

October 13, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

U-7

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., Acting Chairperson Sharon Leonoff 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 (via telephone), Commissioners Ray Coates, Sharon Leonoff and Mike Stafford. Absent: Commissioner Tim Aho.

Also present: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Judge Donald Powell, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Probation Officer Jim Sundquist, Drain Commissioner Bill Casagrande, Fair Board Member Dave Frailing, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the September 8, 2020, Regular Board Meeting and the September 21, 2020, Special Budget Meeting Minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the agenda, with two additions under New Business (l) Board of Commissioner’s designee for the CRLGG (Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grant); and, (m) SUD Intergovernmental Agreement between NorthCare Network and the County. Voice vote, motion carried.

Leonoff 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 September in the amount of \$797,454.81, and payroll for September in the amount of \$243,664.12.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve journal entries 15588 through 15664 for September in the amount of \$4,359,359.92, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 8 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$25,857.00.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

There were no Commissioner Reports.

Department Reports:

Administrative Assistant Lorenz reported that we will receive a \$15,000 credit on our November Blue Cross/Blue Shield bill.

Emergency Manager/911 Director Jones gave an update on the Central Dispatch Audit Compliance and LEIN Audit and it meets policy requirements. He thanked Cheryl Blank for all of her work in regard to getting us compliant. He talked about the progress of the mapping and suggested sitting down with Equalization Director Marinoff, Coleman Engineering and the BOC to come up with a plan on moving forward in the future. He also said that Dispatcher Metz resigned to take another job and former employee Casey Smith will fill his position. He also talked about the cases of COVID rising in our county.

Civil Counsel Tinti gave an update on the funding for the manpower pension issue. The state funded 1.1 million dollars and that will resolve one matter we are facing.

Drain Commissioner Bill Casagranda gave a report on the lake levels in Iron County as being high. Dams are in good shape, with the exception of Sunset Lake. That dam is a big concern and is non-functional and inoperable. If he had to guess, the structure needs to be replaced and didn't want to give any preliminary numbers on how much that would cost.

Dave Frailing thanked the board for the check the fair received last month.

Mark Bromley reported that the ICECA Board of Trustees agreed on a Director.

Treasurer Camps gave an update on the on-line public auction that was recently held and that the next on-line auction will be held the first part of November.

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

Old Business:

The Iron County Pandemic/Epidemic Preparedness and Response Plan was discussed. It was then moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, that travel restrictions for employees be lifted and no mandatory quarantine will be required with any travel, effective immediately. Also, there will no longer be a listing of the top 10 states for COVID distributed on Mondays. Voice vote, motion carried.

The zoom was not working for this meeting, so it was moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to recess the meeting for 10 minutes to see if we can get it working. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting was recessed at 4:28 p.m.

At 4:38 p.m. it was moved by Coates, supported by Stafford, to resume the meeting, despite not being able to resolve the zoom issue. Voice vote, motion carried.

New Business:

Equalization Director Amy Marinoff gave a report on the 2020 Apportionment Report. Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to adopt the Resolution for the 2020 Apportionment Plan.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, to accept the bid and award audit services for 2020, 2021 and 2022, as presented by CLA.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to table the appointment to Human Services Board for term November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2023. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to table the MDNR Recreation Grant Application. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, to authorize the Chairperson and County Clerk to execute the discharge of mortgage on the CDBG Rehab loan property located at 500 S. 5th Street, Crystal Falls, Michigan, and not pursue the remaining indebtedness.

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

Motion carried.

The Drain Commissioner Budget was next on the agenda. It will be turned over to the Road Commission on January 1, 2021, but will still be funded by the county. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to fund at the same level, but reduce it down to one line item.

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

Motion carried.

The Trial Court Budget Amendment was next on the agenda. The legal fees line item in the Trial Court Budget was underfunded by approximately \$35,000.00. The Board directed the Judge to find the money in the Trial Court Budget. The Judge presented figures he obtained from Lynette for wages and health benefits he saved as a result of layoffs in the Trial Court due to COVID. The Judge is asking the Board to transfer this money into his budget. The Board stated that they are having a budget meeting on Friday and could discuss it more then. It was moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, to table this budget amendment so that the Board could review it at Friday's budget meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to decrease line item 263-210-703.100 by \$500.00 and increase line item 263-210-704.400 by \$500.00 (Concealed Weapon Permit Fund).

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to authorize the Human Services Agency Fund journal entry presented at the meeting.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to authorize the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$10,985 for the Museum & Historical Society Claim and the money for the claim to be taken out of the beginning of the year balance, and table the Computer & Technology Support and County Legal Fees Budget Amendments for the Budget Meeting on Friday.

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

Motion carried.

Staffing for the Friend of the Court was next on the agenda. Judge Powell hired one full-time caseworker and is asking the Board to hire a full-time Friend of the Court. Judges Barglind and Ninomiya were on speaker phone and also agreed that Iron County deserves and needs a full-time Friend of the Court. The office had been previously staffed with two full-time caseworkers and a part-time Friend of the Court. All three of those employees left the Friend of the Court's office. After much discussion and looking at the different options and cost, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, that Judges Powell, Barglind and Ninomiya could interview and hire a full-time Friend of the Court at a salary up to \$45,000.00, plus benefits, and staff the office with just one full-time caseworker.

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

Motion carried.

The Dickinson-Iron Health Department Supplemental Millage Tax Levy was discussed. It was passed in Iron County at the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election, but failed in Dickinson County. After discussion, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to not levy this millage in Iron County.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Coates, Leonoff, Stafford, Peretto

Nays: None

Absent: Aho

Motion carried.

Central Dispatch surcharge and tax levy amount was discussed. With the millage passing in August, the voters were told that the phone surcharge would be eliminated. The phone surcharge cannot be eliminated until the end of June 2021. To make good on that promise, the tax will be levied at .732 mills for 2020 (instead of 1 mill). It was moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to levy .732 mills for 2020, for the Central Dispatch millage.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Leonoff, Stafford, Coates, Peretto

Nays: None

Absent: Aho

Motion carried.

There was a request from the Iron County Hockey Association to use Pentoga Park for an adult pond hockey tournament in February 2021. There was discussion on liability insurance and/or any permits that might be needed. Because there wasn't anyone at the meeting from the Iron County Hockey Association, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to table this item and invite them to the next board meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to appoint Treasurer Melanie Camps as the Board of Commissioner's designee for the Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grant. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Intergovernmental Contract between NorthCare Network and Iron County. Voice vote, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Leonoff called for public comment three times with no comments voiced.

Announcements:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on November 10, 2020.

There will be a Special Budget Meeting Friday, October 16, 2020, at a time to be determined.

Moved by Coates, supported by Stafford, to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Acting Chairperson Sharon Leonoff

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle