

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2021

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 p.m.

Personnel Meeting 3:30pm

Finance Meeting 4:30pm

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Regular Board meeting minutes February 10, 2021)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole
1/17/21
2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee-----1/27/21
3. Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra & Colleen Dal Pra Educational
Award Committee, 2/2/21

COMMUNICATIONS:

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL:

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

OTHER MATTERS:

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

ADJOURNMENT

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 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) Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Laabs, Byrns,
Bonovetz, Lorenson**
Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (January 27, 2021 meeting minutes)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Peterson carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

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

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. Sheriff Pete Matonich (Re: 2020 Year End Activity Report)

Moved to receive and place on file by Siirila, seconded by Byrns. Motion carried unanimously.

2. John Frello - (Re: Veteran's Snow & Lawn Maintenance) A short congratulations was given for a successful grant application then a motion made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila to expand Veteran's services per the agreement and authorize proper signatures.

ROLL CALL:

**Yes (7) Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Laabs,
Lorenson**

No (0)

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mike Harma (Re: MDOT Contract #2021-0151) Motion was made by Siirila to approve the grant and authorize proper signatures, supported by Peterson.

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021
Page Two

ROLL CALL:

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

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS:

- 1. The Board set a Personnel meeting for Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 3:30 pm**
- 2. Conversation took place regarding COVID-19 vaccine being diverted away from our area. Chairman Lorenson agreed to draft a letter of objection. The motion was made by Siirila and seconded by Laabs. All supported, motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Byrns, and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

James A. Lorenson, Chairman

Ramona L. Collins, Clerk

COMMITTEE MEETINGS SUMMARY REPORT

1. Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole, 1/27/21

No Recommendations

2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 1/27/21

No Recommendations

3. Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra & Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee, 2/2/21

- a. A motion to award 54 scholarships \$2500 each with Bessemer Schools being awarded 18 scholarships, Watersmeet being awarded 5 scholarships, Wakefield/Marenisco being awarded 13 scholarships, Ironwood being awarded 17 scholarships and Gogebic County Community Schools being awarded 1 scholarship.**
- b. A motion to send letters and or emails to the counselors at the schools of Gogebic Country advising them that the Dal Pra Scholarship process has begun. The application forms need to be back to the school counselors by March 26, the applications need to be delivered and or received by the Administrator's Office by April 16th, the Dal Pra scholarship committee will meet on April 20th to review and approve applicants, and the County Board will meet on April 28th to verify and formally approve the scholarship recipients for the Dal Pra scholarship for the 2021/22 academic year.**

A meeting of the Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Bonovetz, Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Orlich

Absent: Peterson, Siirila

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Ramona Collins, Clerk/Register; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator; Donna Frello, Chief Deputy Clerk; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Kathy Jo Koval, Equalization Director; Linda Dean, Friend of the Court

Vice Chairman Bonovetz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was the Chair regarding Transit Board vacancies.

Vice Chairman Bonovetz indicated that the Director of Transit had advised the County Board that he had two vacancies and requested the County Clerk to start the process of appointment/reappointment. The Clerk had received two letters. One from Carrie Hampston and one from William McMullin, both who currently sit on the Transit Board.

A motion by Mr. Lorenson, supported by Mr. Byrns to recommend to the Board to reappoint Carrie Hampston and William McMullin to the Gogebic County Transit Board of Directors. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the Chair regarding the Fair Board vacancy.

Vice Chair Bonovetz indicated there were two applicants for the vacancy on the Fair Board. The Fair Board was recommending the reappointment of Crystal Suzik.

A motion by Mr. Orlich, supported by Mr. Byrns to recommend to the Board to reappoint Ms. Crystal Suzik to the Fair Board. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was Ms. Julie Hautala, CEO of Community Mental Health regarding a vacancy on the Community Mental Health Authority Board.

Vice Chair Bonovetz stated that the Community Mental Health Board had advertised, and the applicants were sent to the Clerk. The Personnel Committee of the Mental Health Authority Board met and discussed the applicants and had recommended the appointment of William Malloy to the Community Mental Health Authority Board. The other applicant was Brad Dalbec.

Vice Chair Bonovetz stated that he got questioned after the meeting as he expressed concern that the County had received no letter from Mental Health indicating a vacancy and request to fill such vacancy. He stated he talked to the former Clerk who indicated he instructed Ms. Lane to simply go ahead and advertise with the applications to come to the County Clerk's office.

Vice Chair Bonovetz stated that he felt that it was not the way the other entities have filled vacancies on their respective boards.

Ms. Lane had attached to an email, minutes from the January 25, 2006 board meeting where a motion was made that the former CEO would advertise and applicants would be submitted to the County Clerk, not sending a letter to the County Board requesting to begin the process. Vice Chair Bonovetz is recommending for the committee to consider that the Chair of the Personnel Committee, the Chair of the County Board and the Administrator come up with a process whereby filling the vacancies on the various board and entities is similar.

Vice Chair Bonovetz stated that because that motion is on the books, that the board must adhere to that motion and fill that vacancy accordingly. This vacancy would be filling the term expiring March 31, 2022.

Commissioner Laabs also felt that the committee should appoint the recommendation of the Mental Health Authority Board per the process that is currently on the books.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Byrns to recommend to the Board to appoint Mr. William Malloy to the Community Mental Health Authority Board to fill the unexpired term expiring March 31, 2022. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

Again, it was reiterated that the Chair of the Personnel Committee, the Chair of the County Board and the County Administrator come up with a process to fill vacancies.

The next item on the agenda was Ms. Ramona Collins requesting payout of her sick leave and vacation.

Vice Chair Bonovetz asked the Administrator to explain such.

The Administrator stated that in the AFSCME contract it states upon quitting an individual is entitled to vacation payout but is not entitled to sick leave payout. It is explicitly stated that employees leaving a bargaining unit position to accept an elected position either County, State, or Federal shall be considered a quit under the terms of this agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, a quit is entitling an individual to vacation payout but not sick leave payout.

Discussion continued.

Ms. Collins had handed out a letter drafted by Ms. Donna Frello expressing the request for payment of one half of her accumulated sick days based on an oversight that was never addressed and years of service of Ms. Collins and to remain consistent with past practice.

The committee discussed numerous ways of achieving this and felt that possibly a memorandum of agreement or letter of agreement could be drafted allowing for such payout.

Vice Chair Bonovetz asked that a letter be drafted with the Prosecutor's guidance.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Byrns to table the matter until further information is received, that being the letter of understanding between the Employer and the AFSCME union. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

There were no "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Lorensen, supported by at Mr. Laabs to adjourn 4:27 P.M. Motion carried.

Joseph Bonovetz, Vice Chairman

Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Lorenson, Byrns, Orlich, Bonovetz, Laabs

Absent: Siirila, Peterson

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Ramona Collins, Clerk/Register; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator; Donna Frello, Chief Deputy Clerk; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Kathy Jo Koval, Equalization Director; Linda Dean, Friend of the Court

Vice Chair Lorenson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The claims and accounts were the first item on the agenda.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Laabs to approve the claims and accounts as presented along with the prepaids for discussion purposes.

Numerous questions were asked.

Roll call vote requested. Ayes: Laabs, Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Lorenson. Nays: 0. Absent: Siirila, Peterson. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Friend of the Court with her quarterly report. Ms. Dean stated that attached was the revenue and expenditure report along with the trial balance. She indicated that the dollars are coming in, however they are coming in slow.

The committee thanked her for the report.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Byrns to receive and place on file, the quarterly report from the Friend of the Court. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

Under "Other Matters", updates on agency, board, or committee appointments, Commissioner Bonovetz spoke to the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission. He indicated that the Canadian National Railway could potentially be leasing or selling approximately 600 miles of rail in Gogebic County and felt that it would be a good opportunity for the County to get involved. He attached a proposed NRTC budget for 2021. The dues this year would be \$250. The committee members felt that it would be worthwhile to belong to that again for any type of potential future rail transportation opportunities within the County.

Chair Lorenson indicated that Commissioners Laabs and Bonovetz would attend those meetings.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Lorenson to recommend to the Board to pay the dues to the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission in the amount of \$250. Ayes 5, nays 0, absent 2. Motion carried.

The Administrator requested more information as to who and where the dues get paid. Commissioner Bonovetz indicated he would forward that to her.

Mr. Bonovetz spoke to the broadband meeting that was today and indicated that a grant had been applied for by AIG out of Georgia for fiber access in Gogebic County which is a 10-year program and spoke briefly to more of the details.

The Administrator stated that she had been approached by the Medical Examiner Investigator, Mr. Loeper last week. He was inquiring into permission to allow for additional training for the investigators which would give them more intensive training. It included scene arrival, assessment, and documentation, determining time of death, etc. The training was approximately \$300 per person. There are 5 Medical Examiner Investigators. Mr. Loeper had acquired some funding the tribe and another business entity in the City of Ironwood who would contribute.

Commissioner Lorenson felt that it was not a good idea to solicit funding. That is something that the County should be paying for and indicated that he does not need to appear before the committee at the next meeting.

The Administrator stated that the training was not budgeted for and that was the reason he was trying to acquire funding for payment of such training.

The committee members felt that the cost was not that excessive, and the County should be responsible for such trainings.

No action was taken.

The Sheriff indicated that the Argo will be arriving tomorrow. There was a picture on the screen in the court room and the Sheriff explained some of the features.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Orlich, supported by Mr. Bonovetz to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

James Lorenson, Vice Chairman
Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee

A meeting of the Gogebic County Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra & Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 4:00 o'clock PM at the Courthouse Bessemer, Michigan.

present : Bonovetz, C. Lupino, J Lupino

Absent: Murphy, Oliver

Also Present : Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer

Chair Bonovetz call the meeting to order at 4:00 o'clock PM

The first and only item on the agenda was the discussion of the 2021/22 scholarship process .

The Administrator indicated that Bessemer area schools has 37 seniors, Watersmeet schools has 10 seniors, Wakefield/Marenisco has 26 seniors, Ironwood has 35 seniors and the Gogebic County Community Education (alternative) school indicated they have three graduates this year. However, two of them can get Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) funds for college. Ms. Tervonen of the alternative school did indicate she had one student that would highly benefit from the scholarship and would like to supply her with an application .

The committee members reviewed the reconciliation of the Wood Trust Asset Management accounts as of December 2020 supplied by the Treasurer. The committee also reviewed the 2019-2020 awards and requested clarification on the number of claimed scholarships through January from the Administrator's Assistant. After reviewing all numbers, it was decided that approximately half of the seniors in all the schools would be entitled to a scholarship. The committee looked at the earnings as well and felt that they were comfortable in awarding such scholarships at \$2500 each.

A motion by Ms. C. Lupino, supported by Mr. J. Lupino to recommend to the Board that 54 scholarships at \$2500 each with Bessemer Schools being awarded 18 scholarships, Watersmeet being awarded 5 scholarships, Wakefield/Marenisco being awarded 13 scholarships, Ironwood being awarded 17 scholarships and the Gogebic County Community School being awarded 1 scholarship . Yeas 3, Nays 0 absent 2. Motion carried .

Next the committee members began discussing the timeframe for the applications to be turned in and the process to begin. Discussion continued.

A motion by Mr. J. Lupino, supported by Ms. C. Lupino to send letters and or emails to the counselors at the schools of Gogebic County advising them that the Dal Pra scholarship process has begun. The application forms need to be back to the school counselors by March 26th, the applications need to be delivered and or received by the Administrator's office by April 16th, the Dal Pra scholarship committee will meet on April 20th to review and approve applicants and the County Board will meet on April 28th to verify and formally approve the scholarship recipients for the Dal Pra scholarship for the 2021/22 academic year . Yeas 3, Nays 0, Absent 2. Motion carried.

There were no "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments" .

A motion by Mr. J. Lupino, supported by Mr. Bonovetz to adjourn at 4:34 PM. Motion carried.

Joe Bonovetz, Chairman
Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra & Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee