

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Lorenson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Laabs, Lorenson

Absent: (0)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular meeting, November 23, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Byrns, supported by Mr. Laabs, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, supported by Mr. Byrns to approve the agenda with the addition of items 1 & 2 to Other Matters. A verbal unanimous vote followed.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute limit)

None appeared

APPEARANCES:

1. Public Sector Consultants (Presentation regarding ARPA Funds)

Mr. Tim Dempsey introduced Public Sector Consultants as a non-partisan public sector consulting firm. Their focus is allocating the ARPA eligible expenditures with priorities geared to:

~Responding to health emergencies having a negative economic impact

~Premium pay to essential workers

~Government services to the extent impacted by loss of revenue

~Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

~Interim final guidance from federal government

Mr. Lorenson asked Mr. Dempsey to prepare and submit a proposal for future board consideration. The Board would also like to receive presentations/bids from Guidehouse Consulting Services and Warner Norcross Law.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Resolution in Support of Amendments to the Open Meetings Act, Gogebic County Resolution 2021-22

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Byrns and carried by a six to one voice vote to pass the resolution. Mr. Bonovetz voted against. The motion passed.

OTHER MATTERS

A motion was made Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Laabs to appoint **Mr. James Estola** to the Gogebic County Road Commission Board. Roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson

Absent: (0)

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz and supported by Mr. Siirila to approve the extension of the Beacon Ambulance contract for three years, with increases of 5%, 3% and 3% each year, respectively. Roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Siirila, Laabs, Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Lorenson

Absent: (0)

MOTION CARRIED.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

~The Administrator noted that AFSME negotiations have begun. The first meeting was December 7, the next will be December 13.
~She also updated the Board regarding the managed defense council. Retired Judge Joel Massie has been working with the court on contracts with stakeholders.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

~Commissioner Orlich pointed out Michigan is refunding its residents for automobile insurance, which is likely in direct response to a plea to the State from Counties last year.
~Mr. Randall Kashich addressed the board regarding the integrity of local public bodies and law enforcement agencies. He specifically mentioned the Community Mental Board in reference to an Open

Meetings Act violation. Mr. Lorenson thanked him for his comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, supported by Mr. Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

James A. Lorenson, Chairman

Ramona L. Collins, Clerk