

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 22, 2020**

**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 (January 8, 2020 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----12/26/2019
2. Ambulance Committee -----01/16/2020

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Sheriff Peter Matonich  
(RE: Recognition award)
2. Clerk Gerry R. Pelissero  
(RE: Ballot Proposal for May)
3. Steve Pallin Transit director  
(RE: Transit Board appointment)

**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**

**January 8, 2020**

**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** (December 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes)  
**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with one addition to Other Matters: approval of the truck bid for a sheriff department patrol truck.

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

There were none.

**Election of Vice-Chairman**

Chairman Siirila opened the floor to hear nominations for Vice-Chairman. Lorenson with support from Peterson nominated Jim Bryns. The Chairman then asked three more time for additional nominations and heard none. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to close the floor for nominations. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to elect Jim Bryns as Vice-Chairman for 2020.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Greg Ryskey, Gogebic County Grant Administrator, County Remonumentation Program

(RE: Revised County Remon Plan)

**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Remonumentation Program Plan.

2. James Zyduck, Director of Hydro Plants, Xcel Energy  
(RE: Saxon Falls and Superior Falls Hydroelectric projects)

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

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3. Steven Pence, Attorney

(RE: Manpower Constortium)

Attorney Steve Pence, who was hired to represent the County in the Manpower Constortium matter is retiring on January 31, 2020. He notified the County that Wendy Marcotte, attorney from his office has agreed to take over the case. A scheduling conference is set for January 10, 2020 with all parties involved. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to ask Corporate Counsel Nick Jacobs to listen in and/or participate in the scheduling conference. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive the communication and place it on file and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with Marcotte for her services to represent the County.

4. Juliane Giackino, County Administrator

(RE: Appointment to DHHS Board)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Robert Sharon to the DHHS Board.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Agenda Addition:

Sheriff Truck bid approval

Sheriff Peter Matonich informed the Board he received one bid by the advertised deadline for a sheriff department patrol truck. The bid was from Big Valley Ford Mercury of Ewen Michigan. The bid was for \$29,202.00. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the bid from Big Valley Ford Mercury and authorized Sheriff Matonich to move ahead with the purchase process.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

County Administrator Juliane Giackino provided an update to the Board. The MSU Extension has an opening in their nutrition program. The County received the workers compensation dividend check from the Michigan Association of Counties in the amount of \$31,040.00. The Courthouse elevator has been out of service on occasion recently and the Otis elevator repairman has on been on site a few times to repair the motor. Giackino advised she inquired about a replacement elevator and a new one would cost of approximately \$140,000. She will continue her discussions with the Otis elevator people.

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Lastly she mentioned she met with the MEDC representatives and the County Strategic Planning Committee to discuss the County releasing the County Economic Development Corporation Funds to the State and in turn the County could possibly receive a grant through the USDA for economic development needs including personnel. The County holds approximately \$70,000 of EDC funds and could receive a grant of up to \$100,000.00 in turn for the EDC funds. She is expecting an offer letter next week for the County to consider. She will schedule a Board workshop after she receives the letter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

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Dan Siirila, Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

# **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

1. **Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 12/26/19**

**No recommendations**

2. **Ambulance Committee, 01/16/20**

**No recommendations**

A meeting of the Gogebic county Ambulance Committee was held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 3:30 P.M., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Lorensen, Hewitt, Koval, Matonich, DeRosso, Giackino

Absent: Chermside, Bonovetz, Santori Pusateri

Chairman Lorensen called the meeting to order at 3:37 P.M.

The first item on the agenda was the Chair regarding the Aspirus Ambulance renewal.

Chair Lorensen indicated that the increase they are requesting is approximately 11%. The new figure Aspirus is requesting is \$63,906.

Ms. Koval indicated she had sent an email requesting information for comparison purposes. She provided that to the chair, who indicated he has never seen that prior to this meeting.

Chair Lorensen indicated that the increase was due to labor.

The Administrator stated she was given the same reason from Mr. Kirkley of Aspirus.

A brief conversation took place on service with Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin. They are not ready to provide service to a portion of Watersmeet at this time. A brief discussion regarding ambulance service in the Watersmeet area ensued.

Aspirus would like an answer as to their increase request this month.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the City of Ironwood and their concern of future ambulance service.

Chair Lorensen indicated he had to leave at this time. He excused himself at 4:09 P.M. He will request another meeting next week, possibly the 23rd

The remaining members briefly discussed ambulance issues as it pertained to the future of ambulance service for the citizens of Gogebic County.

A motion by Hewitt, supported by Matonich to adjourn at 4:23 P.M. Motion carried.

**Jim Lorensen, Chairman**  
**Gogebic County Ambulance Committee**

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting and Auditing Committee was held on Thursday, December 26, 2019, at 1:30 P.M., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

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

Absent: None

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

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

Claims was the first item on the agenda.

Clerk Pelissero indicated that a new claims list was run this date to include Walmart for \$98.01, and Reinhart for \$107.48 and Walmart for \$1124.00; these were claims pertaining to food bills at the jail.

A motion by Commissioner Bonovetz, supported by Commissioner Lorenson to pay the claims as presented along with the prepaids. Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.

The next item was "Other Matters" which included updates on agency/committee or Board appointments.

Commissioner Siirila gave an update along with Administrator Giackino on a conference call they had regarding the USEDA grant. He indicated that the Administrator was supposed to have received a letter from MEDC and that has not happened.

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding sending of the current RLF monies back to the State.

Commissioners Bonovetz have an update on the Airport Board meeting in which they received 4 proposals from airlines for air service. Another meeting would be held on January 6, 2020.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Commissioners Siirila, supported by Commissioner Lorenson to adjourn. Motion carried to adjourn at 1:51 P.M.

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

**Gerry Pelissero**

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**From:** Pete Matonich  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:12 AM  
**To:** Gerry Pelissero  
**Cc:** Ross Solberg; Jorge Cruz  
**Subject:** Board Agenda for the 22nd meeting

Gerry,

Please place the Undersheriff and I on the agenda for the January 22, 2020 board meeting. We plan to present Deputy Jessie Yesney with an award for his actions in providing life saving measures to a heart attack victim late last year. The victim has fully recovered, and will also be attending the meeting.

Thank you,

**Pete Matonich, Sheriff**

**Gogebic County Sheriff's Office**  
**100 West Iron Street**  
**Bessemer, Michigan**

**[pmatonich@gogebiccountymi.gov](mailto:pmatonich@gogebiccountymi.gov)**



**OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-REGISTER  
COUNTY OF GOGEBIC**

200 NORTH MOORE STREET  
BESSEMER, MICHIGAN 49911  
CLERK (906) 663-4518  
REGISTER OF DEEDS (906) 667-0381  
FAX (906) 663-4660  
e-mail: [gpelissero@gogebiccountymi.gov](mailto:gpelissero@gogebiccountymi.gov)

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**GERRY R. PELISSERO**

County Clerk-Register of Deeds

**CHIEF DEPUTY**

Donna M. Frello

January 14, 2020

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

RE: 9-1-1 Surcharge proposal

Dear Commissioners,

As you know the 9-1-1 surcharge proposal will appear on the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary ballot. If by chance the proposal fails, proposal language would have to appear on the May 5, 2020 election. Per election law, MCL 168.646a, the language needs to be certified by February 11, 2020.

I've attached the language that is identical to the ballot language approved for placement on the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Ballot.

Sincerely,

  
Gerry R. Pelissero

## **911 OPERATION SURCHARGE**

For the period beginning on July 1, 2020 and continuing through the month of June in the year 2025, shall Gogebic County be authorized to assess a monthly operational surcharge of up to three dollars (not to exceed \$3.00) on the monthly billings of landline, wireless and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) service suppliers within the geographic boundaries of Gogebic County to be used exclusively for the funding of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch service within Gogebic County, including facilities, equipment and operations?

YES

NO



# GOGEBIC COUNTY TRANSIT

"Gogebic's Little Blue Bus"

235 E. McLeod Avenue, Ironwood, MI 49938

PHONE: 906-932-2523 FAX: 906-932-1493



January 14, 2020

Mr. Gerry Pelissero  
Gogebic County Board of Commissioners  
Courthouse  
Bessemer, MI 49911

Mr. Pelissero:

I was unaware that board members needed to send in a letter of interest when they wanted to remain on the board. I have contacted David Pawlak and will be forwarding his letter to you ASAP.

There was a misscommunication. I thought he was referring to the letter of recommendation that was sent in and Dave was referring to the letter of interest we had on file. We should have sent in Dave's letter on interest with the December letter of recommendation.

Thank you for your help,

  
Steve R. Pallin

January 14, 2020

Gogebic County Board of Commissioners  
Courthouse  
Bessemer, MI 49911


Gentlemen:

I respectfully wish to be considered for reappointment to the Gogebic County Transit Board of Directors.

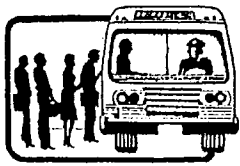
I have served as Chairman of its Board of Directors since 2012.

The Transit Authority has been an asset to Gogebic County for many years.

I would appreciate consideration for this position as a board member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Pawlak". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a cursive "Pawlak".

David R. Pawlak  
E5125 W. Norrie Park Rd.  
Ironwood, MI 49938  
932-4936



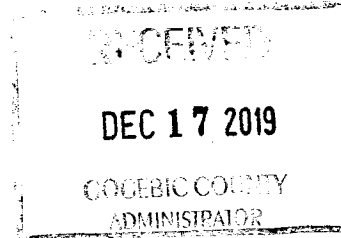
# GOGEBIC COUNTY TRANSIT

"Gogebic's Little Blue Bus"

235 E. McLeod Avenue, Ironwood, MI 49938  
PHONE: 906-932-2523 FAX: 906-932-1493



December 16, 2019



Gogebic County Board of Commissioners  
Gogebic County Courthouse  
Bessemer, MI 49911

Dear Commissioners:

On February 1, 2020, Robert Orlich and David Pawlak's appointments as Gogebic County Transit Board of Directors members will expire.

In accordance with Article 10 of the GCT Articles of Incorporation:

"The Gogebic County Board shall appoint five (5) board members to the Board of Directors: Two (2) members recommended from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, and three (3) members recommended from applications submitted from residents at large of the County of Gogebic in response to a published request for said applications."

We respectfully request that the two open positions (Gogebic County commissioner and Cocebic County resident) on the Gogebic County Transit Board be filled for three (3) year terms.

Mr. Orlich and Mr. Pawlak have expressed an interest in remaining on the GCT Board of Directors. They have been an exceptional Board members.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Steven R. Pallin  
Director