

Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.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, Undersheriff Ryan Boehmke, Administrative Assistant Mary Dalpra, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Tony Tomazoski, Iron River City Police Chief Curtis Bristol, Dispatcher Ashley Schmidt, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti via Zoom, Michigan State Police Chief Paul Campbell, via Zoom and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to approve the agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

The meeting was called to discuss Iron County Central Dispatch/911 services.

Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones reiterated that Gogebic County pulled out of Iron County Central Dispatch services. MSP bid \$126,000 to Gogebic County for 2020 and bid \$68,232 for 2021, which was incredibly low. Iron County bid \$120,000 for 2021. This forced Gogebic's hand to pull out of Iron County and go with MSP Regional Dispatch. The future of Iron County Central Dispatch was discussed. Jones said that the voters of Iron County spoke loud and clear on August 4th when they passed the millage that they would like this service. Jones said it's doable with the millage if we watch our spending. He stated we could maintain what we're doing.

Sheriff Valesano also said he is pro Iron County Central Dispatch and said he would like to see local jobs stay here.

Michigan State Police Chief Paul Campbell said he's in favor to keep Iron County Central Dispatch and that the two dispatch centers both work well.

Tinti stated that Central Dispatch is providing dispatch services for our Sheriff's Department and that the general fund has provided support. Can we continue to provide that level of support? Going forward, how do we manage it?

Peretto asked how the Board feels.

The Iron County Central Dispatch Department Charter that was entered into on May 12, 2009, was discussed. Stafford said who do they really report to, referring to the Administrative Policy Board. How is it laid out? Leonoff said she is concerned only if they are involved financially. Stafford said commissioners need to be assigned to this Board. Jones said that the document (policy) has never been followed as far as he is aware. This document needs to be revised and updated. Maybe two commissioners should be board members on the 911 committee, along with the County Treasurer. Sheriff said for some reason we did not follow this policy. He agrees that this is a good road map and needs to be revised and updated. Aho said he's always concerned when we appropriate money for shortfalls. Why wasn't this followed? What guarantees the tax payer that it will be followed now? Stafford said that's why I think we need two board members. Aho said we as a board weren't involved. We need to be involved more. Aho said the tax payers stepped up and want this service (Iron County Central Dispatch). Treasurer Camps said there weren't safeguards before but now there will be. Aho said we are playing catch-up from the bills last year and that we will have good management skills going forward. We can make it work. Leonoff agreed and said she would be thoroughly disgusted if Central Dispatch left the County. Peretto also said she thinks we can make it work and that the document needs to be tweaked and who will tweak it. Jones suggested we keep the document in-house and then run it by legal counsel. He addressed Aho's budget concerns and that safeguards are in place now. The policy should have been followed and doesn't know why it wasn't. Moving forward with the restructuring of Central Dispatch, Jones said having two board members and the Treasurer on the board, I guess it's in your court.

Peretto said that Stafford and Coates will sit down with UP 911 Advisory Board and bring the document back to us at the next Regular Board meeting, and if not ready, then October's Board meeting. Camps reminded the Board when working on the 2021 budget to keep this in mind.

Tomasoski had questions about the \$2.70 surcharge and the millage.

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Moved by Leonoff, supported by Aho, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle