

**May 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting**

**U-40**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 3:00 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, Undersheriff Ryan Boehmke, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Friend of the Court Jesse Ammerman, Legal Secretary Sara Starr, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the April 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 29, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes (and closed session minutes). Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the agenda, with one addition: 1) under New Business, item m: Iron County Trail Club proposed trail reroute. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment (regarding agenda items only).

Sara Starr spoke with regard to agenda item g (FFCRA COVID Pay) asking the board to extend the FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act).

Attorney Daryl Waters spoke with regard to agenda item e (EDC loan, Cornerstone Group LLC Notice of Default). He stated he would like to negotiate and come to some sort of resolution with the board.

Peretto called for public comment (regarding agenda items only) two more times, with no further comments voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve the monthly payables for April in the amount of \$1,542,829.19, and payroll for April in the amount of \$227,835.48.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve journal entries 16320 through 16441 for April in the amount of \$6,948,541.25, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 5 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$70,389.00.

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

Motion carried.

**Commissioner Reports:**

Conery: None

Ofsdahl: He met with Jacob Conery and Pentoga Park Manager Chris West at the Park and went over a list of things to be discussed with the board at a later date.

Peretto: Went to a WUPPDR meeting. They talked about the CARES Act and how to use the monies. There will be a DICSAs meeting this Thursday. She also re-iterated that the Iron County Fair is going forward.

Stafford: Received a follow-up quote from Coleman Engineering with regard to GIS addressing and it looks like it would be within the budget limits but will be meeting with municipalities to obtain more information.

Stauber: Attended a MAC meeting by zoom and there was discussion regarding guidelines on using the rescue monies, the economy and workforce issues.

**Department Reports:**

Administrative Assistant Dalpra said that Forester Brock VanOss will be releasing bids on a timber sale and will update the board as information is available.

Equalization Director Marinoff gave an update on the estimated monies from allocated taxes and the millage reductions.

ICECA Director Mark Bromley reported that the American Rescue Plan Act guidelines came out.

Treasurer Camps gave an update on the delinquent tax settlements (reports were attached in the board packet binders). She also mentioned that the auditors will be coming the week of May 24<sup>th</sup> and emailed the department heads who would need to get any data ready for the auditors.

No other Department Reports were given.

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

**Old Business:**

Moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to approved the revised Many Waters Contract for Services.

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

Motion carried.

After some discussion, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the Agreement Between Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Inc. and County of Iron for Advanced Life Support Ambulance Services, create an invoice from the County of Iron to Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Inc. for \$5,230.00 (the cost of prior ambulance garage design services) and to direct the Clerk and Chairperson to sign the necessary documents.

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

Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to approve the Amendment to the County of Iron's Standard Operating Policy & Procedure (SOPP) dated May 11, 2021.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to enter into a Sourcewell Procurement Agreement for Boiler/HVAC Replacement Project with Johnson Controls contingent upon Johnson Controls' word that such expenses are permitted and authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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

Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by AEG, an Atlanta based company, with regard to the UP broadband expansion. James Salter of AEG appeared by zoom. He introduced himself to the board. They will be building 6,000 miles of fiber optic cable for Iron County and hope to be doing so in the next three years. This is for rural areas and would get internet to the people faster. This would be a huge economic development opportunity for Iron County. He didn't have any exact pricing yet, but said there would be different tiers. He would like to hire locally if there's talent, or he would be bringing in his own crew. He is hoping to start in late 2022, possibly sooner. He thanked the board and said he appreciated the opportunity to meet them.

ICECA (Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance) presentation and funding request was presented by Director Mark Bromley and ICECA President Katie Clark. They are requesting the board to approve a funding proposal of \$36,000 for the time period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. They are proposing to invoice the County for \$9,000 on July 1, 2021, October 1, 2021, January 1, 2022 and April 1, 2022. Clark said they are seeing new businesses coming and if this isn't here, what can we offer new businesses. Bromley said the ICECA will continue to provide county-wide economic development services in accordance with the ICECA Road Map (which was attached to the board packet binders) and will continue with reports to the board and will obtain additional funding efforts.

Stafford said he would like to see what initiatives the ICECA is focusing on this year. Bromley said they are first focusing on supporting local businesses and helping them with grant opportunities. They are also focusing on workforce development and housing. Bromley said it's hard to put out a long-term plan. Stafford said he understands things are going to change, but would like more detail (focuses). Ofsdahl had questions on the road map also regarding re-open strategies for businesses. Conery said businesses should pay for the services and asked if a millage would be an option. Bromley said the county would have to put the millage on. Bromley also said they recently hired Zach Hautala as the new Director and is in the process of mentoring him. Stafford said he appreciates the good job the ICECA is doing. Stauber said he would like to help but not sure how much we can. Bromley said the municipalities are waiting to see if the County will support them before they commit. Peretto said that the board does their budget in August or September and may be able to do something then, not sure \$36,000. Ofsdahl said the ICECA needs funding and we need to look at finding money. We need to support it. People in the County are looking at us. Peretto said we will look over our budget. Tinti said we can't fund them directly. Since January 2020, we have not funded them at all. The contract expired 12/31/2019. The County contracted services with ICECA for \$10,000 in 2019, and that was only for one year. That expired. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken and further discussion and budget options will be looked at by the board during the budget process.

The EDC Loan for Cornerstone Business Group, LLC Notice of Default was the next on the agenda. After discussion, it was moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, that Cornerstone Business Group LLC has thirty (30) days from today to show arguing documents or pay the full amount due on the loan as of the date it is paid, or the County will pursue legal action.

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

Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the labor counsel services retained by Steven Girard. Attorney Girard has been the County's labor attorney at the law firm of Clark Hill. Attorney Girard has withdrawn from Clark Hill and will be joining the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd, effective May 17, 2021. There were two options presented at the meeting: Option #1: the County of Iron could choose to keep its' matters at the firm of Clark Hill; or, Option #2: Choose to retain and all have relevant files transferred to Warner Norcorss & Judd (and keep Attorney Girard as labor counsel) and to terminate the attorney-client relationship with Clark Hill as to all matters, or matters listed on an attached schedule, and keep other matters at Clark Hill. It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber to choose Option #2 as to "all matters".

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

Motion carried.

FFCRA COVID Pay was put on the agenda due to two employees recently having to use their PTO because of having to quarantine due to being exposed to COVID. The County's FFCRA expired on 12/31/20. After some discussion, it was moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to not pay employees if they are out for a COVID related quarantine or diagnosis and amend the emergency plan as such.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to not pay the Michigan County Social Services Association Dues.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the Subordination of Mortgage Agreement for James and Adelle Ashcraft and authorize the Chairperson and Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Ofsdahl, supported by Conery, to approve the Proclamations Acknowledging May 9th – 15th, 2021 Michigan Public Health Week and Designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Ofsdahl, supported by Conery, to approve the City of Crystal Falls Electrical Utility Easement Request and the Agreement designating Craig Jestila, Iron County Medical Care Facility Director, to execute the Easements document dated February 9, 2021, on behalf of the County of Iron, with Iron County as Grantor and the Grantee being Great Lakes Transmission Limited Partnership, and authorizing the Clerk and Chairperson to execute the two documents. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the Sheriff's Department Budget Amendment for Marine and Park Patrol Grants as presented at the meeting.

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

Motion carried.

The next item was the Iron County Trail Club proposed trail reroute. What is being requested is permission to clear and install this trail on properties belonging to the County of Iron. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to direct civil counsel Tinti to look at the deeds of record, determine if there are any legal restrictions on usage, and authorize the Clerk and Chairperson to execute the necessary documents prepared by civil counsel. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for public comment.

Dave Frailing had questions on the Medicare meetings.

Paul Putnam, District Director of MSU Extension, introduced himself to the new board members. He also announced that MSU Extension Coordinator Deb Divoky will be retiring in June and would like to get on the agenda next month. He thanked the board for their continued support.

Lynette Lorenz said employees got a bonus not a raise last year and said that county employees might not support giving money to ICECA.

Conery asked if a COVID positive test would qualify for worker's comp.

Margee Brennan spoke in support of funding for ICECA.

Sheriff Valesano voiced his disagreement with the COVID pay motion. One of the employees affected is a Sheriff's Deputy who was giving CPR on someone who tested positive for COVID. That Sheriff's Deputy had to quarantine and use his own PTO.

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

**May 11, 2021, Regular Meeting continued**

**U-44**

**Announcements:**

The next meeting for the Board of Commissioners is Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Conery, supported by Ofsdahl, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle