

July 14, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

T-491

On Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioner’s Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Patti Peretto, Commissioners Sharon Leonoff and Mike Stafford. Absent: Commissioners Tim Aho and Ray Coates.

Also present: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, Drain Commissioner Bill Casagrande, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Friend of the Court Caseworker, Leah Antilla, Fair Board Member Dave Frailing, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the June 9, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes, with one change, adding the journal entry numbers that were approved. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the agenda as submitted. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items Only.

MedEvac Operation Manager for Aspirus Hospitals Bob Kirkley spoke regarding the Advanced Life Support Ambulance Maintenance Millage. There was discussion on increasing the millage amount verses just keeping the amount the same. Tinti said that if the amount was increased, it would be considered a “new millage” and not a “renewal”.

Peretto called for public comment two more times and no more comments were voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the monthly payables for June in the amount of \$538,400.03, and payroll for June in the amount of \$247,070.64.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve journal entries 15319 through 15399 for June in the amount of \$3,648,851.78, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 7 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$166,434.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Leonoff, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Aho: absent.

Coates: absent.

Leonoff stated she would like to call a Personnel Committee Meeting this week regarding a concise COVID policy and procedures. A date will be discussed and determined.

Stafford gave an update on the ICECA. The ICECA is currently taking applications for Executive Director, since Paul Schuytema, the former Executive Director, resigned. Erica Sauter, Interim Executive Director, also left the ICECA to take a job as the Director of the Museum.

Peretto: Gave an update regarding the Iron County Medical Care Facility. She stated that the Iron County Medical Care Facility did hire an Administrator to take over. She stated that the current Administrator, Chester Pintarelli, is retiring.

Department Reports:

Emergency Manager/911 Director Jones wanted to remind the commissioners that there is a 911 meeting on July 22, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the Caspian City Hall. The topic of discussion will be regarding the 911 millage that is on the August ballot. He said that he and the Sheriff went to a Crystal Falls City Council meeting last night to spread the word regarding the 911 millage. He also wanted to say that he hopes the county will go after the \$1,000 hazard pay for first responders. It is on tonight's agenda. He talked about the county's cases of Covid-19, we have 8 confirmed Covid cases, 5 of which are active, 2 have recovered and 1 death.

Drain Commissioner Bill Casagrande gave an update on the lake levels. He said that the lake levels are set at Sunset, Stager and Fortune Lake. The dams are open. With all of the recent heavy rain, the water is high. He said that Bates Township passed a motion to help with funds to fix the Sunset Lake dam and it will be a cooperative effort.

Equalization Director Amy Marinoff spoke regarding a designated assessor. Iron County and the local units have to choose one by December 31st and it's for a five year term. Hopefully, we will never have to use them because there are other options. A designated assessor would step in if a local assessor fails their AMAR review and also fails to make the corrections by the follow up review. The local unit would be responsible for the cost, if they needed to use the designated assessor. Mike Stafford volunteered to join the committee that will be created with the local supervisors and managers and Equalization Director to choose the designated assessor.

Dave Frailing gave an update on the Fair that was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and trying to figure out what to do with the livestock auction. He said they also are looking at still holding the Demo Derby, possibly some weekend in August.

Paul Putnam, District Director of MSU Extension, gave an overview of all of their programs. They are still doing a lot of work and have some on-line programs.

Prosecutor Powell said they received a \$12,000 Covid grant. She stated that there are currently a lot of jury trials scheduled in September and they will be busy and the grant funds could be used to pay for the cost of the trials and/or the extra work load.

Sheriff Valesano announced that Deputy George Pond will be retiring at the end of July and said that he has been a great asset to his team and wishes him well in his retirement. He also stated that his department has received a \$25,000 Covid grant and is hoping to take advantage of that. He said that Aspen Powell, who has been a work study student, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and that only five awards were handed out in the whole State of Michigan. The Sheriff also wanted to express his support for the 911 millage and how important it is to have local people dispatch and keep the jobs local also.

Treasurer Camps gave an update on the foreclosures. Due to the Covid pandemic the foreclosures have been moved several times and as soon as she knows of a more definite date, she will let us know.

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

Old Business:

After discussion on whether or not to fill the position in the County Clerk's office that was vacant due to Tara Peterson leaving employment as a Deputy Clerk in the County Clerk's office, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve the budget for a full-time Accounting Clerk in the County Clerk's office and for the County Clerk to fill the position.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Peretto

Nays: Leonoff

Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the amended grant document for the Iron County Remonumentation Grant. Voice vote, motion carried.

New Business:

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the 9 budget amendments as presented to allow for changes in insurance: Prosecutor \$7846; Dispatch \$17697; and, FOC \$22355.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the millage renewal request for the Iron County Road Commission Millage for the November 3, 2020, General Election.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Leonoff, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff to table the Senior Citizen Centers Millage to the August 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. After discussion, Leonoff rescinded the motion, as she meant to table the meals on wheels millage, not this one.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the Senior Citizen Centers Millage renewal language for the November 3, 2020, General Election.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to table the Service Provider of Meals on Wheels Millage request to the August 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the Ambulance Service Millage renewal language of .15 mills for four years for the November 3, 2020, General Election.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Leonoff, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to pay the 2020 dues of \$350.00 for the U.P. Resource Conservation & Development Council and approve Jen Ricker-Feak as the County's Appointee.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Discussion regarding 906 Technologies to upgrade the infrastructure in the courthouse and approval of the new telephone system for the courthouse complex was had. Stafford said it won't hurt the general fund. Stafford said that we do have a contract with Telnet until April of next year and wondered how much it would cost to break that contract. Administrative Assistant Dalpra said she thinks we can opt-out with a 30 day notice without penalty. It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the quotes from 906 Technologies and approve the new telephone systems and get it going with the stipulation of determining how much it would cost to break contract with Telnet.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Leonoff, Peretto
Nays: None
Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Smarthorizons Premier Responder Software in the amount of \$13,110.00, and budget amendments and journal entries as presented, and authorize Vernon Jones, as Central Dispatch Director, to execute the documents to purchase the software, associated installation, training and enter into the license agreement with Smarthorizons.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto

Nays: None

Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to authorize the Chairperson and County Clerk to execute the CDBG Grant Homeowner Subordination Agreement as presented to the Board.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Leonoff, Peretto

Nays: None

Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

The First Responder Bonus (Bill No. 0690) was discussed. It is a bonus of \$1,000 for the first responders. The county has 25 employees eligible for this. Sheriff Valesano voiced his support of the bonus and said he would opt-out of getting his personally. The county would have to come up with the money and then it would get reimbursed by the state. There were questions of what if we don't get reimbursed? It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to table this item until the August 11, 2020, Regular Board meeting in order to calculate the cost and where the money would come from and also when we have the full board back. Voice vote, motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the budget approval for Child Support Clerk Position in the Prosecutor's office that was held by Kathleen Gill. Ms. Gill recently retired and this is a union position of 25 hour per week job. Prosecutor Powell stated that her Assistant Prosecutor, Jesse Ammerman, works 20 hours per week now, and would be willing to take this job on at 17.5 hours per week. This would need to be worked out with the union. It was then moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to authorize Powell to move forward with negotiations with the union and bring a proposed agreement to the board at the August 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto

Nays: None

Absent: Aho, Coates

Motion carried.

The request for proposals for audit services was discussed. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to authorize Administrative Assistant Dalpra to put the request in the Daily News, Reporter and on the ironmi.org website and that responses be received in the Administration Office by Mary Dalpra and/or Lynette Lorenz. Voice vote, motion carried.

Discussion to amend the Preparedness & Response Plan was had due to the recent outbreak of Covid cases across the United States. It was moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to amend the plan to no domestic travel to high risk states. Vernon Jones said who determines what constitutes high-risk states? We need to be more specific. Leonoff then rescinded her motion and this will be discussed in-depth at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

Public Comment:

Sheriff Valesano stated he forgot to mention when he announced Deputy Pond's retirement that he will not hire anyone as of yet and will re-visit the hiring of a new deputy in the fall.

Mylynn Trulock from the Dickinson-Iron Medical Access Coalition, a non-profit organization, spoke about wanting to put a millage on the November ballot. She will be put on the August 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Frailing said that the sound was much better in the board room.

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

Announcements:

There will be free COVID testing at the east side of Forest Park Schools on Saturday, July 25, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will also be free COVID testing at the Windsor Center on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting will be August 11, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. and it will be held upstairs in the Board of Commissioner's Room in the Courthouse Annex.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle