

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2020
County Courthouse
Bessemer, MI 49911
Immediately following Public Hearing

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Siirila. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Bonovetz, Byrns, Laabs, Lorenson
Orlich, Peterson (via phone), Siirila
Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (July 22, 2020 meeting minutes)

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

Roll Call:

YES: (7) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila
No: (0) None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Byrns to approve the agenda as presented along with the removal of item #2 in Communications and add the Forestry and Parks Resolution.

Roll Call:

YES: (7) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila
No: (0) None

Motion carried.

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

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. Kate Beer, Western U.P. Health Department
Ms. Beer opened by saying she attended the COVID testing site in Ironwood today and at least 265 tests were completed. She then discussed the FY21 budget request from the Western U.P. Health Department. She is requesting an additional \$5,000 this fiscal year from Gogebic County to help offset the pension liability gap for current and future retirees of the Department. The total requested is approximately \$134,250.00

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Beer explained a loss in the amount paid for Medicaid and Medicare funding is another reason for the increased appropriation. Beer hoped Gogebic County could fully honor her request. The Board had several questions for her as well. No formal action was taken at his time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: MDOT contract approval)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to adopt the resolution as presented and authorize the Chairman's signature on the contracts.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

2. Lisa Hewitt, County Treasurer
(RE: Rights to Purchased Foreclosed Parcels)
(Item removed from the agenda)

Agenda addition:

1. Resolution of Commitment for Local Matching Funds 2020
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Lorenson to adopt the resolution as presented.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: Moved up one spot on the agenda

Juliane Giackino mentioned the County was awarded two vehicles through the USDA grant process. A 2020 Dodge Ram pickup with a plow package and a 2021 Jeep Cherokee.

OTHER MATTERS:

1. CLOSED SESSION to discuss settlement strategy regarding litigation. G-19-195-CK Gogebic County vs. MTTP

A motion was made by Lorenson, supported by Byrns to go into closed session to discuss settlement strategy regarding litigation.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

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A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to go back into open session.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lorensen, supported by Byrns to approve of the settlement offer between all parties in the litigation of G-19-195-CK Gogebic County vs. MTTP.

Roll Call:

YES: (5) Byrns, Lorensen, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila

NO: (2) Laabs, Bonovetz

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk