

December 14, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

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Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Patti Peretto, Commissioners Jacob Conery, Jeff Ofsdahl, Mark Stauber and Mike Stafford. Absent: None.

Also present: Sheriff Mark Valesano, Prosecutor Chad DeRouin, Administrative Assistant Lynette Lorenz, Emergency Manager Vernon Jones, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Deputy Clerk Amy Donati, Jail Administrator Dale Anderson, Administrative Assistant April Anderson, Sergeant Bob Reid, MSU Extension Coordinator Libby Hansen, Chief Juvenile Officer Gene Byrge, Correction Officers Mike Kapusta and Barb Process, 911 Director Ashley Schmidt, Dispatcher Cheryl Blank, Judge Donald Powell, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

First was the Public Hearing regarding the 2022 All Funds Budget.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to approve the Public Hearing agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment three times, with no comments voiced.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to adjourn the Public Hearing. Voice vote, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

The Regular Board Meeting was then called to order.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to approve the November 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Ofsdahl, supported by Conery, to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business, item h) ARPA Committee request; and, moving Executive Session to item i). Voice vote, motion carried.

Peretto called for Public Comment regarding agenda items.

Sheriff Valesano spoke with regard to the ARPA bonuses and respectfully disagreed with the amounts and voiced his disagreement with Administrative Assistant April Anderson not getting a cost of living wage. He also disagreed with the correction deputies getting lesser bonuses because they deal directly with Covid. He also mentioned that he did not receive notice of the Personnel Meeting held earlier today and would like to get notices in the future.

Cheryl Blank questioned the Board on how they came up with the calculations with regard to the bonuses, and spoke in support of Dale Anderson and Ashley Schmidt.

Barb Process also questioned the Board on how the bonuses are figured.

Star Adank spoke with regard to the Alpha Senior Center and said the article in the Reporter was not factual with regard to the center.

Darren Crossen also spoke with regard to the Alpha Senior Center.

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

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the monthly payables for November in the amount of \$505,252.01, and payroll for November in the amount of \$238,373.69.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve journal entries 16980 through 17080 for November in the amount of \$5,274,222.01, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 15 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$13,191.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Conery reiterated the need for a county inspector and because we don't have one, we are not getting any new businesses.

Ofsdahl: None, other than what's already on the agenda.

Stafford gave an update with regard to GIS and Coleman Engineering. He also reported that the emergency training at the courthouse last week was very interesting.

Stauber reported that the health department building in Stambaugh needs repairs and that they are exploring different options.

Peretto reported that DICSA is struggling to find people to work and, therefore, that program will be discontinued and they are looking at other avenues in which to provide the services. She also gave an update on the Iron County Medical Care Facility.

Department Reports:

Dan Hinch from Parks and Rec reported that the draft rec plan is on the website and out for review. He invited everyone to review that and on January 3rd there will be a public hearing regarding that plan.

Prosecutor DeRouin reported that he just finished his sixth jury trial and that they are working hard to catch up on the back log.

Sheriff Valesano reported that the emergency training held last week had a good turnout and wanted to thank Geno Basanese from the Michigan State Police for his participation.

Emergency Manager Jones also reported on the emergency training held last week and some problems they encountered with the phone system being able to identify where the calls are coming from and that he is working with the 906 Technologies to resolve this. He urged the Board to look into getting a PA system at the courthouse. Other than needing some additional night locks and the phone issues, he said the training went pretty well.

No other Department Reports were given.

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

Old Business:

Tinti reported that he is working on the Quayle EDC loan issue and will have more to report at the next meeting.

The Alpha Senior Millage update was next on the agenda. The center was shut down in 2020 due to Covid. Star Adank said they used as much inventory as they could and delivered some meals in 2021. There have been public comments made with how the center has been run. Tinti reported that we should not draw conclusions that the facts do not support. We need to invite people, have a discussion and then report to the board. The center has not received any state or federal funds. It is a non-profit and will unincorporate and won't ask for millage funds.

Emergency Manager Jones gave a metal detector/security update and will give Administrative Assistant Dalpra the information he has on the cost of a metal detector. Peretto said we need those quotes so we can apply for any grants.

New Business:

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to adopt the 2022 All Funds Budget Resolution.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the Trial Court's staffing request for a Magistrate at 17.5 hours per week, at the rate of \$21.15/hour. (Position to start January 1, 2022)

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to approve the Trial Court's staffing request to hire Rebecca Jacks for the Paternity Specialist position at 16 hours per week. (Jacks is already employed part-time at the county and the combined position will now make her full-time and eligible for insurance and 9% MERS). (Position to start January 1, 2022)

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, for the budget amendment to fund the above-stated Paternity Specialist position to come out of the discretionary fund.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was with regard to the Opioid Litigation and the following three motions were made:

1. Moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to approve the Distributor Settlement Participation Form and authorize Civil Counsel to execute.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Conery, supported by Stafford, to approve the Jansen Settlement Participation Form and authorize Civil Counsel to execute.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

3. Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the Michigan State – Subdivision Agreement for Allocation of Distributor Settlement Agreement and Jansen Settlement Agreement and authorize Civil Counsel to execute.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was Lac Vieux Desert Tribe's donation to the Northwoods Animal Shelter in the amount of \$3,500.00. It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Stauber, to increase line 101-000-543.965 (revenue) by \$3,500.00, and increase line 101-806-965.560 (expense) by \$3,500.00. (A voucher will now be submitted to the Clerk's office so a check can be cut to the animal shelter).

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to increase 208-000-697-000 (beginning of year balance) \$5,000.00 and increase 208-751-920.000 (utilities) \$5,000.00 to cover the Parks' utility bills.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

The next agenda item was the Elected and Appointed and non-represented part-time increases and bonuses (ARPA). Stafford said he tried to stay as balanced as possible. Ofsdahl said everyone is working hard and Stafford agrees, stating we have a good group of people working at the county. It was then moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to approve the raises and bonuses as presented at the meeting on the spreadsheet dated 12/13/2021.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

Moved by Stauber, supported by Conery, to put out the Request for Proposal for Economic Development presented at the meeting, with a submission deadline of Monday, January 3, 2022. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to approve the National Association of Counties membership renewal in the amount of \$450.00, to be paid this year (2021).

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to approve the Sheriff's Department request of \$382.35 to come out of the Sheriff's ARPA funds to cover the new patrol vehicle they recently received with the ARPA funds, to cover the additional cost that was not accounted for.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Mike Golas spoke with regard to Cooks Run.

Tom Lessandrini spoke with regard to problems he experienced with a state plumbing and mechanical inspector and how difficult it was and the need for a county plumbing and mechanical inspector. He said the county's building and electrical inspectors were great to work with, however.

Zach Hautala asked the board to speak louder in the future, as they are hard to hear.

At 5:20 p.m. it was then moved by Stafford, supported by Ofsdahl, to go into executive session to discuss the written legal opinion of legal counsel.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

At 5:39 p.m. it was moved by Stauber, supported by Stafford, to go out of executive session.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Stauber, Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

Moved by Conery, supported by Ofsdahl, to authorize civil counsel to proceed and execute the Memorandum of Understanding provided with regard to the Proposed Tax Foreclosure Class Action Settlement Surplus Proceeds Claims. Voice vote, motion carried.

The last item of the night was the County Clerk/Register's opt-out of insurance amount. It was moved by Conery, supported by Stauber, to approve the \$450.00 per month opt-out amount, beginning January 1, 2022.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Ofsdahl, Stafford, Stauber, Peretto
Nays: None Motion carried.

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Announcements:

The courthouse will be closed on December 23rd and 24th and December 31st, for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

A Special Meeting of the BOC will be held on Thursday, December 30th, at 8:00 a.m. for year-end financial matters.

The Recreation Plan Public Hearing will be on Monday, January 3rd, at 5:30 p.m.

The Reorganizational Meeting of the BOC will be Wednesday, January 5th at 8:00 a.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the BOC is Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle