

August 8, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

U-196

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Mark Stauber called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioner's Room at the Iron County Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Mark Stauber, Commissioners Ean Bruette, Patti Peretto and Mike Stafford. Absent: Commissioner Jacob Conery.

Also Present: Administrator Lynette Lorenz, Equalization Director Amy Bucek, Deputy Clerk Amy Donati, Treasurer Melanie Camps, Deputy Treasurer Jenn Curtis, Sheriff Ryan Boehmke, Undersheriff Bob Reid, 911 Director Ashley Schmidt, Dispatcher Casey Smith, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Approval of the Minutes: Moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 18, 2023.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Bruette, supported by Peretto, to approve the agenda, with one addition: under New Business, item g, Memorandum of Understanding between The County of Iron and The Iron County Deputy Sheriff's Association (POAM).

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items Only (3 minutes max.)

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

Monthly Financials:

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve the monthly payables for July in the amount of \$555,923.68, and payroll for July in the amount of \$365,905.58.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Peretto, Stafford, Stauber

Nays: None

Absent: Conery

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Bruette, to approve journal entries 19637 through 19781 for July in the amount of \$4,119,856.49, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 12 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$125,870.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Peretto, Stafford, Bruette, Stauber

Nays: None

Absent: Conery

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Bruette: Reported on the recent Road Commission meeting he attended and discussion on the Drain Commissioner becoming an elected position again.

Conery: Absent

Peretto: Reported on the Iron County Medical Care Facility meeting she attended with Commissioner Stafford.

Stafford: Also reported on the Iron County Medical Care Facility meeting he attended with Commissioner Peretto.

Stauber: Reported that the Health Department has started to move into their new building.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Bruette, to approve the Commissioner Reports. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Department Reports:

911 Director Ashley Schmidt reported she hired a part-time dispatcher to begin employment on August 21, 2023.

Clerk Kezerle reported she filled the vacant full-time Accounting Clerk position in her office and that Jordyn Grell will start on August 21, 2023.

Civil Counsel Tinti wanted to make the board aware of the recent lawsuit filed in the District Court for the Western District of Michigan against the County of Iron and the Treasurer Melanie Camps, in her individual capacity, and other counties, with regard to remaining proceeds from tax sales.

Dave Frailing from the Iron County Fair Board reported on the upcoming Iron County Fair events and raffle ticket sales.

Sieg Berge spoke regarding his passion for aviation and the U.P. and his efforts in cleaning up the airport.

Sheriff Boehmke updated the board on the full-time road deputy position that is open, the two corrections officers currently attending the corrections academy downstate and the boat that was donated by the DNR to the Sheriff's Department. He also reported on the bodycam grant Undersheriff Reid applied for and received for the department. Sheriff Boehmke reported he was approached by the City of Crystal Falls with regard to taking over police services for them in the future and are working on a contract and would be looking for the board's support.

Chamber Director Zach Hautala updated the board on the rehab grants.

Treasurer Camps reported that the on-line tax foreclosure auction is August 16th and if anyone has any questions, to let her know.

No other Department Reports were given.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Stafford, to approve the Department Reports. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. MIDC Contract for Services. Civil Counsel Tinti said this is still a work in progress. No discussion or action was taken.
- b. Fair Board Contract. There was some discussion with regard to some changes requested. No action was taken.
- c. 906 Technologies Estimate. **Moved by Stafford, supported by Bruette, to approve the 906 Technologies Estimate in the amount of \$6,772.45 (Project Summary: Multifactor Authentication – M365).**
Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Bruette, Peretto, Stauber
Nays: None
Absent: Conery

Motion carried.

Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve the budget amendment to pay for the 906 Technologies Estimate (\$6800 from 101-101-901.000 to 101-216-963.000).

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

Motion carried.

New Business:

- a. FY 2022 Audit Presentation – Scott Sternhagen, CPA. Scott Sternhagen CPA from CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) gave the 2022 audit presentation with regard to Year Ended December 31, 2022. It was then moved by Bruette, supported by Stafford, to approve the report.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Peretto, Bruette, Stafford, Stauber
Nays: None
Absent: Conery**

Motion carried.

- b. Pentoga Park Concrete Slab. A long-time camper asked if they could put a permanent memorial bench for their daughter, who passed away recently. It would be placed by the pavilion area facing the lake, which is what the daughter loved to do when at the Park. The parents would pay for the bench. It would cost Pentoga Park to put a small concrete slab for the bench. **It was then moved by Peretto, supported by Bruette, to approve this request.**

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

- c. Elevator Contract(s). Discussion on the OTIS elevator proposal was had, along with three different service contract options. The elevator that goes to the main courtroom is chain driven. It needs to be modernized and upgraded to electronic. Last summer the elevator was down for two weeks while we waited for parts to fix it. It is out of date and getting parts is becoming increasingly difficult. Stauber said we will need to discuss this with Trial Court and the options of using the downstairs' courtroom while the elevator is being upgraded, as it could take up to 16 weeks that the elevator would not be able to be used. The quote from OTIS for the elevator is \$432,622.00. Administrator Lorenz stated that the LATCF funds would cover a majority of this, but approximately \$100,000 would need to be budgeted out of the General Fund. Also discussed were the three service contract options with varied coverages: 1) \$525.00 per month, payable annually in advance for 5 years; 2) \$650.00 per month, payable annually in advance for 5 years; and 3) \$850.00 per month, payable annually in advance for 5 years. **It was then moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to approve the OTIS elevator proposal for \$432,622.00 and to go with the middle proposal of \$650.00 per month, payable in advance annually for 5 years, subject to civil counsel's review of the contract.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Stafford, Peretto, Stauber
Nays: None
Absent: Conery**

Motion carried.

- d. Letter of Support Opposing an Increase in Weight Limit for Trucks on State and Local Roads. **Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto, to table this.**

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

- e. Sheriff and Undersheriff Wage. **Moved by Bruette, supported by Peretto, to approve the same wage increase of \$5.00 per hour, as in item g below, for the Sheriff and Undersheriff effective August 5, 2023.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Peretto, Stafford, Bruette, Stauber
Nays: None
Absent: Conery**

Motion carried.

- f. Resolution to Support the Windsor Center MI Community Center Grant application. Moved by Stafford, supported by Bruette, to approve the Resolution to Support the Windsor Center Improvement Project and authorize the Chairperson and Clerk to sign the Resolution.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Stafford, Bruette, Peretto, Stauber
Nays: None
Absent: Conery**

Motion carried.

- g. Memorandum of Understanding between The County of Iron and The Iron County Sheriff's Association (POAM). Because of the ongoing difficulty with recruitment and retention of law enforcement and the reasons why we can't fill these positions (wages and benefits), the union met with the county and proposed an increase in pay to hire and maintain deputies in order to compete with other police departments. The parties to the agreement agreed to a wage adjustment/increase of \$5.00 per hour for Patrol Deputies and Sergeants earning \$2.00 an hour in addition to the Road Deputy hourly rate. These increases will take effect upon full County Board approval and will be retroactive to 08/05/2023. **It was then moved by Bruette, supported by Stafford, to authorize the County Administrator Lynette Lorenz and Chairperson Mark Stauber, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as set forth above.**

Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Stafford, Peretto, Stauber

Nays: None

Absent: Conery

Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Stauber called for public comment.

911 Director Ashley Schmidt asked the Commissioners to keep in mind at the dispatch meeting next week that Scott Sturnhagen said that the county was in good financial shape.

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

Announcements:

The Courthouse will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Request for Proposals for Dispatch Services.

The next regular scheduled board meeting is Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of conducting departmental budget requests.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Stafford, supported by Bruette, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Chairperson Mark Stauber

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle