

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday December 10, 2019 4:00 p.m.

Iron County Courthouse Annex, Commissioners Room, Crystal Falls, Michigan

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 2nd and the Regular Meeting of Nov. 12th.
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Public Comment regarding Agenda Items Only (3 minutes)
7. Review and Action upon: Bills Paid, Payroll, Journal Entries, Administratively Approved Budget Amendments
8. Commissioner Reports: Aho, Coates, Leonoff, Peretto, Stafford
9. Department Reports:

BOC Office	Central Dispatch	Clerk/Register
Construction Code	Civil Counsel	Drain Commissioner
Emergency Manager	Equalization	Facilities & Parks Manager
Fair Board	Friend of the Court	ICECA
Medical Examiner	MSU Extension	Parks & Rec. Commission
Prosecuting Attorney	Sheriff	Treasurer
Youth Camp Director	Veterans Officer	Soil Conservation District

10. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action Upon:
 - a. Election date for Central Dispatch and Veteran’s millage proposals.
11. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action Upon:
 - a. Budget Amendments:
 - i. Sheriff Dept. amendment for insurance reimbursement check
 - b. Communities That Care request for 2019 budgeted substance abuse awareness funds
 - c. Appointment to Building Authority
 - d. Adoption of a Resolution authorizing EDC discharge for Bigari loan
 - e. Adoption of a Resolution on Emergency Management and Safe Schools
 - f. Proposed time change for special meeting of the board on December 30 for year -end financial wrap-up to 9:00 a.m.
 - g. Adoption of a Standard Operating Policy & Procedure for Appointment Vacancies
 - h. Appointments:
 - i. Authority on Aging Board, 4 vacancies for 3 yr. term beg. 1/1/2020 – 12/31/22
 - ii. Medical Examiner Appointment for a 4 yr. term beg. 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2023

- i. MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement for Medicare
- j. Request to close the building for courthouse employee holiday breakfast on
Wednesday Dec. 18th, 8:00 – 9:00

12. Public Comment

13. Announcements:

The Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 All Funds Budget and Truth in Taxation will be held on Thursday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. A Special Meeting of the board will immediately follow where the proposed budget will be presented for adoption.

Bill Review on Thurs. Dec.26th rescheduled to Thurs. 19th at 8:00 a.m. Suite 7 conference room.

Courthouse will be CLOSED for Christmas holiday on Tuesday and Wednesday 24th and 25th.

Courthouse will be OPEN on New Year's Eve Day and CLOSED on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020

14. Motion to Adjourn

Reports:

- Iron County Clerk, November 2019
- Register of Deeds, November 2019
- Construction Code, November 2019
- Sheriff Dept. October and November 2019
- Northpointe meeting minutes of Oct. 10th and 24th
- MSU 4 – H, October and November 2019

October 2, 2019 Special Meeting

T-450

On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 8:30 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, Undersheriff Ryan Boehmke, Prosecutor Melissa Powell, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Chamber Alliance Executive Director Paul Schuytema, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, MSU Extension Program Coordinator Deb Divoky, Court Administrator Lori Willman, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

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

Chairperson Peretto wanted to announce that the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for October 8, 2019, will be at 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment.

Lisa Bloomberg, an Iron County business owner and member of the Forest Park School Board, spoke regarding the county's budget numbers and wanted answers.

Maureen Elson was next to speak and was there to support the county 4-H.

Barbara Luck, a business owner, spoke in support of 4-H and the Chamber and said the county needs to find a different way to make cuts.

Carol Callovi, a 4-H Leader for 50 years, spoke in support of 4-H.

Doug Weesner, a retired State Trooper and who currently works in the school, spoke in support of 4-H and how important it is to our community.

Brian Brzoznowski, owner of Cottages to Castles, said he supports the Chamber. He grew up here and people are coming here because of events they came to here for years and now are building vacation and/or retirement homes.

John Nieminen, former owner of Cook's Run Cedar, and a resident of Iron County since 1958, credits the Chamber for the growing success in Iron County.

Donna Ahlberg, an Iron County resident, read a letter from Kaye and Lawrence Anderson, who are residents of Sunset Lake, in support of the Chamber.

Seth Waters, a Pastor in Iron River, expressed his support of ICECA.

Ketti Bayles, a resident of Crystal Falls, was born and raised here, left for a while, and recently moved back. She supports the ICECA with all of the wonderful events they put on in the area.

Josh Nodurft, a business owner, stated that he could live anywhere and chose Iron County. He sat down with Paul from ICECA and asked "why should we move here?" We're here because someone believed in us. We are excited about the growth in Iron County.

Paul Putnam, District Director of MSU Extension, spoke about the 100 year history of the MSU Extension and 4-H program. He offered a \$4,000 voluntary reduction in the funds the county gives to the MSU Extension (a 10% decrease) to help the budget process.

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

October 2, 2019 Special Meeting

T-451

New Business:

Aho wanted to explain the budget and comments made in the community.

Tinti stated we need to be very careful. We are overspending when our expenses exceed our revenue by several hundred thousand dollars.

Aho compared what other counties give to their Chamber. He also stated that we received bad news from the Governor regarding cuts.

Leonoff stated that the Chamber has always been around and was always solely paid for by the business owners. She thinks that the voters should decide.

Peretto said that the ICECA has improved immensely. It is much better and said we will try as hard as we can to give the ICECA some money.

Stafford also wanted to address some comments made in the community as untrue. He said he's not trying to eliminate anything and was looking for recommendations.

Coates stated 4-H has been around a long time and he believes in 4-H. It all comes down to one thing "money".

Tinti recited the Budget General Provisions.

1. When a financial activity authorized in this budget is funded in whole and/or part by funds other than from the COUNTY OF IRON (by way of example from a grant) and such funds are reduced and/or eliminated,

then the authorization to spend such reduced and/or eliminated budgeted funds automatically becomes null and void. It is the policy of the COUNTY OF IRON to not replace such funds with funds from the COUNTY OF IRON General Fund.

2. The wage level and benefits provided for each employment position, in this budget, other than an elected county official, shall only be increased, decreased or modified by express action of the County Board of the COUNTY OF IRON.
3. When a person employed and/or funded by this budget, other than an elected county official, leaves employment of the COUNTY OF IRON, then the authorization to spend such budgeted funds for the employment position automatically becomes null and void.

Tinti said the county will need to look at this when the State cuts things. It will be a shock to see how this could hit us.

Stafford said we cannot make any decisions now until we see what the State cuts.

Erica Gursky wanted to speak in support of 4-H and wanted the board to consider MSU's offer of the voluntary reduction.

Peretto stated that everyone in this room is here because we love Iron County.

Aho wanted to speak as a resident of Iron County and not as a board member and read the following proposal, attached hereto and made a part hereof, as Exhibit "A".

Margee Brennan spoke in support of the ICECA.

October 2, 2019 Special Meeting

T-452

Tom Lessandrini was next to speak and stated he just came to the meeting to listen. He said as a former county commissioner the board has a lot of work to do and that it's a hard job. We all need to work together.

Stafford said we have a couple of options but we can't go forward with anything concrete until we hear what the State is going to do with their budget.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle

ICECA has requested funding in the amount of \$70000 from the taxpayer of Iron County. Iron County in years 2017, 2018, 2019 contractually provided \$35,451 of taxpayer money to fund ICECA.

I was supportive of ICECA conceptually, and after its organization. I was clear at the time of organization of ICECA that the taxpayer could not be responsible for ICECA funding in the future. It seems this fell on deaf ears, as very little has been done by ICECA to supplement their revenue stream. And are now asking the taxpayer for an additional \$35,000.

I believe ICECA has somewhat lost its way, and their intent is to be a taxpayer funded organization and be part of local government indefinitely.

This being said, I am going to challenge the Chamber members, along with all of the community members that are advocates of ICECA, to step up and fund ICECA. I will lead the way with a check for \$175 paid to the ICECA Revenue Support Fund. Only 199 ICECA supporters now need to match my check and the \$35,000 of taxpayer support will be replaced by the private/business sector as it is done in other counties.

My deposit will be held in escrow until matching funds by the private/business sector attain a total of \$35,000. No taxpayer funded agency funds will be recognized as part of the \$35,000 funding total, and anonymous donations will not be counted toward the total.

An account will be established at CoVantage Credit Union to deposit the donations into. Anyone will be able to deposit funds, but funds can only be removed with two signatures, of which one will be mine, and the other will be Katie Clark treasurer of the ICECA. If the funds reach the level described in this document, the entire amount will be then transfer to ICECA by my and Katie Clarks signatures only.

Should the ICECA not be able to raise the additional \$34,825 by December 15, 2019 the money raised will be donated by 100 Woman who Care to needy organization/organizations through their normal process of selection. All parties donating must be informed of this clause in writing prior to their donation.

Timothy P Aho:  Date: 10-2-19

Witness By:  Date: 10-2-19

EXHIBIT "A"

November 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

T-460

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 1st 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.

November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting continued

T-461

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.

November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting continued

T-462

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-Bloomberg 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, 29th, 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