

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2020

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (April 22, 2020, regular meeting minutes plus the Public Hearing minutes and April 29, 2020 meeting minutes)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

(none received)

OTHER MATTERS:

FY20 and FY21 budget impacts of COVID-19

Discussion on Employee pay extension due to COVID-19
(Currently approved to May 15, 2020)

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

ADJOURNMENT

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing Minutes
April 22, 2020
County Courthouse
Bessemer, MI 49911
5:00 P.M.

COUNTY OF GOGEBIC
PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of discussing (2) proposed grants with USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT for the purchase of a Truck with a Plow and a Admin Vehicle USDA funding totals \$26,800 for the first purchase and \$18,000 for the second grant. The hearing will take place in the Gogebic County Circuit Courtroom at 200 N. Moore St., Bessemer, MI.

Present: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Bonovetz, Lorensen, Orlich, Siirila

Absent: (1) Peterson

Chairman Siirila welcomed those in attendance to the Public Hearing and read the purpose of the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Lorensen and carried by unanimous voice vote to open the public hearing. Once opened, Chairman Siirila asked three times for anyone wishing to comment and heard none. Bonovetz asked if any written comments on the public hearing were received and the answer was no.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen and carried by unanimous voice vote to close the public hearing.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2020

County Courthouse

Live stream on Facebook.com/gogebiccountycourthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

Immediately following 5:00 p.m. public hearing

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chairman Siirila. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

**Present: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorensen, Bonovetz, Orlich
Siirila**

Absent: (1) Peterson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (April 8, 2020 meeting minutes)

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

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorensen, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz to approve the agenda as presented along with one addition to summary reports. Dal Pra Educational Award Committee

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorensen, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

(5-minute limit)

There were none.

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

Agenda Addition:

1. Dal Pra Educational Award Committee -----04/20/2020

A motion was made Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to approve the list of recipients for the scholarships of \$2,500 per student.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorensen, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

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APPEARANCES:

1. County 9-1-1 Coordinator Heidi DeRosso

(RE: 9-1-1 Operating Surcharge effective 7/1/2020)

Coordinator DeRosso explained the need to set the 9-1-1 operational surcharge at \$2.00 per device. She provided information to the Board that included a five-year projection of costs related the operations of the County 9-1-1 budgets. The 9-1-1 Committee is hopeful the surcharge can stay at \$2.00 per device for five years. She answered a few questions from the Board regarding costs and equipment purchases. **A motion** was made by Byrns, supported by Lorenson to set the 9-1-1 operational surcharge at \$2.00 per device.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. County Equalization Director Kathy Jo Koval

(RE: 2020 County Equalization report)

Director Koval presented the 2020 Equalization Report to the Board. The recommended 2020 County Equalized Value is \$684,593,840 which is an increase of 2% and the tentative Taxable Value is \$554,426,466, which is a 3% increase. Koval went through each category for the Board and answered questions related to each category's amount.

A motion was Bonovetz, supported by Orlich to adopt the Agricultural Equalized value as presented.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to adopt the Commercial Equalized value as presented.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Made by

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A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich to adopt the Industrial Equalized value as presented.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to adopt the Residential Equalized value as presented.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to adopt the Timber Cut-Over Equalized value.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich to adopt the Personal Property Equalized value as presented.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported Laabs to approve and authorize the proper signatures on the State L-4024 Form as required.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

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2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: 3rd Quarter Appropriation Release)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to release the 3rd quarter appropriation to the Airport.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL:

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

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

A motion was made Bonovetz, supported by Byrns to pay the claims as presented along with the prepaids, and to approve the VISA credit card bill and the Walmart invoices as prepaids on April 29th.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

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OTHER MATTERS

Discussion on Employee pay extension due to COVID-19

(Currently approved to April 24, 2020)

Discussion took place on the matter. Commissioner Bonovetz suggested Department Heads discuss offering volunteer furloughs to their employees if the Governor's shelter in place stay safe Executive Order is extended beyond April 30, 2020. Governor Whitmer may have an answer on Friday April 24 on the length of an extension of her EO. After discussion on the issue a Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting was set for April 29, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. and a special Board meeting will immediately follow. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz to extended employee pay through Wednesday April 29th, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

USDA RURAL Development Grant

County Administrator Juliane Giackino said the Grant application needs to be approved by the Board for submittal. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Byrns to approve the grant application and submit the necessary paperwork.

ROLL CALL:

**YES: (6) Laabs, Byrns, Lorenson, Bonovetz,
Orlich, Siirila**

NO: (0) None

Motion carried.

Bonovetz gave an update on the virtual meeting he had with the MAC Board. The Governor appeared at the meeting and discussed the COVID-19 issues affecting the State. She really never answered questions on matters that involved the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There were no in person comments or received via out online meeting email address.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2020

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

Immediately following the 3:30 p.m. Personnel Committee meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Siirila.
Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Georgia Weber, Administrator, Gogebic Medical Care Facility
(RE: Building and Site renewal of ballot proposal)

A motion was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz to approve the ballot language for placement on the August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballot.

**PROPOSITION TO LEVY 0.4 MILLS FOR BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE
GOGEBIC COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY, FOR A PERIOD OF**

FIVE (5) YEARS: 2021-2025, INCLUSIVE:

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the County of Gogebic be increased 0.4 mills (\$0.4 per \$1,000 of State Taxable Valuation) for a period of five (5) years, 2021-2025 inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used exclusively for Building and Site Improvements at the Gogebic County Medical Care Facility, and shall the County of Gogebic levy such increase in millage for such purposes during such period, which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated \$204,699.00 (This is the same millage rate that has been in effect since 2011-2015 and represents a renewal rather than an increase.)

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Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

2. Steven R. Pallin, Director, Gogebic County Transit
(Re: Transit Operating renewal ballot of proposal)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Byrns to approve the ballot language for placement on the August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballot.

PROPOSAL TO RENEW OR CONTINUE THE PREVIOUS ONE-THIRD MILL, (1/3) FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOGEBIC COUNTY TRANSIT FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS FROM 2021-2024 INCLUSIVE:

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the County of Gogebic be renewed at one-third (1/3) mill (\$.33-1/3 per \$1,000 of State Taxable Valuation) for a period of four (4) years, 2017-2020 inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used exclusively for the continued operation of the Gogebic County Transit System and shall the County of Gogebic levy such increase in millage for such purposes during such period, which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated \$170,412.00 (This is the millage rate that has been in effect from 1985 through 2020 and represents a renewal of that millage, rather than an increase).

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

3. Kerri Duff, Executive Director, GOCAA
(RE: Senior Programs renewal of ballot proposal)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to approve the ballot language for placement on the August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballot.

PROPOSITION TO LEVY SIX-TENTHS (0.60) MILL FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOGEBIC-ONTONAGON COMMUNITY ACTION-AGENCY SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAMS IN GOGEBIC COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) YEARS FROM 2016-2019 YEARS, INCLUSIVE.

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Shall the ad valorem taxes collected on all property within the County of Gogebic be renewed for said county by 0.60 mill (\$0.60 per \$1,000.00 of state taxable value) for a period of four years, 2016 through 2019 inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used exclusively for the operation of the Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency Senior Citizens Programs in Gogebic County; and shall the County of Gogebic levy such renewal in millage for such purposes during such period, which renewal will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated \$307,049.00 (This is the millage rate that has been in effect from 2000-2015 and represents a renewal of that millage rather than an increase.)

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

4. John Frello, Veterans Service Officer
(RE: County Veteran Service Fund Grant)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to authorize the proper signatures on the grant application.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

OTHER MATTERS:

Discussion on Employee pay extension due to COVID-19
(Currently approved thru April 29, 2020)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to extend pay through the next pay period, which is May 15, 2020.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

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A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to send an email to all department heads that all employees are requested to report back to work on Thursday, April 30. This is not a directive but a request to have all offices fully staffed.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

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.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk