

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, May 12th, 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: Sheriff Marks ~ expresses his appreciation to the Hannahville Indian Community for approval of a 2% grant for the Sheriff Dept. to help purchase a new vehicle to replace the 2003 Dodge Durango used by the school Resource officer/Marine officer/Road Patrol; motor is failing. A USDA grant applied for would also be used for the purchase this vehicle, if approved. Steve Wery informs the board that the Sheriff Dept. Satellite office at Pinecrest is complete.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Comm. Lang, seconded by Comm. Anderson 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: Denise Binger, Child Care Fund Specialist – Expand In Home Care Services

Agenda Items:

1. Personnel Items:

- a. **Sheriff Dept.: Part-time Road Patrol Officers Pay.** – Sheriff Marks stated that it's a huge challenge to keep Road Patrol Coverage 24 hrs. a day due to a loss of scheduled State troopers. What's happening is we're paying approx. \$8,000 for Field Training of Part time employees and then they leave for full time employment elsewhere. If we have a sliding scale based on number of years of experience, part time officers may stay longer knowing there is a raise in the future. It is the consensus of the board to bring Sheriff Marks' Road Patrol – Part-time sliding pay scale to the County Board for approval.
- b. Commissioner Furlong informs the board that he spoke with Lauri Berg/teamster's rep. about continuing contract negotiations for the Sheriff Dept. Supervisory Unit. James will call a personnel committee meeting when he has more information.
- c. Com. Furlong asks, "What direction are we going with the admin. position"? It is the consensus of the board to sit down and start discussions for the hiring process of a new County Administrator. Com. Eichhorn states his opinion, "Personally, I don't believe we need a Full Time administrator." Com. Furlong states he thinks we should get help from an outside source to fill the position. Com. Lang states that MI Works wants us to be aware of the services they provide. Com. Anderson states that it won't be wrong to take Mike Erdman up on his offer to assist, temporarily. Mike Erdman is heard by the board. He can assist temporarily, while he is working for MSU, for zero cost to the county, but would like to be reimbursed for any mileage

he may incur. Com. Anderson recommends that we move to have Mike provide assistance to the county as an Interim Administrator to the County. A “special board” meeting is arranged for 3:00 PM on May 13, 2009 to approve allowing Mike Erdman be placed as an Interim Admin. and to approve the change in the Equalization report.

2. Building & Grounds Items:

- a. Parks & Rec. – Monica Valdez ~ Kayak Rentals – Steve Wery spoke on behalf of the Parks & Rec. Committee. Ms. Valdez would like to rent Kayaks for day use to campers in the area of Kleinke Park. Com. Eichhorn would like to have Dan Hass take a look at the Kayak Rental Agreement before the board approves it. Consensus is to place on the next CB agenda for approval (assuming all is alright through Dan Hass).

3. Miscellaneous Items:

- a. Sheriff Dept. – Surplus of 2 Vehicles – Sheriff Marks would like permission to declare two Road Patrol vehicles (2006 Chevy Impala – VIN #2G1WS551269284869; AND 2007 Chevy Impala – VIN #2GWS55R279415984) surplus items due to multiple maintenance problems with them. Com. Furlong would like to recommend the county include these items and more from the courthouse (office items, computers, etc.) if we have any, in the City Annual Auction (no reserve auction) scheduled for June 25th. Multiple agencies would bring more people to the auction, therefore selling more items. Com. Eichhorn thinks it a good idea. Com. Anderson would like to recommend they move it to the board for approval. It is the consensus of the board to bring this to the next County Board Meeting for approval.
- b. Attorney John Filoramo’s Opinion Letter to Jason Lauzer – Com. Eichhorn stated that he had a chance to speak with Dan Hass about the letter and asked his opinion on the letter. Dan does not disagree with Filoramo’s opinion. He still felt that there were court issues that were involved with it but, basically he thought it was a good solid opinion. Com. Lang states, if he does not disagree, then he concurs that Lauzer isn’t on the Park (*Planning*) Commission, is that what you’re saying? Com. Eichhorn states that you’d have to ask Dan for specifics on it, but that’s pretty much what Filoramo’s letter said. He told me he simply concurred/agreed. Com. Furlong asks, “where are we going with this, as far as the letter?” Com. Eichhorn says he has no idea, it was put on the agenda, Brian put it on the agenda and I don’t know where he was going with it. Com. Furlong states that he didn’t think we should do anything with the letter until the appeals and lawsuit is done. Haider Kazim expressly told us doing anything with this or barring Jason Lauzer from the Planning commission in any way shape or form is a violation of the restraining order. I suggest we not do anything. Com. Eichhorn states he thinks Dan agrees with Haider on that point also. He agrees with the letter that he has no standing, but he also agrees with Haider, that we also let this set until the appeals process is done. Com. Anderson says we should not bring this before the board. We just let it sit for now.
- c. Delta Menominee Board of Health – We currently have two letters of interest. The letters must be received by May 15th to be considered for the appointment. It is the consensus of the board to bring the final candidates to the board for an appointment.
- d. Gift of Life, Michigan – Dr. Haupt, (Men. Co. Medical Examiner) submitted a letter stating that Menominee County has not donated any tissue in the past 5 years. Most of the deaths occur in Marinette County at the hospital; tissue is appropriately donated there. Com. Lang states that if Dr. Haupt thinks this is a bum idea, he’s inclined to go with his position on this. Com. Furlong states that there is no cost to the county and the Medical Examiner would be reimbursed for any expenses incurred. Why wouldn’t we want to? There is discussion. Com. Lang reads from Dr. Haupt’s letter. Com. Eichhorn states he’s making it pretty clear, his opinion on it. Com. Lang states Maybe we should ask Dr. Haupt to come and give us more information. It is the consensus of the board to ask Dr. Haupt come and present more information to the board before making a final decision on this.

4. Finance Items:

- a. Phoenix Data Systems – Tower rental – Com. Peterson states, we own the tower on the hospital building. We used to get free internet from Phoenix for letting them use our tower.

Now since we no longer have Phoenix internet service, we would like them to lease our tower for their use. They have submitted a proposed agreement which would be suitable compensation for the use of the tower. Com. Eichhorn asked if the proposal has been looked at by Dan Hass. When Dan is in an agreement with the proposal, then we'll bring it back to the board for approval.

- b. **Equalization Database Information:** WPS is requesting a database of the Men. Co. Database. (Names, addresses, legal description and assessed values) Com. Peterson states he has a problem with WPS needing this information. Not all of Menominee County has WPS services. Com. Furlong states he feels he doesn't want this information to go out to the public and for them to resell to other people after they use it. Peggy Shroud states that this info. is all public information. It's not just WPS that have asked for it. "We're doing it now, but not charging for it." The idea is to come up with a price per disk, which will allow the county to gain revenue for that information. Delta and Dickenson counties charge for the disk of info. The Finance committee considered asking \$350 per disk. Which, once someone's name or address change, will no longer be current info. Com. Lang recommends we move this forward for the board to approve.
- c. **Equalization ~ Equalization report correction** – Mi state tax commission sent a mass email asking to double check the reports. There was a change of info. to Holmes Township, Agricultural/Residential classes of \$45 because of rounding issues. This makes it necessary for the board to approve the corrected L4024 report prior to May 22, 2009. This will be brought before the board at the Special meeting on May 13th, 2009.
- d. **Per Diems/Expenses:** Based on discussion, Com. Anderson recommends to place this on the next County Board agenda to approve the commissioner's per diems/expenses as paid.
- e. **Miscellaneous Bills:** Based on discussion, Administration will recommend to place the Misc. Bills in the amount of \$101,182.23 on the next County Board agenda to approve as paid.

Other Items Members may wish to present: June's County Board Meeting will be held at Pinecrest in Powers this year. That will give the commissioners a chance to see the new satellite Sheriff's office at Pinecrest. There was a question asked about who is responsible for locking down the courthouse after meetings, etc. Com. Eichhorn states, Sherry will be here to lock down and if she's not then she will contact me.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: John Anderson – Asks that the City of Menominee not be allowed to participate with the townships at the meeting on June 11th.

Adjournment: Moved by Comm. Anderson, supported by Comm. Peterson to adjourn this meeting at 7:55 pm. Motion carried, 5-0.