

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, April 14th, 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 Eichhorn, Furlong, Anderson, Peterson & Lang

Absent: None

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, 5-0

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

Presentations: None

Agenda Items:

1. Personnel Items:

- a. Family Medical Leave for corrections employee, Amy Behnke was discussed. Per the Family Medical Leave Act, all criteria have been met for approval of the county board for up to 12 weeks of medical leave. Consensus is to bring this to the County Board agenda for approval.

2. Building & Grounds Items:

- a. Parks & Rec. Bylaws amendment. – Com. Peterson thinks there is a conflict with the bylaws that should be discussed further for cleanup. Since Com. Peterson is on the Parks Committee, Mr. Neumeier suggests the Parks committee should review this again and then bring it back to the board for approval when all changes have been made. Com. Eichhorn concurs with Mr. Neumeier and suggests that we have legal counsel look over these documents before the board decides on them. Com. Lang states that the changes are more relevant to the Parks committee; therefore they should make the changes and bring it back to the board when all changes are complete.

3. Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Resloution 09-07 – Proclamation of Headstart Month - April 2009 – Mr. Neumeier

explains that the Community Action Agency asks us to proclaim April as Headstart Month on a yearly basis to celebrate accomplishments of the Head Start Program throughout our early childhood centers and the community. It is the consensus of the board to bring this resolution to the county board for approval.

- b. Interlocal Agreement – UP State Fair Authority – Mr. Neumeier recommends that we get someone who is involved with this agreement come to present/explain the Authority to the board. Comm. Lang has an update from CUPPAD, Vickie Micheau was at his last meeting to present the Authority, she seemed very knowledgeable on the subject. Comm. Eichhorn again recommends that we get someone to go over the Authority (Legal Council) before the board agrees to have Menominee County participate. Mr. Neumeier states that he would try to get someone scheduled to come and talk about the Authority/Agreement.
- c. Resolution 09-08 – Supporting Local Operation of the U.P. State Fair – Comm. Lang states that the Agreement/Authority and the Resolution go hand in hand. Comm. Eichhorn suggests that the board can support the Resolution without being part of the Authority yet. Consensus is to bring this before the Board for approval.
- d. Teen Court Menominee County – Ms. Dawn Dennis-Ruleau explains the Teen Court program. Teen Court is part of the National Court Association. The program is designed to give first time offenders (non-felons) a chance to come forward, be tried by their peers and face consequences without getting a juvenile court record. Youth and Adult volunteers will be recruited for the program. A Courtroom and Jury room will be needed one night per month (4:30-8:00) for the program. Marinette County has had Teen Court for 4 years now. With 111 cases, only 12 have been re-arrested with another offense. Costs to run the program would be minimal. T-shirts for the court members will be under \$300. After school snacks for the court members will hopefully be donated from within the community. Salary for the Coordinator, 5 hrs. per month, will be approx. \$100 per month. Educational materials have been offered for use through Marinette County. There will be paperwork and letter mailing costs. There is presently \$1225 committed to the program with donations from the Kiwanas Club and Walmart. It is the consensus of the board to bring it to the next board meeting for approval.

4. Finance Items:

- a. Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 2009 - Mr. Neumeier explains that there is a contract from Veolia Environmental Services on the estimated cost of this year's HHW pickup. The county has done this for the last few years with the cooperation of the City. The City will check ID's to make sure the people are from Menominee County. They'll patrol traffic and have other vendors available to collect other items for a fee. Mr. Neumeier states this is for individual households, not businesses. He would like to move this forward contact the guy and get it scheduled at the same time the City pickup around town is. Com. Eichhorn says that makes sense. Com. Lang states to put it on the agenda. Consensus is to bring this to the county board for approval.
- b. 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.
- c. Miscellaneous Bills: Based on discussion, Administration will place a recommendation on the next County Board agenda to approve miscellaneous bills dated March 19, 20 and April 2 in the total amount of \$100,922.30 as paid.

Other Items Members may wish to present: Mr. Neumeier stated that the sheriff dept. submitted a COPS grant, due today. Basically one cop is funded for 3 years and we pay for the 4th year of funding. They do offer an “opt out” option for financial hardship reasons. Mr. Neumeier also informs the board that he received a phone call today from a representative from Gov. Granholm’s office inviting him to a private meeting on April 20th. Apparently 30 people across the UP were invited to a private meeting with the Governor and a public meeting will follow. Com. Anderson states that he spoke with Road Com. Bill Anderson about the Road Com. compensation. There was nothing outlined in the resolution for out of town meetings for the Road Com. Mr. Neumeier stated that he would take a look at this. Mr. Anderson would like to have the letters from the townships to be added to the next county board agenda. He would also like the Airport Manager, Tim Spreen added to the next County Board Agenda for a presentation. Com. Furlong had a few issues to discuss in reference to a possible “Open Meetings Violation”...referring to the meeting at the “Road Host” hotel with the attorneys and commissioners Eichhorn, Peterson & Anderson. James asks, “Why wasn’t I invited?” “Why didn’t I have a vote to send a letter to Jason Lauzer about his appointment to the Planning Com. being null and void?” “How does Gary Eichhorn have the right to appoint an attorney and to approve the letter be sent to Jason Lauzer?” Com. Lang states “It doesn’t matter if a quorum of the board meets one after another or all three at the same time; as long as a meeting forms a consensus it’s a violation of the Open Meetings Act.” Mr. Lang also states, “I resent being a member of a three person board where every issue is predetermined and Furlong and Lang’s opinions are irrelevant.” Com. Peterson states, “Under Section 5 of the County Bi-laws, Com. Eichhorn has the responsibility of making the appointments. If he needed individual counsel regarding the Oct. Planning Commission changes...Com. Lang states it’s not proper for Filoramo to notify Lauzer and say, “I’m sorry to inform you that you’re no longer on that commission.” That’s a function of the county board. Com. Eichhorn informs the audience that there have been e-mail problems and website troubles that have hopefully been resolved. Com. Eichhorn would like to have the Executive Committee meet to discuss board policies & procedures. He would also like the Finance Committee meet with equalization & treasurer to discuss hard times for tax payers-delinquent taxes-people losing homes. Com. Eichhorn thinks that legal representation should be hired to review county resolutions/agreements. Mr. Neumeier stated that was something Mr. Hass does for us when requested. Com. Eichhorn stated that he didn’t know if it was fair to the prosecuting attorneys office to take their time to jump through hoops for us. In his opinion would take the politics out of it all, if there is any. Com. Eichhorn suggests that Filoramo’s opinion letter about the Planning Commission Ordinance should be discussed. Com. Furlong suggests the Ordinance be given to Haider Kazim to review.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Name not stated – Mr. Neumeier - Contract Extension discrepancy
Name not stated – Stop playing games, we don’t care about a personal agenda
~tape ran out...to admin office for another...missing some public comment~
Name not stated – Personal Vendetta – Time to move on with Co. business
Name not stated – Request board provide the public with budget status
Name not stated – Household Hazardous waste – Quotes from the public annually

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Anderson, supported by Comm. Furlong to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.