

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 26, 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, Siirila, Laabs, Lorenson

Absent: (1) Peterson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (May 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes)

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Orlich, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Byrns, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda with additions to 'Other Matters' and 'Claims and Accounts' as presented by Chairman Lorenson.

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

There were none.

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

- 1. Personnel & Negotiations Committee, 4/14/21**
- 2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 4/28/21**
- 3. Ambulance Committee, 5/12/21**

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to approve the Committee Summary Reports and place them on file.

APPEARANCES:

- 1. Heidi DeRosso-Emergency Management/911 (Re: FY20-21 HMEP Grant Agreement)**

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Byrns to support the grant agreement and allow the proper signatures.

ROLL CALL:

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

NO: (0)

MOTION CARRIED

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2. Greg Ryskey-Director GCF&P (Re: Resolution to Accept Terms TF20-0183 Gogebic County Forest Expansion Project)

A motion was made by Mr. Laabs and supported by Mr. Bonovetz to pass the resolution, accept the terms of the agreement between the DNR and GCF and allow the proper signatures.

ROLL CALL:

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

NO: (0)

MOTION CARRIED

3. **Greg Ryskey-Director GCF&P** (Re: Resolution to Exchange Lands Between Gogebic County and Joseph Hilborn) Mr. Ryskey gave a brief explanation of the benefit of the land exchange, speaking to consolidating lands and securing public access.

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Byrns to pass the resolution and allow for proper signatures on subsequent deeds.

ROLL CALL:

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

NO: (0)

MOTION CARRIED

4. **Paul Putnam-MSU District Director (Re: Virtual programs and online resources)** Mr. Putnam presented a brief overview of MSU's 2020 Annual Report, their 2020 Gogebic County resident participation breakdown and a letter from Mr. Jim Yates regarding veteran's outreach programs.

5. **Lisa Hewitt-Gogebic County Treasurer (Re: 2020 Tax Settlement)** Ms. Hewitt appeared via bluejeans to answer the Board's questions regarding the 2020 settlement.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Julie Hautala-CMH CEO** (Resolution Opposing Privatizing Michigan's Mental Health System) Mr. Bonovetz briefly explained the purpose of this resolution and the benefits to Gogebic County's residents.

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz and supported by Mr. Orlich to adopt the resolution and share it with appropriate representatives, legislators, and MAC.

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2. **Juliane Giackino-Administrator** (Re: Resolution Opposing Michigan Secretary of State 'By Appointment Only' Policy. Some discussion took place regarding the necessity of having the Secretary of State building open to the public as it was pre-Covid.

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz and supported by Mr. Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the resolution and share it with appropriate representatives, legislators and MAC.

3. **State of Michigan, State Tax Commission** (re: Recommendation of Kathy Jo Koval as Designated Assessor)

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive the communication and place it on file.

4. **U.P.S.E.T. (Re: Funding Request)**

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to receive the communication and place it on file, while noting our local substance enforcement team does a great job. The motion was supported by a unanimous voice vote.

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:

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

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL:

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the report as presented.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Laabs to pay the claims and an additional request from Equalization for a conference reservation that will be added to prepaids along with all prepaids and make them a part of the minutes.

Roll Call:

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

NO: (0)

Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS:

1. **Gogebic County Clerk** (Re: Budget Amendments)

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Laabs to

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approve the budget amendments with one revision. Motion was supported by unanimous voice vote.

2. NorthCare Network

A motion was made by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila and followed by a unanimous voice vote to send 50% of the liquor tax monies in the amount of \$7150.50 to the NorthCare Network.

3. Economic Development-Mr. Bonovetz spoke of a conversation he had with the City of Bessemer manager, Charly Loper. Ms. Loper expressed appreciation for the town-hall approach to the Ambulance Committee meeting and suggested the same might be applied to economic development in our area. Mr. Putnam from MSU supported the interest by adding he could structure a dialogue to get the conversation started. All appeared interested in this approach. The administrator will work on scheduling a meeting of the EDC with this new format.

4. Personnel Meeting-Mr. Siirila submitted that since there has been a vacancy on the CMH board since March and no personnel meeting since April, he would like to see the seat filled.

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila to fill the CMH board vacancy with Chairman Jim Lorensen. The motion was supported by Mr. Orlich. Mr. Lorensen refused the appointment arguing full process was not employed. Mr. Bonovetz also stated the County's new process for board appointments does not allow for this type of motion. Roll call was taken to determine the outcome.

ROLL CALL:

YES: (2) Siirila, Orlich
NO: (3) Laabs, Byrns, Bonovetz
ABSTAIN: (1) Lorensen

Motion denied.

Following the roll call, a meeting of the Personnel and Negotiations Committee was set for 5:30 on June 9.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Orlich, supported by Mr. Byrns, and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

James A. Lorensen, Chairman

Ramona L. Collins, Clerk