Mrs. Peterson a budget to help me take minutes to compare against mine.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Pat Kleicamp speaks of being heard by the board on the Aug. 11th meeting in regards to issues happening in front of my home with local farmers. He would like the board to look at all information presented and reply with something in writing stating their position on this. Jason Lauzer, Most people are here to listen to the issues with the

budget. Why doesn't the board upload this to the Menominee County website? At least give the public an option to see the documents. Immensely against cutting any positions. Talk it out, discuss the issues at hand.

The next COW meeting will be on Friday Sept. 11th, 2009 at 4:30 at the Annex in Stephenson.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Anderson supported by Comm. Peterson to adjourn this meeting at 8:50 P pm. Motion carried, 5-0.