

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

August 28, 2019

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 p.m.

***** Finance Meeting at 4:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (August 14, 2019 meeting minutes)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

(5-minute limit)

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee ---07/24/2019
2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee ---08/13/2019
3. Ambulance Committee -----08/15/2019

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Patti Hagstrom, GCRC
(RE: ACT 51 report)

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL:

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

OTHER MATTERS

1. Set the date for a public hearing on a USDA Rural Development Grant. (Per Sheriff Pete Matonich)

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

ADJOURNMENT

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 14, 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: (7) Bonovetz, Bryns, Laabs, Lorenson
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila**

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (July 24, 2019 meeting minutes)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with one addition to Other Matters; to apply for a tax anticipation loan for the ambulance fund.

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

There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There no communications for consideration.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Dickinson County Resolution
(RE: Support of Enbridge Line # 5)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt a similar resolution in support of Enbridge Line #5.

2. National Suicide Prevention week resolution

A motion was made by Lorenson, supported by Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the Chairman's Proclamation as presented.

OTHER MATTERS:

Agenda Addition:

Tax Anticipation Loan for the ambulance millage funds.

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2019

Page Two

A motion was made by Lorenson, supported by Peterson to apply for a Tax Anticipation Loan to receive funds prior to the collection of the ambulance millage tax levy, the County will begin receiving millage money in December of this year.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Administrator Juliane Giackino mentioned there is nothing new to report of Michigan Works pension issue. The Courthouse chimney repair will begin in late September, security glass for the District Court main window should be installed soon. She met via video conference for discussion on economic development grant programs and she will keep the Board informed on this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Randall Kashish inquired as to the whether the County has drug testing for employees now that recreational marijuana is legal in Michigan.

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 5:17 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

COMMITTEE MEETINGS SUMMARY REPORT

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 7/24/19

No recommendations

2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 8/13/19

- a. A motion to authorize any County Board member the use of a county email address with the assistance of setup from the IT director. Should any Board member wishing to get one at a later date, that to be approved as well.

3. Ambulance Committee, 8/15/19

No recommendations

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan

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

Absent: Lorenson

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Gerry Pelissero, Clerk/Register; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Pete Matonich, Sheriff; Jill Kahila, District Court Probation

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

The committee went through the claims with a number of questions being asked.

A motion by Mr. Siirila supported by Mr. Bonovetz to pay the claims as presented along with the prepaids. Ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Friend of the Court regarding her quarterly report. Ms. Dean indicated that she is at the summer conference in Muskegon, so she was not able to attend the meeting. The committee looked at the reports and were pleased with what they saw.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Siirila to receive and place on file the quarterly report from Linda Dean, Gogebic County Friend of the Court. Ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

Under "Other Matters", on agency/committee or Board appointments, Commissioner Siirila asked the Board members if they were available on Monday morning to meeting as a Finance Committee regarding the Ironwood Township matter. There were a number of calls he had to make prior to that happening and the Administrator would send out an email confirming such.

Commissioner Siirila also spoke to a website that Forestry had provided him a couple days ago regarding the tree farm and indicated that he would send it out to the Board.

Chairman Peterson stated that U.S. Representative Bergman has been in contact with him regarding broadband and is trying to set up a meeting and requested Mr. Bonovetz to be present in Watersmeet to meet on the issue and also requested the Representative come to the County Board. No action was taken.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Siirila supported by Mr. Bonovetz to adjourn. Motion carried.

**George Peterson III, Chairman
Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee**

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

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

Absent: Peterson

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Ross Solberg, Under Sheriff; Gerry Pelissero, Clerk/Register; Brandon Tauer, IT Director/Courthouse Security

The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was the IT Director regarding County Board email addresses.

The Administrator requested the Vice-Chairman to skip that since Deputy Tauer was not present in the room at that time.

The Vice-Chairman then moved to the topic of discussion on the 2019/20 General Fund Budget. He turned the meeting over to the Administrator.

The Administrator requested the Clerk to update the committee on the current fiscal year budget.

The Clerk began by stating that there was money used in the current budget from the fund balance as well as the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to make that a balanced budget. With the department heads continuously working on the budget, that entire amount would not be needed. The expenses were being monitored closely and changed accordingly.

The IT Director was then present at the meeting. He indicated that when conducting County business, it is a best practice to not use private email accounts as that is what the county Board is using at this time. By not using private email accounts, it would protect personal accounts or work email from being subject to the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to county business. He indicated that he has found a new email service for \$2.40 per month. The committee felt that it was a good option that they should pursue.

A motion by Mr. Laabs, supported by Mr. Bonovetz to recommend to the Board that any of the County Commissioners wishing to use a county email address, it would be issued to them and set up on their phone or computer by the IT Director. Discussion continued.

The Administrator indicated that she could contact Commissioner Peterson tomorrow and see what his prerogative was and Commissioner Orlich did not have a computer at this time. Should he wish or desire one in the future, an email address would be provided to him as well.

Vote on the motion: Ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

The Administrator then turned to the next fiscal year budget which would be 2019/20, indicating that she had done some budget highlights as well included the budget resolution along with the budget. She went on to say that there was a portion of the fund balance, money from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund as well as an appropriation from the Forestry and Parks Commission used in balancing the budget.

Commissioner Bonovetz had a question on the salaries in the budget resolution and asked for more information.

The Administrator indicated that she would provide and send that out to the Board.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the budget as to the numbers, the balancing of the budget, the time frame in which they have to balance such budget.

Several questions were asked.

The Administrator indicated to the Board that they should pay attention to the last page of the budget where there were appropriation cuts.

A short discussion ensued on an appropriation to the Western U.P. District Health and some of the various other appropriation requests within that portion of the budget.

The Chair indicated that should anyone have further questions on the budget to contact the Administrator office for further explanation.

The Administrator stated that would be the best way to go if she needed to get further information from the Clerk, Treasurer or other department head that would be done for their understanding of the future budget.

A discussion ensued on salaries.

Commissioner Bonovetz gave concern to the wage increases given in 2018 and the amount and percentage affiliated with that and felt that maybe the committee should consider holding the percentage down to a smaller portion. The Administrator stated that not all of the elected and appointed got a full increment as the non-union employees were put into the revised MGT pay scale based on the increment that would reflect a pay increase to their current salary.

A brief discussion ensued on the fund balance, Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund and also on the ambulance millage.

A motion was made at a prior Finance Committee meeting to fund the ambulance millage with the funds from Forestry and should borrowing be needed through a tax anticipation note, that would be pursued at that time. However, at the County Board meeting, the only motion that was made was brought forward and approved was to take the money out of the Forestry and Parks commission.

A motion by Mr. Laabs supported by Mr. Bonovetz to begin the process immediately of a tax anticipation note for the ambulance millage as the Clerk indicated that the County would always be a year behind in that millage and would always be borrowing from another fund or having a shortfall in that fund. This would be the best route to go.

Vote on the motion: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1. Motion carried.

The committee would choose another date for the next budget workshop in hopes of having the budget balanced by the end of August.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Orlich to adjourn. Motion carried.

**James Lorensen, Vice Chairman
Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee**

A meeting of the Gogebic County Emergency Ambulance Committee was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Lorensen, Matonich, Giackino, Koval, Bonovetz, Hewitt, Chermiside (arrived at 3:11)

Absent: DeRosso, Pusatari, Santori

Also Present: Dan Siirila, County Board Chairman

Chairman Lorensen called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Under "Unfinished Business", was the 2019 service updates.

Chair Lorensen said the conversations he has had with the medical control board, indicate there has not been any major complaints regarding ambulance services.

The Administrator indicated that her office had received a phone call from a citizen on the Cisco chain regarding an elderly gentleman who had fallen and broken his hip and had to wait several hours for an ambulance. The Administrator went on to say she could not reach this lady to return the phone call back to her and thought something may have happened to her. However, it was learned that the individual was okay as the Watersmeet Township building inspector had reached her via cell phone.

The Chair indicated that he had the same kind of complaint. He stated there is a portion of the area in which she resides that needs to be accessed through Land O Lakes Wisconsin to get into Watersmeet Township. Land O Lakes Ambulance is not certified in Michigan. He indicated that the cost of a Michigan license is \$500 or \$200 for responders if they are on the registry. Chairman Lorensen indicated he would meet with the Director of that ambulance company next week.

Regarding the EMTs on the Eastern end, the Chair stated that there are six EMTs that are willing to serve. Beacon says 8 to 10 are needed to sufficiently staff and justify an ambulance on the eastern end. The six EMTs on the eastern end are not available during the day which would definitely leave a lapse in service. The Committee would need to recruit at least four more. The cost was discussed regarding the Land O Lakes ambulance issue as well as the EMTs.

Board Chairman Siirila indicated that the County could possibly assist with the cost if necessary and the Administrator indicated that the 2% monies could possibly be requested and given to the EMTs or Land O Lakes instead of the County requesting it so that those on the eastern end have better response time.

Chairman Lorensen did say that the tribe was willing to assist with these costs so that is something that will be pursued in the near future.

Chairman Lorensen also indicated that the college is going to be offering an EMT class however there is a cost affiliated with that. Because of the number of individuals in the eastern end that are interested in becoming an EMT, the class would either have to be done at Nicolet or Gogebic as the college must be an accredited college in order for them to be an EMT.

A short discussion ensued on the number of calls, maintenance expenses incurred by Beacon for the service they provide to our county thus far, as it would be helpful in determining how much it actually costs to run an ambulance service and is our charge appropriately adjusted for such expenditures.

Questions were asked as to the purpose of acquiring such numbers. The sheriff indicated that he does give a quarterly report to the cities on costs.

Chairman Lorensen stated that he will get the discussed prices and cost from Beacon and Aspirus.

Under the 2020/21 Service Request for Proposals, the contract is nearing the end of the first year and proposals could either be sought or there is also a clause in the contract to extend.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to the pros and cons in going out for proposals once again or simply extending the existing contract.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Ms. Chermiside to negotiate a price with Beacon Ambulance to see what their cost would be for the next two years of the three-year contract. If they would be willing to stay status quo or if they would be willing to go lower.

Discussion continued.

Ms. Hewitt felt that the County should go out for proposals for transparency purposes.

Mr. Bonovetz felt that a subcommittee should be derived out of this committee to talk with Beacon Ambulance on this proposal of extending.

Vote on the motion: Ayes 6, nays 1, absent 3. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was Watersmeet Township Medical First Responders question.

Chairman Lorensen indicated that Watersmeet Township has First Responders that respond via a firetruck and provide initial care until arrives at the scene. He was approached by Supervisor Rogers on contracting with them for some of the costs that is incurred in stabilizing the hurt individuals.

The Sheriff questioned how many calls they receive per year and should proceed cautiously on willingness to give additional dollars for such services at this point.

Chairman Lorensen indicated that Alger County does a similar process to this whereto they subsidize or contract with first responders in a couple of their municipalities due to distance. He will contact them for more information, and he will request the same information pertaining to the number of calls and maintenance expenses from Aspirus.

The last item on the agenda was the purchase/lease equipment.

Chair Lorensen indicated that when the millage was discussed in the beginning stages, the County had talked about purchasing equipment to lease back to Beacon, but the committee's consensus was that this is something doable in the future. It is not something that the committee or county can do now due

to the funding issues. The committee felt that they are all new in the process of ambulance millage and making such decisions took time and research.

The fund is presently in the deficit per the County Treasurer, but the tax anticipation note should balance that out and then when the millage starts coming in which is expected in February, it will help the fund.

There were no "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Ms. Koval to adjourn. Motion carried.

James Lorenson, Chairman
Gogebic County Emergency Ambulance Committee

Gogebic County

Board of County Road Commissioners

ROY D'ANTONIO

Chair

WATERSMEET

KEVIN HAUSTEIN

Commissioner

IRONWOOD

DENNIS SKINNER

Commissioner

WAKEFIELD

200 NORTH MOORE STREET

Courthouse Annex

Bessemer, MI 49911

P: (906) 667-0233

F: (906) 663-4807

www.gogebiccountyroadcommission.org

DAN PETERSON

Vice-Chair

BESSEMER

JOHN MATONICH

Commissioner

MARENISCO

BARRY BOLICH

Manager

IRONWOOD

August 14, 2019

Gerry Pelissero
Gogebic County Clerk
Courthouse
Bessemer MI 49911

RE: Act 51 Reports

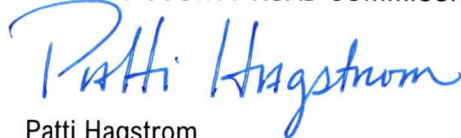
Dear Gerry:

Please find enclosed pages 20 and 21 of the Gogebic County Road Commission's ACT 51 report for fiscal year ending 2018. This information regarding the disposition of funds is required to be reported to your office and each township in Gogebic County. Please be aware that this information is for a 9 month year beginning on January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. Gogebic County Road Commission will now have fiscal years running from October 1 to September 30.

Please look over these reports and if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact this office. Also, the entire ACT 51 Report is available to you upon request.

Sincerely,

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION



Patti Hagstrom
Office Administrator

Enclosures

Year Ended - 2018

Start: 01/01/2018 End: 09/30/2018

SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP MILEAGE AND POPULATION

Township	Local Roads			Primary Roads				
	Total Local (mi)	Local Urban (mi)	Funds Received (\$)	Total Primary (mi)	Primary Urban (mi)	Funds Received (\$)	Population Outside Municipalities	Funds Received (\$)
Bessemer	63.94	0.00	154,031.46	28.24	0.00	61,958.56	1,176	20,133.12
Erwin	30.74	0.19	74,450.14	13.18	0.00	28,916.92	326	5,581.12
Ironwood	83.10	6.20	213,158.30	53.57	3.88	166,238.22	2,333	39,940.96
Marenisco	52.77	0.00	127,122.93	52.40	0.00	114,965.60	1,727	29,566.24
Wakefield	39.97	0.00	96,287.73	26.06	0.00	57,175.64	305	5,221.60
Watersmeet	85.01	0.00	204,789.10	71.33	0.00	156,498.02	1,417	24,259.04
266. Totals	355.53	6.39	\$869,839.66	244.78	3.88	\$585,752.96	7,284	\$124,702.08

Local Road Rate Per Mile	2409	Primary Road Rate Per Mile	2194
Local Urban Road Rate Per Mile	2092	Primary Urban Road Rate Per Mile	12553
Population Rate Per Capita	17.12		

Year Ended - 2018

Start: 01/01/2018 End: 09/30/2018

SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP EXPENDITURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
Expenditures

Township	Construction/ Capacity Improvement (\$)	Preservation - Struct Improvement (\$)	Total (\$)	Township Contributions* (\$)
Bessemer	0.00	418,581.27	418,581.27	47,652.51
Erwin	0.00	25,208.43	25,208.43	0.00
Ironwood	0.00	1,458,748.93	1,458,748.93	134,435.42
Marenisco	0.00	495,035.22	495,035.22	12,879.59
Wakefield	0.00	151,408.83	151,408.83	63,240.01
Watersmeet	0.00	1,522,403.60	1,522,403.60	10,000.00
267. Totals	\$0.00	\$4,071,386.28	\$4,071,386.28	\$268,207.53

*The Township Contributions Totals and the Funds expended for Construction and Preservation amount may not balance. The Township Contributions list all funds contributed by each township and will balance back to the amount reported on the Statement of Revenues, Line 74, Township Contributions.

The total funds expended are for Construction and Preservation only. They do not contain funds expended for Routine Preventative Maintenance.