

June 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

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Tuesday, June 8, 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, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Friend of the Court Jesse Ammerman, Prosecuting Attorney Chad DeRouin, Emergency Manager Vernon Jones, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti, Deputy Clerk Amy Donati and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the May 11, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to approve the agenda, with two additions: 1) under New Business, item k: Server for the Courthouse; 2) under New Business, item l: Housing Commission – Sale of Asses; and, moving Old Business, item a: Cornerstone Group LLC, RLF loan status into Closed Session. Voice vote, motion carried.

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

Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the monthly payables for May in the amount of \$1,205,831.66, and payroll for May in the amount of \$228,927.70.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve journal entries 16442 through 16497 for May in the amount of \$193,388.63, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 2 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$5,363.11.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Conery: None

Ofsdahl: Reported that he and Commissioner Stafford met with ICECA to continue working on a path to funding for 2022 and will present a plan at the July meeting.

Peretto: None.

Stafford: Met with all of the municipalities with regard to GIS addressing.

Stauber: Attended a Health Department meeting and they talked about the number of people vaccinated and boosters, etc. Also in a past County Board meeting there was talk about helping the restaurant businesses with license fees, etc. but with the businesses now being granted rescue monies, it will not be an issue.

Department Reports:

Administrative Assistant Dalpra said the Covenant Deed for Aspirus will be recorded this week. She also said she heard from an Iron County pilot who was thrilled to hear that there will be improvements to the runway at the Iron County Airport and the huge economic impact this will have.

Clerk Kezerle announced that she filled the Accounting Clerk position in her office and that Toni Aldegarie will be starting on June 23, 2021.

Dave Frailing gave a report on the Fair. It is still going and the raffle books are out. The raffle tickets are selling fantastic and they are hoping to raise \$12,000 this year. Also gave an update on the horse barn.

Friend of the Court Ammerman gave an update on extending the reimbursement contract for the next two years and will provide more details in the future.

Mark Bromley from ICECA introduced the new Director, Zach Hautala and gave updates on restaurant grants. He also wanted to remind everyone that they meet every 3rd Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and they rotate their meetings at the Iron River City Hall and Crystal Falls City Hall.

Dan Hinch of the Parks and Recreation Committee reported that they had a meeting on May 26th and they are working on a 5 year recreation plan. He also thanked the members on the commission.

The new Prosecuting Attorney Chad DeRouin, who appeared via zoom, introduced himself to the Board. He was sworn in by Judge Barglind on May 28th. He will be moving to Iron County this weekend and looks forward to meeting everyone in person.

Sheriff Valesano reported that he has still not filled the Deputy Sheriff position. He said other departments in the area are offering incentives, such as sign-on bonuses, to attract any possible candidates and that he may have to bring this issue back to the board. Stauber asked where he has advertised. Sheriff reported that it has been in the paper and on the MCOLES website where anyone can see it.

Treasurer Camps gave an update on the audit and said the auditors were here for 1 ½ days. In previous years it used to take weeks and be very tedious. She credits our software and thanked the board for the software.

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.

New Business:

Forester Brock VanOss presented the Board with three timber sale bids. After discussion, it was moved by Stauber, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the Tigerton Lumber Company bid in the amount of \$100,442.00.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve the Budget Amendment to establish Parks & Recreation Commission budget for 2021, in the amount of \$5,000.00, with \$2,500.00 coming out of the Forestry Fund and \$2,500.00 coming out of the Parks Fund.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to approve the release and RFP for the development of the County's 5 year recreation plan. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, seconded by Conery, to approve Judge Powell's recommendation that Edward Bonk be appointed to the Iron County Jury Board for a three year term. Voice vote, motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Stambaugh Airport blacktop grant through MDOT. A grant of \$9,590.00 was given to seal pavement joints and markings at the Stambaugh Airport. It was then moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation/ Iron County Board of Commissioners Contract for a State/Local Airport Project, and authorize the Chairperson and Clerk to execute the contract.

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

Motion carried.

Rockford Map Publishers has requested a photo for use on the cover of the new plat book being published. It was presented that a photo contest might be a good way to obtain a cover photo. It was moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the plat book cover photo contest with the contest to be advertised and June 30th being the deadline to submit the photo. The prize for the winning photo will be a free plat book. Voice vote, motion carried.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was next on the agenda. The County has received the first half of the monies. Peretto proposed that a small committee be formed consisting of the Chairperson, Finance Chairperson, Treasurer, Sheriff, Civil Counsel Tinti and Administrative Assistant Lynette Lorenz. The first meeting of the committee will be held on June 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse. A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will also be held on June 28, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the CDBG Subordination Agreement for Tony Arcand and authorize the Chairperson and Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to lift the Iron County State of Emergency.

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

Motion carried.

Discussion was had with regard to a County Plumbing Inspector. Conery said we don't have one and delays are happening. We could partner with Dickinson County. Ofsdahl said it would be hard to find someone to do it and partnering with Dickinson County would be great. Stafford suggested that Ofsdahl and Conery do research and present options at the next board meeting.

The Server for the Courthouse was discussed and the need for a new one. The Sheriff's Department RMS is constantly crashing and the Register of Deeds server needs to be replaced. Stafford said a single server that could host multiple departments is a good idea and that the cost is eligible to come out the ARPA money. It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve the VM Host Server Solution quote from 906 Technologies in the amount of \$60,338.84 (which includes installation) and take the money out of the ARPA funds.

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

Motion carried.

The Iron County Housing Commission Sale of Assets was discussed. Civil Counsel Tinti gave a history and recommended to the Board not to sign anything until liability is covered and there is a complete plan to make whole all pension obligations. Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, that the Iron County Board of Commissioners goes on record that it will not execute any sale of assets without all pension obligations fully covered.

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

Motion carried.

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Peretto called for public comment.

Jim Yates from MSU Extension Outreach talked about SNAP benefits and lack of enrollment by Veterans due to stigma and/or lack of knowledge and asked the board to help promote this.

Mark Pontti, who is the community ambassador for Enbridge, introduced himself to the board and thanked the board for its support to Line 5.

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

At 5:11 p.m., it was moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to go into Closed Session to discuss the Cornerstone Group, LLC, RLF loan status.

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

Motion carried.

At 5:32 p.m., it was moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to go into Open Session.

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

Motion carried.

Announcements:

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

There will be a Special Meeting for the Board of Commissioners on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle