

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

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 Siirila Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

**Present: (6) Bonovetz, Bryns, Laabs,
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila**

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (January 23, 2019 Public Hearing and January 23, 2019 meeting)

A motion was made by Peterson, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented with one correction. Page Three Medical examiner will be paid **\$300 per month** rather per hour as stated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz and 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.

Commissioner District Four Appointment

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Jim Lorenson as the County Commissioner for District Four to fill the vacancy. Mr. Lorenson took the oath of office and assumed his role.

APPEARANCES:

1. Paul Kemppainen, Watersmeet Township Treasurer
(RE: Ambulance Service)

Mr. Kemppainen addressed the Board regarding a letter he provided to the commissioners prior to the meeting. He began by discussing the lack of communication between the Township and County as it related to when the ambulance service millage would appear on property owners tax bills. He understood from the ambulance town hall meetings in the fall of 2018 that the millage would be placed on the 2018 winter tax rolls. Watersmeet Township did place the one (1) mill on their 2018 winter tax rolls. He was notified in late December, by County Treasurer Lisa Hewitt that the ambulance millage was not to be levied in 2018 by would appear on the 2019 winter tax roll.

The ballot proposal language, which appeared on the November 6th General Election stated if the proposal passed, the levy would for three (3) years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

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The Equalization Department notified all the units in the County as to what extra voted County millage would appear on their tax rolls via email and with a copy of State Tax Form L-4029. The ambulance millage was not listed on the form. No additional millage can be added to the taxes unless an amended L-4029 is provided to the units.

Watersmeet Township had to refund property owners who already paid their winter taxes and then had to send out corrected property tax bills.

Kemppainen mentioned the ambulance taxes which will be collected from Watersmeet Township are approximately \$162,000.00. The 2019 proposed ambulance contract for the township will be approximately \$57,000. The total Countywide collected millage for ambulance service in 2019 is projected to be \$530,000.00 and Watersmeet property owners will be paying about 30%. He mentioned the township doesn't receive any of the PILT money received by the County.

Finally, Kemppainen asked if the recently established County Ambulance Committee meets to discuss the process of funding of the ambulance service including bids.

Commissioner Lorensen answered the questions that related to the ambulance service, the millage, bid process and the ambulance committee meetings, as he chairs that committee.

Commissioner Peterson mentioned everyone should work together to provide the best ambulance service for everyone within the County.

Commissioner Laabs again reiterated if the township wants a change to PILT payments they should seek help from their legislators.

Equalization Director Kathy Jo Koval provided Kemppainen copies of emails she sent out in November to all units of government regarding their winter tax levies.

Treasurer Lisa Hewitt briefly spoke on the matter.

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive and place on file the letter received from Mr. Kemppainen.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

1. James Lorenson, Fair Board Chairman
(RE: FY19 Appropriation release)

A motion was made by Peterson, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to release the FY 2019 appropriation.

2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: MDOT Contracts)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the chairman's signature on the contracts and to adopt the resolution as presented.

OTHER MATTERS:

AFSCME Union Contract

Administrator Juliane Giackino mentioned the AFSCME union did not ratify the tentative contract agreement, more negotiations will be held. She also met once with the Sheriff Deputy Association.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Giackino mentioned she met on Monday with representatives of the Michigan EDC.

Commissioner Bonovetz mentioned he along Commissioners Byrns and chairman Siirila were at the meet and greet with State Senator Ed McBroom and State Representative Greg Markanen at the college last Friday and economic development for Gogebic County was a main topic of discussion.

Chairman Siirila said he attended the Charter Township of Ironwood's recent board meeting and he asked about the taxes still owed to the County. He was advised to inquire with the bonding company.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Paul Kemppainen thanked the Board for their time to listen to his concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk