

August 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

T-497

Tuesday, August 11, 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 Tim Aho, Ray Coates, Sharon Leonoff and Mike Stafford.

Also present: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, 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 Shelby Foley, Accounting Clerk Leah Antilla, Probation Officer Amelia Arcand, Judge Powell, Asst. Prosecutor Jesse Ammerman, Fair Board Member Dave Frailing, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the July 14, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to approve the agenda, with an addition under New Business (j) Friend of the Court Staffing, and moving the Executive Session to New Business, item (k). Voice vote, motion carried.

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

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the monthly payables for July in the amount of \$425,117.66, and payroll for July in the amount of \$372,214.53.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve journal entries 15400 through 15488 for July in the amount of \$4,275,465.02, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 13 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$335,684.00.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

No Commissioner Reports.

Department Reports:

Emergency Manager/911 Director Jones gave an update on the Covid-19 cases. As of today, 675 cases have been reported in the Upper Peninsula, with only 20 of those being in Iron County. He stated that Iron County is doing a good job of social distancing. He said that the recent testing that was held at the Forest Park School had a good turnout and resulted in no positive cases. He also said that there were various donations of food and water for the event.

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle announced that she hired Leah Antilla who had worked in the Friend of the Court's office, as her new full-time Accounting Clerk in the Clerk's office and that she is doing very well and is a good fit for her office. She also said that the August 4th Primary had good voter turn-out with 30.53%, with over half of the ballots cast being through absentee.

Civil Counsel Steve Tinti gave an update on the *Rafaeli* Supreme Court case regarding the Michigan tax foreclosure process and how the impact of that case will affect the budgeting process in the future.

Equalization Director Amy Marinoff spoke regarding a designated assessor. She met with Commissioner Stafford and will be sending a letter to all of the local units to meet on August 27th. She also said that her office will be closed on Wednesdays, starting next week, so that they can go out and do their sales studies.

Dave Frailing gave an update on the Fair raffle. The raffle ticket sales raised over \$10,000, with a total profit of \$8,239.00 after expenses. The virtual animal auction that was held last week was fantastic.

Peretto stated that Treasurer Camps assisted running reports for the Friend of the Court and that the monies collected in July set a record.

Sheriff Valesano reported that they were allocated Covid supplemental funding just under \$26,000 and will use that money to keep the jail safe, cars clean and update the polycom so that they may continue to do arraignments and hearings from jail. Also, he said that Deputy Pond retired at the end of July and decided not to fill his position at this time, but will come back and ask to fill it later, as deemed necessary.

Treasurer Melanie Camps also wanted to reiterate what Tinti said in regard to the *Rafaeli* case and appreciated Mr. Tinti's help with this issue.

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

Old Business:

First Responder Bonus – Bill No. 690 was discussed. There are 36 people who are eligible for this \$1,000.00 bonus. It is reimbursed by the Department of Treasury, with the county portion for FICA being at a cost of \$2,601.00. It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, that we apply for this First Responder Bonus and decide where the \$2,601.00 will come from out of the budget at a later time.

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

Motion carried.

Child Support Clerk request for Budget was next on the agenda. Prosecutor Powell stated that her Assistant Prosecutor Jesse Ammerman, who works 20 hours per week as her Assistant Prosecutor now, would work the additional 17.50 hours per week at the union position of Child Support Clerk, with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union that this position would go back to 20 hours per week if he leaves this position. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to authorize this position and the budget amendment for the funding of the position, according to the union contract.

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

Motion carried.

New Business:

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to authorize the Chairperson and the County Clerk to execute the CDBG Subordination of Mortgage Agreement as presented to the board.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to approve the County Meals On Wheels Nutrition Program Millage language for the November 3, 2020, General Election.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to approve the County Healthcare Benefits Assistance Millage language for the November 3, 2020, General Election.

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

Motion carried.

August 11, 2020, Regular Meeting continued

T-499

The 2021 Budget Cycle was next on the agenda. Commissioner Stafford stated they will be looking at revenues in each department.

The Fair Board Association Contract was discussed. It was decided that this item would be put on the agenda in September so that it could be discussed further at the Fair Board's next meeting.

Moved by Coates, supported by Stafford, to approve the Letter of Support for the Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation Division's effort to acquire permanent, multi-use trail easements on Keweenaw Land Association's parcels in Iron County. Voice vote, motion carried.

Discussion was had regarding Employer Sponsored Life Insurance. No action was taken.

After discussion regarding the CDBG Program regarding reimbursement of Covid expenditures, it was moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff, to not move forward with the grant documents, as we have no projects to use it on. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to approve the Northcare Network FY21 Liquor Tax Funds requests in the amounts of \$4,640 and \$15,000, to be used as stated in the requests.

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

Motion carried.

Central Dispatch election results and the future of the department was discussed. 911 Director Jones stated that the millage passed overwhelmingly at last week's primary election. However, Gogebic County received a bid from the State substantially lower than what Iron County gave. We were ambushed by the State, as their bid for 2020 was \$125,835.00 and for 2021 it was \$68,232. Iron County's bid was \$120,000. The Board will have to make some hard decisions if Gogebic pulls out. Jones suggested to the board that they form a committee to brainstorm this on how to keep Central Dispatch here.

Friend of the Court staffing was next on the agenda. Caseworker Leah Antilla left the Friend of the Court's office about two weeks ago to work in the County Clerk's office and Heidi VanSlooten, the FOC department head, resigned as of August 7, 2020. Caseworker Shelby Foley is the only one currently working in the Friend of the Court's office. Judge Powell gave two different options and scenarios and the costs for those scenarios. The different options were: one full-time FOC and one full-time Caseworker; or, one part-time FOC and two full-time Caseworkers. The office had been currently running on one part-time FOC and two full-time Caseworkers. Peretto said it was running well that way and that we should implement a similar system. After further discussion, it was moved by Leonoff, supported by Aho, to post/advertise for a full-time caseworker pursuant to union guidelines and fund that position when hiring occurs, and to research the hiring of a part-time FOC, by reaching out to other county's FOC's to see if there is any interest in working in Iron County part-time.

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

Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Peretto called for public comment.

Robin Caron, the Controller at the Iron County Medical Care Facility spoke for informational purposes only to say that last week that they applied for a Covid Payroll Protection Program loan/grant. Originally they thought they were ineligible, but through a recent FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document learned County owned Medical Care Facilities are eligible. They applied and were approved. This will be forgiven as a loan and it will be grant funds. This is very good news for the facility.

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

August 11, 2020, Regular Meeting continued

T-500

Announcements:

The courthouse will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on September 8, 2020.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Aho, to go into executive session with labor counsel to discuss strategy and negotiation sessions in reaching a collective bargaining agreement. Voice vote, motion carried.

Clerk Kezerle voluntarily excused herself from the executive session and appointed Administrative Assistant Mary Dalpra to take minutes during the executive session and to continue to take the minutes for the adjournment of the meeting.

After the executive session was through, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Coates to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle