

**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