

On Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., Chairman Tim Aho called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Clerk Greig. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Commissioners James Brennan, Ray Coates, Sharon Leonoff, Patty Peretto, and Chairman Tim Aho.

Also present: Administrator Gene Smith, Administrative Assistant Mary Dalpra, Administrative Assistant Lynette Lorenz, Honorable C. Joseph Schwedler, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Sheriff Mark Valesano, Civil Counsel Steven Tinti, and Clerk/Register Joetta Greig.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Coates, to approve Minutes from the July 11, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, Supported by Leonoff to approve the Agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

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

Moved by Brennan, supported by Leonoff to approve the review of bills, journal entries 11393-11538 and budget amendments. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0.

Commissioner Reports

Brennan: Reported he recently had a discussion with the new Iron River Police Chief regarding the drug problem in Iron County. Brennan voiced concern regarding abandon mines in Iron County. He mentioned there has been interest in having a rustic park on county owned land near the Paint River Bridge on Bates-Amasa Road.

Coates: No Report at this time.

Leonoff: Reported the Humungus Fungus Fest went very well.

Peretto: Reported WUPPDR will be presenting awards at their annual dinner September 18th. Iron County Medical Care Facility broke ground for the new pavilion.

Aho: *Reported that in 2018, the Health Department will be leasing a building in Kingsford, this will be a cost savings to the taxpayers. *Delete sentence per correction in the Sept. 12, 2017 regular board meeting minutes.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates to approve Commissioners' Reports. Voice vote, motion carried.

Department Head Reports

Judge C. Joseph Schwedler gave an update on the Friend of the Court proposal. Sandy Demboski will be leaving August 31, 2017. Judge Schwedler reported the 41st Circuit Judges are discussing changes in the Iron County and Dickinson County Friend of the Court Offices.

Clerk/Register Greig reported all proposals on the August 8th election passed, with a very low voter turnout. Iron County has 9627 Registered Voters, there were 916 cards cast.

Civil Counsel Steve Tinti: No report at this time.

Sheriff Mark Valesano: No report at this time.

Treasurer Camps reported the county public auction will be held at the Watersmeet Casino, August 26, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. Central Time. Notices were sent to neighboring property owners of the foreclosed properties. Pictures of the thirty-one foreclosed properties are online.

Administrator Smith introduced Paul Schuytema, Executive Director of Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance. Paul gave a report on the Alliance and future plans for Iron County. The events planned should bring more people to Iron County.

Smith opened discussion on Cooks Run. He mentioned the Board of Commissioners will have to make a decision regarding the future of Cooks Run with Iron County. The State of Michigan deeded the property to Iron County with a reverter clause (should the county no longer want the property it would revert back to the state). Civil Counsel Steve Tinti explained different options the county may have, the process, and how to deed the property back to the state. Smith also spoke of the 2018 Budget Process. The Budget Process will not be the same this year. The budgets will be discussed at posted public meetings with a full board present.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Peretto to approve Department Head Reports. Voice vote, motion carried.

Old Business: No old business at this time.

New Business:

Moved by Brennan, supported Coates to approve the request made by Administrator Smith to revise Accounts Payable Policy and Procedure. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates to approve establishing wages so all non-union, appointed employees are treated in the same manner. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates to approve amending the 2017 Budget for:

1. Liability / Property / Casualty Insurance
2. Sheriff's Vehicles
3. Forest Management Fund

Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Administrator Smith and Board of Commissioners discussed the two proposals received for 2017, 2018, & 2019 audit services. Moved by Leonoff, supported by Peretto to table a decision for the September 12, 2017 meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported Leonoff to approve the 911 Surcharge Renewal Millage Language for the November 7, 2017 Election. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan to approve the Fair Board make a formal request for Iron County to help with repair and maintenance of the Iron County Fairgrounds. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates to approve the Northcare Network Liquor Tax Request of Funds, in the amount of \$7,170, with \$3,050 used for Dare Officer Training and \$4,120 used for Jail Substance Abuse Counseling. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Brennan to approve sending a letter of support to DISCA for UPCAP grant application. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Coates, supported by Peretto to approve the Annual Membership Renewal to Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership, at no cost to the county. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Peretto to approve CDBG Mortgage Assumption and Subordination, where Iron County will always secondary. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0.

Chairman Aho called for Public Comments:

Two people participated in public comment: The first was inquiring whether Iron County had a plan in place should there be any hate crimes or other attacks in Iron County. Sheriff Valesano reported there are different precautions in place and discussions are being held with several law enforcement agencies. Both participants discussed in detail the possibility of having a park on county owned primitive land past the Paint River Bridge on the Bates-Amasa Road. A suggestion was made that fallen timbers be used to build structures with volunteer groups. The DEQ will have to confirm there are no restrictions that apply to this property before any improvements can begin.

Chairman Aho called for further Public Comment: No further comments voiced.

Announcements:

The Courthouse will be closed for Labor Day on Monday September 4th.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held Tuesday, September 12th, at 4:00.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:42.

Chairman Tim Aho

Clerk Joetta Greig

Reports Submitted: Clerk
Construction Code
MSU Extension
Register of Deeds
Sheriff's Department
Northpointe Healthcare Systems Minutes of June 22 and July 13, 2017
Veterans Service Office Report for July 2017
Board of Health Minutes of July 26, 2017