

# PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

## IRON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday March 17, 2020 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 Regular Board Meeting on February 11, 2020 and the Special Meeting on February 19, 2020
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Public Comment regarding Agenda Items Only ( 3 minutes, 20 minutes max)
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. Rules of Order Amendments
11. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action Upon:
  - a. MSU Extension Tourism Presentation
  - b. 2020 Census Update
  - c. 41<sup>st</sup> Circuit Security Committee
  - d. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission FY 2020 Grant Contract
  - e. Public Defender Agreements
  - f. Budget and Position Request for Sheriff Department Deputy & Work Van Coordinator
  - g. Appointments:
    - i. Northpointe Board, 2 – 3 yr. terms beg. 4/1/2020 – 3/31/2023
    - ii. Authority on Aging Board
  - h. ICYC – Camp Batawagama 2020 camping and salary rates
  - i. Telephone System Upgrade
  - j. Elected Official Salaries for term beg. 2021

k. Budget Amendment:

i. Invasive Species Fund

l. Journal Entry for Central Dispatch Deficit Preventive Measure

m. Iron County website

n. 2020 Revised Remonumentation Grant

12. Public Comment

13. Announcements:

Bill Casagrande has been selected to fill the Drain Commissioner appointment effective March 1<sup>st</sup> through the remainder of the term to Dec. 31, 2020.

The courthouse will be closed on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in observance of Good Friday

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

14. Motion to Adjourn

Submitted Reports for February 2020:

Iron County Clerk

Construction Code

Register of Deeds

Veterans Office

MSU 4H

Sheriff Department

Health Department Minutes of February 26, 2020

Fair Board Assoc.

Northpointe Minutes of Jan. 16 and Jan. 23, 2020

**February 11, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**

T-475

On Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 4:00 p.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: Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Powell, Undersheriff Ryan Boehmke, Administrative Assistants Lynette Lorenz and Mary Dalpra, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Friend of the Court Heidi VanSlooten, Pentoga Park Manager Chris West, Gerald Williams from the Iron County Veterans Service Office, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to approve the January 2, 2020, Organizational Meeting minutes, and the January 14, 2020 Regular 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 three times. No comments voiced.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Coates, to approve the monthly payables in the amount of \$1,457,962.23, and payroll in the amount of \$251,495.23. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve journal entries in the amount of \$7,855,275.68 (#14870-14977, less 3 budget amendments) submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps and administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$2,735.00. 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: no report at this time.

Peretto: Attended a Courthouse Safety Committee meeting last Friday and there is another one scheduled for this Friday. Iron County is looking at what the Menominee County Courthouse is doing in regard to safety measures. Also, she reported that the Medicare hired a head hunter regarding the hiring of a new Administrator. They are taking applications through the end of February.

**Department Reports:**

Civil Counsel Tinti discussed the Joint Resolution involving the manpower pension funding issue. He also stated that Senator McBroom will be visiting Iron County for a Town Hall meeting on Friday, March 6, 2020, at 4:00-4:430 at the Iron River City Hall. He discussed several items on the agenda, including the Board Rules, Drain Commissioner and the Treasurer approval for tax anticipation funds.

Gerald Williams from the Iron County Veteran's Office spoke in regard to the County Veteran's Millage proposal that is on the ballot for the March 10, 2020, election and that maybe there should be a news release regarding this.

Clerk/Register Kezerle gave an update on what's happening in the Clerk's office. She went to an election accreditation training in October and passed her on-line exam. She also attended a training in Marquette back in December to get certified to teach an election inspector class. She will be teaching two election inspector classes, one on February 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., here at the courthouse; and, one on February

### **February 11, 2020, Regular Meeting continued**

T-476

19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bates Township Hall. Election inspectors need to be certified in order to work at the precincts on election day and they need to be certified every two years. It is the County Clerk's responsibility to conduct these certification classes. She also stated she just got done programming all of the election data for the 13 voting precincts and wanted to remind everyone of the Presidential Primary on March 10, 2020. She also wanted to give a shout-out to her Deputy Clerk, Anders Ahlberg, who has done an amazing job stepping up and taking on all of the accounts payable and other duties while her other deputy has been on medical leave for the past four weeks.

Paul Putnam, District Director of the MSU Extension, wanted to say that he appreciates the board's support, but stated without consistent funding (i.e. \$33,500.00 last year), it will be hard for MSU Extension to sustain a full-time position. He's thinking when Deb Divoky retires it will be hard to get someone to replace her if there isn't stability. He's not asking for any action tonight, just would like the board to think about it. Aho stated maybe entering into a 3 or 4 year agreement. Putnam said he would appreciate that and it would create stability for a new hire in the future.

Treasurer Camps said she has her judicial foreclosure hearing on Friday and will let you know how it goes.

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

### **Old Business:**

The Rules of Order Amendments were discussed and it was moved by Aho, supported by Stafford, to table this item. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to appoint Tim Aho as the liaison to the Veteran's Service Board, and Mike Stafford as the liaison to the Chamber of Commerce Board. Voice vote, motion carried.

**New Business:**

After discussion by Steve Gagne, Executive Director of the Iron County Housing Commission, and a brief project overview and summary of progress, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve Chairperson Peretto to sign page 2 of form HUD 7015.5 stating that there are no known environmental issues. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the appointed and elected pay was had. Stafford stated he would like to see job descriptions for Lynette Lorenz and Mary Dalpra, and the justification for the \$2.30 an hour raise proposed. Leonoff stated that they have stepped up since the Administrator left. Lorenz said she will work on job descriptions. It was then moved by Aho, supported by Coates, to give Lynette Lorenz and Mary Dalpra a \$2.30 an hour raise and a 1% bonus for the rest of the elected and appointed.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Aho, Leonoff, Coates

Nays: Stafford, Peretto

Motion carried.

Prosecutor Powell addressed the Assistant Prosecutor salary. It is budgeted for \$30,000 for a 20 hour per week position. She thought that it was \$30,000 plus pro-rated benefits. A single insurance plan would cost \$8,045.08, so she is asking for \$38,000. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Assistant Prosecutor salary up to \$38,000.00 annually, including benefits (taking into account the \$30,000 already budgeted).

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

Nays: Aho

Motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff, to eliminate the Drain Commissioner as an elected position and turn it over to the Road Commission effective 2021. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

**February 11, 2020, Regular Meeting continued**

**T-477**

Pentoga Park Manager Chris West discussed the daily and monthly camping rates for 2020 and also adding a seasonal rate. The daily rate for a county resident is \$21.00 and a non-resident is \$24.00. The monthly rate for a county resident is \$495.00 and a non-resident is \$520.00. He is proposing a seasonal rate (3 month minimum, must be paid in full upon arrival, and no cash refunds) for county residents of \$1,425.00 and non-residents of \$1,500.00. In addition to the camping rates, a vehicle park pass is \$3.00 per day or \$10.00 for the season. It was moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff, to approve the 2020 camping rates for Pentoga Park. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion passed.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve a Joint Resolution in support of State Budget Funding for Manpower Pension Liability. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000.00 within the 273 fund as requested by Amelia Arcand, District Court Probation Officer & Specialty Court Coordinator. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion passed.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Aho, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$40,000.00 in the 549 fund as requested by the Construction Code. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion passed.

Discussion regarding the Agreement with Coleman Engineering for GIS proposal was had. Vernon Jones gave an explanation of the process. Stafford proposed entering into the agreement with Coleman Engineering. Stafford said we could use the money in the plat book line to fund the \$3,500.00 to update and maintain the addressing GIS for Iron County. It was moved by Stafford, supported by Leonoff, to enter into the Agreement with Coleman Engineering, to transfer \$3,500.00 from the plat book line item to GIS, including authorization for Lynette Lorenz to complete the budget amendment to transfer said funds. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Aho, supported by Stafford, to authorize Treasurer Camps to transfer \$200,000.00 from Budget Stabilization to General Fund in May to line 101-000-699.102, and then transfer back from General Fund to Budget Stabilization to line 101-806-969.102 in September when our tax dollars are received from the townships and cities and cash-flow is no longer an issue, and give Lynette Lorenz authorization to do the budget amendment. Roll call vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0, motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Stafford, to approve the Sheriff's Department request to hire a deputy. Voice vote, motion carried.

Lynette Lorenz stated that the motion regarding the elected and appointed pay didn't state the effective date. It was moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff, that the \$2.30 an hour raise for Lynette Lorenz and Mary Dalpra, and the 1% bonus for the rest of the elected and appointed be effective January 1, 2020.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Aho, Coates, Leonoff

Nays: Stafford, Peretto

Motion carried.

### **Public Comment:**

Chairperson Peretto called for Public Comment:

Bob Black thanked the board for the GIS. He also had comments about the Drain Commissioner and how the people won't decide now and that it has been elected position for a long time.

Tim Aho said he hopes Lynette Lorenz can put in a three year budget in the BS&A system in the future.

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

### **Announcements:**

The courthouse will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020, in observance of Presidents Day.

The next regular meeting of the county board will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Note this is a date change for the regular monthly meeting due to the Presidential Primary Election on March 10, 2020.

Moved by Coates, supported by Aho, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Chairperson Patti Peretto

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle

DRAFT

## **February 19, 2020, Special Meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners**

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., Chairperson Patti Peretto called a special meeting to order. The meeting was held at the Caspian City Volunteer Fire Hall at 1 Museum Drive, Caspian, MI.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Chair Patti Peretto, Commissioner Sharon Leonoff, Commissioner Mike Stafford, Commissioner Tim Aho and Commissioner Ray Coates. Board of Commissioner's Administrative Assistant, Mary Dalpra was present and requested by County Clerk Julie Kezerle to take the meeting minutes due to the Clerk's absence.

Also present: Iron County Central Dispatch Director, Vernon Jones, Iron County Civil Counsel, Steve Tinti, IC Dispatcher Ashley Schmidt, Gogebic County Emergency Manager/ 911 Coordinator Heidi DeRosso and Assistant Emergency Manager / 911 Coordinator Andrew Westeen, Caspian City Mayor Mark Stauber, Caspian City Manager John Stokoski and the following members of the UP 911 Advisory Board; Iron County Sheriff Mark Valesano, Iron River City Police Chief Kurt Bristol, Michigan State Police Chief Paul Campbell, and Aspirus Hospitals Emergency Services, Joel Bach.

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

### **New Business:**

Central Dispatch Director Vernon Jones opened discussion with an overview of his recent appointment to director, the status of the current state of the central dispatch department and also offered a historical overview of 911 at Iron County. He further went into lengthy discussion regarding the dire financial realities of running this department; the budget absorption to wages, unbalanced service agreements with other units, lack of short and long term equipment planning, and continual bailouts from the county general fund in addition to an annual appropriation. After his own lengthy investigation into the department's operating budget for this and prior years, he went on to state that his analysis and findings forecast a sure uncertainty for the continued operations of the Iron County Dispatch as they are currently run. Jones then went into discussion on the upcoming possibility of running a county wide millage that would completely support the department and possibly allow for a small financial cushion. He cited the fact that in this current budget cycle there had already been an unexpected health insurance cost which upset the amount budgeted for equipment replacement and no other reserves in place. Prior action by the county board had approved a .25 mill request and he strongly felt that selling a full 1 mill request to the voters would be the key to this operation moving forward successfully and thereby alleviating all general funds appropriations in future budgets, currently in the area of \$180,000 annually. An important piece of delivering the sale of the 1 mill to voters would be the elimination of the \$2.70 per device surcharge. He strongly felt that eliminating this fee with a mill replacement would alleviate expense to the taxpayer and ensure stable funding to the department.

At this point, Jones requested commentary from other attendees. Heidi DeRosso from Gogebic County stated that their current contract agreement with Iron County for dispatch services would be expiring at the end of 2020. Gogebic has recently placed an RFP out for these services of which Iron County would be able to submit a bid. She also stated that Gogebic County residents will be asked to approve a 5 year



Millage proposal to sustain 911 services in that county. Aspirus representative, Joel Bach, along with DeRosso further explained that the medical upgrade portion to the CAD response system was still not in place and both of their respective units had bought into that program at \$3250.00 each. They both placed emphasis on that piece being active in the future. There appears to be an incompatibility with the medical portion and it's functionality within the CAD. Caspian representatives, Mark Stauber and John Stokoski both viewed the favorability of keeping the dispatch department with Iron County, but Stokoski stated that the numbers should be scrutinized to merit the end value of keeping the program in- county versus contracting with the Michigan State Police. Sheriff Valesano went on to state that he placed a lot of weight on the ability for the county to retain the 11 positions of employment and also the easier access to information that would be in-house versus requesting that same information from an outside agency and the time constraints involved. Chief Bristol and Chief Campbell concurred on the remarks made for in-house access and the immediate availability of access to records and warrants that would otherwise take more time. Other comments included the positive economic impact on the county with the 11 positions as well as the local knowledge brought in with those individuals.

Final thoughts were to move forward with selling and educating the Iron County taxpayers with a millage proposal that would sustain general operations of the Iron County Central Dispatch department. The Iron County Board of Commissioners will place on their next regular agenda for further consideration.

Moved by Aho, supported by Leonoff to Adjourn. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Dalpra, Administrative Assistant,  
Board of Commissioners