

March 17, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

T-479

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Patti Peretto, Commissioners Tim Aho, Ray Coates, Sharon Leonoff and Mike Stafford.

Also present: Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Powell, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jesse Ammerman, Sheriff Mark Valesano, Judge Donald S. Powell, Administrative Assistants Lynette Lorenz and Mary Dalpra, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Deputy Clerk Anders Ahlberg, Chamber Alliance Executive Director Paul Schuytema, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the February 11, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes and the February 19, 2020, Special Meeting minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the agenda with two changes: item a (MSU Extension Tourism Presentation) is taken off and Item o (Local State of Emergency) is added. Voice vote, motion carried.

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment three times. No comments voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve the monthly payables in the amount of \$1,110,461.37, and payroll in the amount of \$249,066.53. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve journal entries in the amount of \$6,959,253.78 submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps and administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$125,850.00. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Aho: no report at this time.

Coates: no report at this time.

Leonoff: no report at this time.

Stafford: no report at this time.

Peretto: no report at this time.

Department Reports:

Mary Dalpra wanted to convey to the board thanks on behalf of Jaclyn Hollars from Communities That Care. Jaclyn can't make the meetings but wanted to send her thanks and appreciation for the substance abuse grant.

Prosecutor Powell introduced Jesse Ammerman, the new Assistant Prosecuting Attorney she hired.

Sheriff Valesano said his office has initiated measures to keep his staff and inmates safe and healthy. The lobby at the Sheriff's Department is closed and went on to read the press release he put out today. He said everyone needs to make their workplace as safe as we can during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Clerk/Register Kezerle reported that her two election inspector classes she taught in February had a good turnout. She also said the Presidential Primary held last week passed all three county proposals and had a voter turnout of 27.39%.

Chamber Alliance Executive Director Schuytema gave updates and an overview on what they are working on.

Treasurer Camps stated she received all twelve tax rolls for the 2019 delinquent taxes and gave an update on the foreclosures and forfeitures.

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

Old Business:

The Rules of Order Amendments were discussed and just a few minor changes will be made and brought back to the board at the next regular meeting for approval.

New Business:

Marti Wegner from the Census explained the process to become a census taker. They pay \$21.00 per hour plus .58 per mile. They need people. She also said how important it is to be counted. Funding from the federal government and businesses rely on census data.

Judge Powell spoke regarding the 41st Security Committee. The Supreme Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has required the Chief Judge in every county to form a Security Committee. A Committee was formed in 2019 and was made up by himself, the District Court Clerk, the Probate Registrar, the Prosecutor, the Sheriff's Department (including Vernon Jones), one Board Member, the Circuit Court Clerk/Register of Deeds and the Treasurer. They came up with three options. He estimates that a grant would cover 30-50% of the expense and the rest would come from us. He has no idea how much each option would cost. He would need money to hire someone to give an estimate of how much each option would cost. He's not expecting a decision today, but hoping by September a decision could be made.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to authorize the Chairperson to execute the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission fiscal year 2020 grant contract. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Judge Powell discussed and explained the Iron County Trial Court Public Defender Agreements. One is for Attorney Daryl Waters and one is for Attorney Caleb Tarsi. Mr. Waters would be paid \$1,000.00 for January 2020, and then at a rate of \$1,500.00 per month for February 2020, through December 31, 2020. Mr. Tarsi would be paid \$1,000.00 for January 2020, and then at a rate of \$1,500 per month for February 2020, through June 30, 2020, and then at that time decide if he would like to continue as a public defender for the remainder of the year. In order for the board to have more time to look at the agreements, it was moved by Aho, supported by Stafford, to pay Daryl Waters and Caleb Tarsi \$1,000.00 each for January 2020, and \$1,500.00 each for February, March and April 2020, and authorize Chairperson Peretto to execute such agreement. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the budget amendment for the wage and benefit lines request for Sheriff Department Deputy and re-evaluate the Work Van Supervisor position. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff, to appoint Nancy Pasternak and Tom Korpi to the Northpointe Board for three year terms beginning April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2023. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to appoint Georgianna Tomasoski to the Authority on Aging Board for a three year term beginning January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2022. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to approve the 2020 Camp Batawagama rates (\$110.00 per week in county and \$280.00 per week out of county) and the 2020 Band Camp rates (\$130.00 per week in county and \$290.00 per week out of county). Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Vernon Jones spoke about House Bill No. 4249 which mandates all buildings be equipped with a telephone system that is universal emergency 9-1-1. He just wants the board to be aware for future budget purposes.

Elected Office Salaries for terms beginning 2021 was discussed. The option of a wage scale for new persons elected was discussed with incumbents being re-elected staying at current wage. Tinti stated we need to set the wage before the deadline for the primary. He also stated that you cannot decrease a salary while in a term. Stafford said he's not concerned with incumbents but if someone new comes into the position. Tinti said the wage should be set for responsibility, not personality. Sheriff Valesano strongly disagrees with setting up pay scales. He said responsibility is huge and would discourage someone internally from running. After much discussion, it was tabled.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to transfer \$5,000.00 from the Invasive Species beginning balance to increase the Invasive Species contract services line. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Stafford, to transfer \$10,000.00 from fund balance to Central Dispatch for 2019. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Paul Schuytema spoke regarding the Iron County website and just asking for some guidance. Commissioner Stafford stated he would be the point person along with Mary Dalpra.

The 2020 Revised Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for Iron County was explained by Gary Pisoni, the County Representative. It was moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to accept the plan as presented and to authorize the Chairperson to execute the document. Voice vote, motion carried.

After discussion regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, it was moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff, to authorize the Iron County Board of Commissioners Declaration of a Local State of Emergency. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to implement the Iron County Courthouse to Restricted Access to the Public starting March 18, 2020, through April 14, 2020. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment:

There were questions posed by courthouse employees regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and staggering workers and if they were sent home, would they have to use their PTO? The board said they would have to use their PTO according to the Building Closures SOPP.

Peretto asked for public comment two more times. No more comments voiced.

Announcements:

Bill Casagrande has been selected to fill the Drain Commissioner appointment effective March 1, 2020, through the remainder of the term to December 31, 2020.

The courthouse will be closed on Friday, April 10, 2020, in observance of Good Friday.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle