

March 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

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Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioner’s Room and via zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Patti Peretto, Commissioners Jacob Conery, Jeff Ofsdahl, Mike Stafford and Mark Stauber.

Also present either in person or via zoom: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Friend of the Court Jesse Ammerman, Judge Donald Powell, Jen Ricker-Feak from Soil & Conservation, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve the February 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 12, 2021, Executive Session Minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the agenda, with two additions: 1) under New Business, item g: State Fair Board appointment; and, 2) a presentation by Lt. Paul Campbell, Task Force Commander of UPSET. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment regarding agenda items only three times, with no comments voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the monthly payables for February in the amount of \$908,648.46, and payroll for February in the amount of \$226,701.18.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve journal entries 16119 through 16216 for February in the amount of \$5,157,831.60, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 2 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$3,700.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Conery: None

Ofsdahl: Attended an ICECA meeting and Road Commission meeting. Ofsdahl gave updates on the new board members for the ICECA. The Road Commission discussed the Drain Commissioner, now being the responsibility of the Road Commission and not an elected position, and Ofsdahl had questions on the county’s role in assisting/funding.

Peretto: Attended a Fair Board Meeting and it was nice to see people at the meeting. The Fair is on and they are also planning on having a mud run.

Stafford: Attended a Health Department meeting and said that there is a article in John Hopkins that there will be herd immunity in reference to COVID-19 by April and that is good news.

Stauber: Attended an Upward Talent Council Meeting and that there are lots of programs with extra money this year to help people with childcare, healthcare, etc. Also, there are training funds that employers can apply for.

Department Reports:

Civil Counsel Tinti said he will be filing a case with the Court of Claims regarding the Indian Lake special assessment.

ICECA Director Mark Bromley gave an update on the ICECA board members and had questions on future funding from the County Board.

Prosecutor Powell reported that she had advertised the full-time Assistant Prosecutor position in various places, with no applicants. She is concerned about the child support/paternity part of the position that the full-time Assistant Prosecutor would be doing, as no one is doing this at this time. She also talked about the jury trials that are scheduled right now, and how her office staff will be stretched during those trials. There will not be anyone in the office to cover. She thinks the pay and/or location is the reason why no one is applying and may have to revisit the pay scale.

Treasurer Camps reported that March is the busiest month on her office, with tax collection and foreclosure notices. She gave an update on the number of pending foreclosures.

Jen Ricker-Feak from the Iron Baraga Conservation District thanked the Board for the appropriation check.

No other Department Reports were given.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the Commissioner Reports and the Department Head Reports. Voice vote, motion carried.

Lt. Paul Campbell, the Task Force Commander for UPSET, first thanked the Board for its financial support. He gave a brief overview of what they do and the number of cases. He said it's important to have continued support for the services provided.

Prosecutor Powell reiterated the important work that UPSET does.

Old Business:

The appointment of the at-large member to the 911 Advisory Board was discussed. Ofsdahl said all four applicants were good. Stafford said he would like to see someone from the East side appointed, as he didn't feel there was any representation from the East side. After reviewing the four applicants, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to appoint Michael McCarthy (City of Crystal Falls Mayor) to the 911 Advisory Board for a one-year term, expiring on 12/31/2021. Voice vote, motion carried.

The Central Dispatch Director appointment was discussed. The position would be a Director/Dispatcher salary position. Sheriff Valesano and Jones spoke in support of appointing Ashley Schmidt. Schmidt currently works as the lead dispatcher. It was then moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to appoint Ashley Schmidt as the Central Dispatch Director.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Central Dispatch Director compensation was discussed at length. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, that the Central Dispatch Director salary be \$48,000.00 for the first year, with \$2,000.00 additional per year, for two years, pending a successful review by the 911 Advisory Board and recommendation to the County Board.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: Conery

Motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to authorize the execution of the Northstar Employee Assistance Program Services Agreement effective 3/10/21.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

After Attorney Abbey Anderson gave a brief overview of the three Indigent Defense Contracts, it was moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to approve the three contracts: 1) Indigent Defense Contract; 2) Indigent Defense Conflict Counsel Manager Contract; and, 3) Indigent Defense Conflict Counsel Contract, as presented.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to authorize the advertising for the Juvenile Register/Deputy District Court Clerk (19 hours a week) and the Chief Juvenile Officer (18.75 hours a week).

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

New Business:

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the budget amendment request Lac Vieux Desert/UPSET pass through funds to increase revenue line 101-000-530.00 by \$15,000 and increase expense line 101-806-934.000 by \$15,000.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the budget amendment request of \$5,000.00 from the plat book fund for the Phone System Expenses.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the Iron Baraga Conservation District Gravel Permit Revision.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Ofsdahl, supported by Stauber, to release the RFP for Plat Book Publication, with the deletion of the last sentence on page 5. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to approve the Pentoga Park 2021 Camping Rates. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to authorize the Chairperson to execute the Iron County Central Dispatch Resolution in support of local decision making on 911 fees. Voice vote, motion carried.

In order for better communication from department heads to the maintenance staff in regard to what needs to be done in and around the courthouse, a ticket system with regard to maintenance issues will be implemented so the maintenance staff could address the concerns. It was then moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to approve the Maintenance Work Order. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to appoint Tim Aho to the State Fair Board, for a two year term, expiring 12/31/2022. Voice vote, motion carried.

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Peretto called for public comment.

Dave Frailing wanted to welcome and thank the new board members.

Adam Stender had a question on the Indian Lake Special Assessment.

Peretto called for public comment two more times, with no further comments voiced.

Announcements:

The Courthouse will be closed on Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday.

The next meeting for the Board of Commissioners is Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle