

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 8:00 a.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners 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, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Chamber Alliance Executive Director Paul Schuytema, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Friend of the Court Heidi VanSlooten, Caseworker/Enforcement Officer Leah Antilla, District Court Clerk Christine Valesano, MSU Extension Coordinator Deb Divoki, Fair Board member Dave Frailing, Robin Caron, CPA and Controller at the Iron County Medical Care Facility, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Coates, supported by Stafford, to approve the October 8, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes and the October 22, 2019, Special Meeting minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

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

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment.

Lisa Koon-Bloomberg spoke regarding the 4-H Sharp Shooters. She recited a post her daughter had made regarding 4-H Leader Marvin Hill.

Bob Black, General Manager at WIKB, addressed the board regarding it's request for transcripts of the news for the past six months, stating how costly it would be. He said that after consulting their lawyers that any such request would not be given without a court order and that they have no FCC requirement to transcribe records of the news and further such requests come dangerously close to a violation of our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights. Mr. Black also stated that he was not contacted with today's meeting time change.

Dave Frailing stated that people plan around the meetings being the second Tuesday of month at 4:00 p.m. and questioned the board about why these meeting times are being changed.

Ben Garcia spoke in support of the ICECA and asked the board to reconsider its support for the ICECA.

Jon Weirda said he's a big proponent of ICECA. He said we can all support them in other ways too, such as going to meetings. We're all here because we care.

Barbara Luck agrees with Mr. Weirda. We're not getting paid to support kids. She said the board really needs to think about what moves they make and the impact it's going to have.

Robert Rafferty spoke as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber for over 20 years. He stated he hasn't seen as much enthusiasm before as there is now.

Lynn Aho, a 4-H leader, spoke in support of 4-H and how it would be an absolute tragedy if we didn't have 4-H.

Peretto called for Public Comment two more times. No more comments voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the monthly payables in the amount of \$499,215.47, and payroll in the amount of \$241,430.38. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve journal entries in the amount of \$5,434,928.80, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps and administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$97,740.83. Roll call vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Reports:**

Aho: no report at this time.

Coates: no report at this time.

Leonoff: no report at this time.

Stafford gave an update on the ambulance garage. Discussion is happening, but no action has been taken yet and said hopefully soon.

Peretto: no report at this time.

**Department Reports:**

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle reported on the November 5, 2019, election stating that everything went smoothly.

Civil Counsel Steve Tinti stated that a Resolution has been drafted in support of Continuing National State Funding. He also stated that ballot language for the County Veterans Millage and County Central Dispatch/911 Millage is drafted. Tinti also said that the Michigan Supreme Court's decision on the Tax Foreclosure Process challenges the entire remedy government has when people don't pay their taxes.

Sheriff Valesano asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Harold Gill who served as the Iron County Sheriff from 1974-1988.

Chamber Alliance Executive Director Paul Schuytema gave a report on the county-wide tourism assessment that was done and it was reported how beautiful our area is. There were great recommendations and reviews. He also reported on the Global Response that was for sale and reported that that sale has happened and the new CEO is upping labor costs and that it's a success for Iron County.

Treasurer Camps reported that they had the on-line auction. There were 16 properties for sale and 9 have been sold.

Moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Department Head Reports. Voice vote: motion carried.

**Old Business:**

No action was taken regarding the Layoff Notices/Furlough days.

Civil Counsel Tinti explained the process for tax anticipation notes and the costs. It's a 60-90 day process. The board would have to make a decision by February 2020 if they needed to do so.

**New Business:**

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to establish a \$50.00 fee for a plat wall map. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, for additional funding to cover the Sheriff and Jail Departments health insurance shortfall. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve Judge Powell's requested budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Child Care Fund to Trial Court for legal fees. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to establish the following dates for December bill review and end of year BOC meeting:

December 12, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. for bill review;  
December 19, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. for bill review;  
December 19, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. for Board meeting to finalize budget; and,  
December 30, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. Finance Committee of the Whole for year-end financial adjustments.

Voice vote: motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to approve the Iron County Medical Care Facility MERS contracts.  
Voice vote: motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff, to approve the millage language supporting a County Veterans Millage.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Aho, Leonoff, Coates  
Nays: Stafford, Peretto.

Motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to approve millage language supporting County Central Dispatch/911 Millage.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve the millage language supporting the Dickinson-Iron Health Department renewal millage. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve the millage language supporting the Dickinson-Iron Health Department millage. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the Resolution to State of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer on state budget vetoes. Voice vote: motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve Stafford's 2020 Budget Amendment "A", which had budget cuts that department heads made from their budgets for a total of \$17,874.00, and to add these savings to PA Budget line 101-229-703.599 (Contractual A.P.A. Services).

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

Motion failed.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve Stafford's 2020 Budget Amendment "B".

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

Motion failed.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Aho, to approve Leonoff's 2020 Budget Amendment "B" for public review.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Aho, Stafford, Coates  
Nays: Stafford, Peretto.

Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment:

Josh Nodurft asked questions about the MERS payments.

Bob Black said the 911 millage is very confusing. He also said when you know there is going to be a lot of people attending the meeting, it should be held in a bigger place, as there is standing room only, and commented about the temperature in the board room.

Jim Brennan, a previous county board member, said he met with McBroom in Lansing and that McBroom said his hands are tied regarding Governor Whitmer, but said the crisis will get resolved in Lansing. It's just politics. Also said regarding MERS, it is very important, and a temporary storm, not permanent.

Ben Garcia said "we are your tax base". He understands the difficult decisions and appreciates the job the county board has, but said don't eliminate what's growing.

Jeremy Johnson from the Iron County Reporter had questions about the state budget and how/if it will affect the budget process. Aho responded saying political things are going on.

Mike Bjork referred to violations of the Open Meeting Act. He also stated that he was appalled that the day after Veteran's Day the county is not funding the Veterans. Aho stated the Veterans are funded. It is county mandated. The millage is just to relieve the general fund. The Veterans will always be funded.

Jon Weirda said that he's been involved with the Communities that Care and challenged people at the meeting and we're here at a crossroads and we're here because we care. Voter turnout is poor. The goal is to make this the best county we can.

Deb Weis, a Crystal Falls Township resident for 12 years, said she is a business owner and she moved here from Wisconsin. She spoke in support of ICECA and 4-H and said we need to plan for our future and said it's hard to see how divided the board is.

Lisa Koon-Bloomburg read various questions she will be submitting to the board.

Dave Frailing talked about how much the BOC makes and asked them to give money back.

Paul Putnam, District Director of MSU Extension, spoke about the importance of continued dialogue.

Chris Cheney understands the concerns and encourages the board to get questions answered from MERS. He also said we need to invest in our communities as well and to put ICECA and MSU back in the budget.

Leonoff said she would like MERS to come to a public meeting to answer questions.

Margee Brennan said she has been coming to meetings for a long time and the board is not coming together.

Peretto asked for public comment two more times. No more comments voiced.

**Announcements:**

The next regular scheduled meeting of the board is Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

The courthouse will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28, 29<sup>th</sup>, for Thanksgiving.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle