

On Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., Chairman Tim Aho called the special 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: Commissioners Ray Coates, Jim Brennan and Chairman Tim Aho. Leonoff delayed, Peretto excused absence.

Also present: Administrator Gene Smith, Sheriff Mark Valesano, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Joetta Greig.

Aho called for public comment, three times, regarding agenda items only. No comments voiced.

New Business

Discussion and possible action regarding consideration to join in statewide lawsuit against drug manufacturers over the opioid crisis.

By teleconference, Attorney Tim Smith from Smith & Johnson, Attorneys, P.C. Law Firm explained the opioid crisis, the nature of the lawsuit and what the benefit would be to Iron County. Opioids can be illegal, synthetic, prescription pain relievers and many others. The drugs are being misrepresented. The lawsuit would be against opioid manufacturers, opioid distributors, pharmacies and eventually doctors. The hope is to reimburse the county for past and present expenses associated opioid use. Smith also assured the county there will be no fee if the lawsuit is unsuccessful.

Sheriff Valesano added the county would be remiss not to get involved.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan for:

- 1) The county to engage Smith & Johnson Law Firm for representation in filing opioid litigation.
- 2) Chair and the Clerk are authorized to execute a contingency fee agreement.
- 3) The county seeks damages for past and future losses because of products.

Roll call vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried. Absent: Peretto.

Aho called for public comment. Treasurer Camps commended the county board for going ahead with the lawsuit. No further comments voiced.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates to adjourn, all in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Chairperson Tim Aho

Clerk/Register Joetta Greig