

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

County Courthouse

Live stream on Facebook.com/gogebiccountycourthouse

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, Byrns, Laabs, Lorenson (via video)
Siirila (Orlich, Peterson via phone)**

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (March 25, 2020 regular meeting)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to approve the minutes as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Byrns to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

(5-minute limit)

There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS: (none received)

OTHER MATTERS:

Discussion on Employee pay extension due to COVID-19

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz to extend the employee pay for two additional weeks to April 24, 2020. The motion from the March 25, 2020 meeting extended pay to April 10, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: (0) None

Motion carried

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

Page Two

Spending limits during COVID-19

Brief discussion took on spending limits. The Board encouraged department heads to stay within their allocated budgets and try to save money within their budgets if possible.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Administrator Juliane Giackino discussed the Michigan Works pension issue. Due to COVID-19 all State supplemental budget funds that aren't directly related to the needs of the State to combat the outbreak were removed from the supplemental budget. The pension issue funds were allocated to the County in the supplemental budget, prior to COVID-19 according to Senator Ed McBroom.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Heidi DeRosso updated the Board on the COVID-19 response in the County and U.P. She meets via phone almost daily with the other EM's in the U.P.

Sheriff Pete Matonich voiced his displeasure with the State of Michigan's decision to pay their essential employees hazard pay but will not allow hazard pay for County, City or Township essential employees. The Board advised the Administrator to contact MAC and our Legislators on this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Lawrence Dale of Ironwood sent an email through the online feed and expressed his concerns about COVID-19 in Gogebic County and he asked if the former Ojibway Correctional Facility could be used in case our local hospital is overcrowded. Heidi DeRosso mentioned that Chippewa, Marquette and Delta Counties have been identified as alternate care sites for the U.P. in case of overcrowding.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk