

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

July 28, 2021

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

Finance Meeting~~~~4:30pm

Regular Board~~~~~5:00pm

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Board meeting minutes July 14, 2021)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee-----6/28/21
2. Personnel & Negotiations Committee -----7/14/21
3. Ambulance Committee-----7/14/21

APPEARANCES:

1. John Frello-Veterans Service Officer (Re: FY222 Michigan Department of Veteran Affairs CSFG Grant Application)

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. John Wyssling-Chairman Gogebic Brownfield Redevelopment (Re: Request to advertise for vacant board position)
2. Juliane Giackino-Administrator (Re: MEDC grant completion)
3. Patrick Gallinaugh-Range Suicide Prevention Council (Re: Request to proclaim September 5, 2021 through September 11, 2021 as National Suicide Prevention Week in Gogebic County)
4. Mike Harma-Gogebic-Iron Airport Manager (Airport report and appropriation request)
5. Juliane Giackino-Administrator (Re: MIDC FY 22 plan and advertising)

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
July 14, 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) Siirila, Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Lorenson

Absent: (1) Laabs

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (June 23, 2021 regular meeting minutes)

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Byrns, 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. Siirila to approve the agenda with the addition of the Forestry & Parks and Road Commission board appointments. A verbal unanimous vote followed.

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

None appeared

APPEARANCES:

- 1. Heidi DeRosso-Emergency Management/911 Coordinator (Re: FY22 Emergency Management Performance Grant)**

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Byrns to authorize proper signatures on the grant application. Roll was taken.

ROLL CALL:

YES: (6) Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Lorenson

NO: (0)

Motion carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. U.S. Dept. of Interior (Re: Notice of Non-Gaming Land Acquistion Application)**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, supported by Mr. Orlich and a unanimous voice vote to receive the letter and place it on file.

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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2. James A. Lorensen-Gogebic County Fair (Re: third quarter 2021 report)

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson and supported by Mr. Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive the report and place it on file.

3. UPCAP/Up.P. Area Agency on Aging (Re: Presentation of FY 22 Annual Implementation Plan for Services to Older Adults Resolution)

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to pass the resolution as presented. Mr. Bonovetz complimented UPCAP on their outstanding service to our area. Roll was taken.

ROLL CALL:

YES: (6) Byrns, Bonovetz, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila, Lorensen

NO: (0)

Motion carried.

4. WUPPDR (2021 Oreste Chiantello Public Service Award)

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to receive the communication and place it on file. This was followed by a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER MATTERS:

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, supported by Mr. Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Mr. Randal Charles to the Forestry & Parks Commission board and Mr. John Zorich to the Gogebic County Road Commission board.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Administrator updated the Board on many items of interest. The replacement of the power unit on the elevator will take place next week. U.P. Engineering will be doing an assessment of the County's buildings to be followed by a report about the scope of work required. Budget worksheets are out and due back to the Administrator by July 26, 2021. The attorney for the Michigan Works lawsuit representing Gogebic County will be filing motions on Friday of this week. They have been providing updates regarding liability. The Administrator's Office applied for a grant through USDA for a boiler for the Natural Resources Center and learned recently the grant was approved.

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Gogebic County Clerk Ramona Collins let the Board know that MMRMA's Net Asset Distribution for this year is \$29,479. The Board agreed to put it towards next year's premium.

Chairman Lorenson said a warm 'Thank You' on behalf of Search and Rescue for the new vehicle. He let the Board know that no sooner had they taken possession of the vehicle when it was called into service.

The Board agreed they would appreciate copies of any and all minutes from county-related meetings forwarded to them.

The Board would like to invite Julie Hautala of Community Mental Health and a representative from Aspirus to an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Orlich 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. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 6/23/21**

No Recommendations

- 2. Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole, 7/14/21**

No Recommendations

- 3. Ambulance Committee, 7/14/21**

No Recommendations

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 4:30 PM, Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Bonovetz, Byrns, Orlich, Laabs

Absent: Siirila, Lorenson, Peterson

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Ramona Collins, Clerk/Register; Brandon Tauer, Security/IT

Commissioner Bonovetz called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

The first item on the agenda was claims and accounts. There were a couple of questions asked.

A motion by Mr. Orlich, supported by Mr. Laabs to pay the claims as presented along with the prepaids. Yeas 4, Nays 0, Absent 3. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Sheriff regarding law enforcement contract renewal with the cities of Bessemer and Wakefield. Sheriff Matonich stated that the contracts expire on June 30, 2021. He was requesting proper authorization and signatures from the respective officials for a three-year contract with a slight increase each year.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Byrns to authorize the Sheriff, the Chair, and the Clerk to sign the three-year contract with the cities of Bessemer and Wakefield for law enforcement services. Yeas 4, Nays 0, Absent 3. Motion carried.

There were no "Updates on Agency, Board, or Committee Appointments".

Under "Public Comments", Commissioner Byrns indicated he received an email from the Director at the Soil Conservation District, Mr. Beck. He stated he received information via the Director of Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, regarding a "Legislative Ask" to fund the Conservation Districts in the state. This pot of money would get Gogebic County Conservation District approximately \$40,000 if it were approved.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Byrns to recommend to the Board to send a letter of support to the respective State Senators/Representatives requesting funding the "legislative ask" which would give Gogebic County Conservation District approximately \$40,000. Yeas 4, Nays 0, Absent 3. Motion carried.

There were no further "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Byrns, supported by Mr. Orlich to adjourn at 4:36 PM. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Joe Bonovetz,
Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee**

A meeting of the Gogebic County Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 4:15 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, MI

Present: Siirila, Bonovetz, Lorenson, Byrns, Peterson, Orlich

Absent: Laabs

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Brandon Tauer, Courthouse Security/IT; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Ramona Collins, Clerk/Register

Chairman Siirila called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Roll call was documented by the Administrator.

The first item on the agenda was the Chairman regarding the application for a vacancy on the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission. The Clerk advertised for the vacancy; applications were accepted. One was received. The applicant was Mr. Randall Charles from Marenisco, MI.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Lorenson to recommend to the Board to place Mr. Charles on the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission. Ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the application for the Gogebic County Board of Road Commissioners. The Clerk advertised for the vacancy; applications were accepted. One was received. The applicant was from Mr. John Zorich from Marenisco, MI.

A motion by Mr. Lorenson, supported by Mr. Peterson to recommend to the Board to place Mr. John Zorich as a member of the Board of County Road Commissioners. Ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

Under "Other Matters", the committee discussed the procedure currently in place for filling vacancies on agency and committee appointments. In that policy it speaks to the Personnel Committee meeting and reviewing the applications.

Chairman Siirila indicated that it was an unnecessary meeting and sometimes policies do not fit situation as best as it could.

Commissioner Lorenson indicated that he would like to amend the policy and would get with the Administrator on amending it. No action was required.

The Administrator updated the committee on a meeting she recently had with members of the Court staff. No action was required.

Chairman Siirila indicated that at the Airport Board meeting a discussion took place regarding quarterly appropriations. At present time, there are certain agencies that must

request their appropriation quarterly and there are others that are just given the appropriation quarterly/monthly with no uniformity in such practice. In Iron County, WI when the Board makes an appropriation within their budget process, it is given to the agency on a regular basis. Gogebic County has the practice of requesting in writing the appropriation release from some of the entities.

A short discussion ensued.

This was a topic that would be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Lorensen, supported by Bonovetz to adjourn at 4:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole

A meeting of the Gogebic County Ambulance Committee was held on Wednesday, July 14th, 2021, at 4:30 PM, Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Lorensen, Byrns, Peterson, Orlich, Siirila, Bonovetz

Absent: Laabs

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Ramona, Clerk/Register; Larry Grimsby, Erwin Township Supervisor; Joel Bach, Med-E-Vac; Brandon Snyder, 911 Chair; (virtual) Andrew DiGiorgio, IPSD (virtual)

Chair Lorensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

The first item on the agenda was an update. Chair Lorensen stated that work continues on the East End of the County in trying to place an ambulance in that area with both basic service supported by advanced life support. Staffing continues to be an issue. Discussions with the tribe are occurring to improve personnel availability. Chair Lorensen explained how services are working in the Medford area and will continue to look towards that as an example. He further stated he is waiting on information from Aspirus which according to Mr. Bach should be received by the end of the week.

Chair Lorensen also spoke to an incident in Watersmeet whereby Negaunee regional dispatched Land O'lakes ambulance rather than a Michigan based ambulance.

Chair Lorensen further stated that he talked to one of the state legislators during the holiday regarding the Wisconsin/Michigan licensing issue and asked for the committee's support in rectifying such. The committee gave him their blessing in working with the legislators on resolving and issue based on licensing and crossing from Wisconsin into Michigan.

A discussion ensued regarding a EMT class and the number of students in that class. Mr. Bach informed the committee that Nicolet College put the class on however the majority of the participants did not stay for the duration of the classes. He further stated that getting volunteers and people to commit to these type of jobs is a difficult process.

The second item on the agenda was the discussion and action regarding extending the current ambulance contracts or requesting proposals. A lengthy discussion ensued on the current service Beacon and Aspirus are currently providing to the citizens in this County. the commissioners gave their opinions as extending the current contracts or going out for proposals. The members appeared to have a good opinion of the current services being provided and felt they would like to continue in that regard. Also, time was of the essence in making such decision whereby proposals would require a longer timeframe to choose a provider(s).

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to authorize the Chair along with the Emergency Management 911 Coordinator and Administrator to negotiate extensions of the current ambulance contracts. Yeas 6, Nays 0, Absent 1. Motion carried.

There were no "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Byrns to adjourn at 5:00 PM. Motion carried.

**James Lorensen, Chairman
Ambulance Committee**



Gogebic County Council of Veterans Affairs

Courthouse
200 N. Moore Street
Bessemer, MI 49911
Telephone: (906) 667-1110
Fax: 906-667-1122
Email: Veterans@GogebicCountyMI.gov

Officers

Jack Lillar, Chairman
H. Bill Neumann, Vice-Chairman
Don Ormes, Secretary
John Rundquist, Treasurer

Service Officer

John J. Frello

Transportation / Outreach

Linda Malmberg

July 23, 2021

To: Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
James L. Lorenson, Chairman
200 N. Moore St.
Bessemer, MI 49911

Re: Request to Approve FY22 County Veterans Service Fund Grant (CVSFG) Application

Gentlemen –

Before you is our FY22 CVSFG application to the Michigan Department of Veteran Affairs (MVAA). We are requesting approval and authorization for Chairman Lorenson to sign. An unsigned copy was previously sent to MVAA to meet the submission deadline. Any changes will be incorporated in the final product.

The grant allows us to provide financial assistance to County veterans (or their unremarried, surviving spouses) who served in the United States Armed Forces, including the reserve components, and who were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Since October 2020, we've paid over \$19,000 on behalf of County veterans for such things as dentures (\$7,900), appliances (\$2,500), and foreclosures and shutoffs (\$3,800). Another \$12,000 in food assistance was provided through our COVID-Relief grant and partnerships with UPCAP and Food4Vets.

Next year's grant is tentatively approved for \$62,223, roughly \$10,000 more than this year. The bulk is earmarked for direct veteran assistance, including medical transportation through our partnership with Michigan Transportation Connection/Rides to Wellness. Advertising is increased to better promote our services and the potential benefits available for our veterans.

Funding for outreach is also increased with Ms. Malmberg taking the lead in developing events. Doing so; however, will require more than the 20 hours per week she currently works. The grant is therefore budgeted to pay for up to 260 additional hours along with a wage increase commensurate with the added responsibilities. An amendment to our MOU detailing the process is included with the application. It's been coordinated with Julianne, Lisa, and Ramona with Nick giving the final blessing.

I will be at the meeting for questions. Before then, please call me at 906-667-1110.

Thank you.

Sincerely

John J. Frello
County Veterans Service Officer

Gogebic Brownfield Redevelopment

Gogebic County Courthouse
200 North Moore Street
Bessemer, MI 49911
FAX (906) 663-4660

John Wyssling, Chairman

Rudy Grbavcich, Vice Chair

July 7, 2021

Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
Finance Committee
200 North Moore Street
Bessemer, MI 49911

Gentlemen:

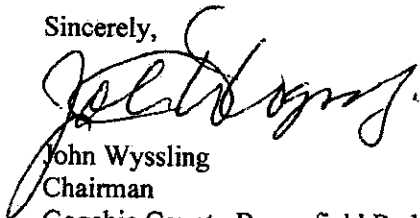
The **Gogebic Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** (GBRA) currently has (1) three-year position that has been vacated and needs to be filled. We would like the Board to advertise for this position on the GBRA Board as follows:

One member for a three-year term beginning August 1, 2021 and ending December 1, 2024.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gogebic Brownfield Redevelopment Authority approves the idea of a position from MEDC.

Sincerely,



John Wyssling
Chairman

Gogebic County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

July 19, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

Juliane Giackino (Via electronic mail)
Gogebic County Administrator
County of Gogebic
200 North Moore Street
Bessemer, Michigan 49911

RE: *1047 (2) Retirement Shortfall Grant* - Grant Completion Letter

Dear Ms. Giackino:

Congratulations!

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation would like to congratulate you on completing 1047 (2) Retirement Shortfall Grant. MEDC has received the necessary paperwork to close the grant.

The MEDC reserves the right to request additional information or reopen this grant in the future if necessary, for compliance, reporting or other needs.

Should any questions arise, please contact our office at (517) 335-9369.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Blackmer

PURE  MICHIGAN®

CHAIRMAN'S PROCLAMATION

This Chairman's Proclamation for Gogebic County, recognizes suicide as a national health problems taking over 47,000 last year and suicide prevention as an area responsibility, and designates the week of September 5th through the 11th ,2021 as Suicide Prevention Week in Ironwood

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3rd leading cause for ages 15 to 24 and the 2nd leading cause of death for college students.

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in Michigan, taking over 1470 lives last year.

WHEREAS, three of the 10 counties on Michigan with the highest suicide rates per 100,00 are located in the Upper Peninsula and two (Ontonagon and Iron) border us.

WHEREAS, 20% of all suicides in the United States are veterans and our active armed services are experiencing its highest Suicide rates ever.

WHEREAS, in the U.S., one person completes the act of suicide every 11 minutes

WHEREAS, 51% of those who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection.

WHEREAS, the overall suicide rate has increased slightly in recent years, the rates for those 49 to 65 have increased dramatically.

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at-risk from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide.

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Association of Suicidology and the Range Suicide Prevention Council and our Survivors of Suicide group are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivor affected by suicide of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services and bereavement services urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a statewide priority;
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for populations or communities;
3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the **National Strategy for Suicide Prevention** by promoting;
 - a. Awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT I, James Lorensen, Chairman of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners declare that September 5th -11th 2021 as “National Suicide Prevention Week in Gogebic County

James Lorensen
Chairman of Gogebic County
Board of Commissioners

Mike Harma
Manager
airport@gogebiccountymi.gov

E5560 Airport Road
Ironwood, MI 49938



Kristi Freeman
Confidential Secretary
iwdairport@gogebiccountymi.gov

Phone: (906) 932-3121
Fax: (906) 932-4401

Airport Report and Appropriation Request

July 23, 2021

Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
Gogebic County Courthouse
200 N. Moore St.
Bessemer, MI 49911

Board of Commissioners:

At the last Airport Board meeting on July 12, 2021, The Gogebic-Iron County Airport Board reviewed plans to update our Airport Layout Plan to include a Joint Use Operations Building, General Aviation Terminal and Apron estimated at 12.5 million dollars to consolidate airport operations. In addition, I suggested eliminating the quarterly appropriation requesting process. To streamline the process, I request that budgeted appropriations automatically be distributed quarterly into the airport's funds much like what Iron County currently does.

On July 22, 2021, at a special meeting for airline presentations the Gogebic-Iron County Airport Board unanimously voted to recommend Denver Air Connection as our essential air service provider to the DOT.

On behalf of the Gogebic-Iron County Airport Board, I am requesting the third and fourth quarter appropriations of FY2021 be transferred to the Airport Capital Outlay Fund and Airport Operating Fund.

Thank you for your continued support of the Gogebic-Iron County Airport.

Sincerely,

Mike Harma
Airport Manager -IWD

Gogebic-Iron County Airport Board

Pat Hanson, Chairman • James Lorenson • Brandon Snyder • James Byrns • Daniel Siirila

www.flyfromironwood.com

JULIANE M. GIACKINO
ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA L. PARKER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

July 22, 2021



JAMES LORENSON - CHAIRMAN
JIM BYRNS - VICE CHAIRMAN
JOSEPH BONOVIETZ
TOM LAABS
BOB ORLICH
GEORGE PETERSON III
DAN SIIRILA

Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
Gogebic County Courthouse
200 N. Moore Street
Bessemer, Michigan 49911

Gentlemen:

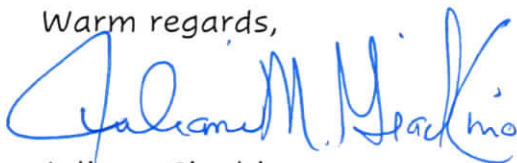
Per an email from the Northern Michigan Regional Manager of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, I have been advised that the FY22 plan and cost analysis were approved.

This all relates back to a presentation you had at a Board meeting in December of 2020 when the Regional Manager advised you of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) Act which creates standards for indigent defense, etc. I updated you at a prior regarding these standards as they were approved at the State level. After numerous meetings in March of 2021, it was decided that a Manager Assigned Counsel System would be the best method for Gogebic County to operate under. (As of October 1, 2021, the courts can no longer be involved in the indigent attorney process) The Managed Assigned Counsel System operates with an Attorney Administrator and a roster of attorneys.

The next step then is to advertise for a Managed Assigned Counsel to oversee the operations of the indigent defense process for Gogebic County. In this process, the County continues to pay their local share. For FY22 it is \$103,358.07 (that amount is in your budget), and the State pays the remainder. The County's portion varies each year slightly based on a formula.

I am requesting your authorization to proceed with the advertising of such. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Warm regards,



Julianne Giackino
County Administrator
A21032

Gogebic County is "an equal opportunity provider and employer"

200 N. MOORE STREET
COURTHOUSE • BESSEMER, MICHIGAN 49911
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PHONE: (906) 667-0411 • FAX: (906) 667-1102
EMAIL: jgiackino@gogebiccountymi.gov