

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2019

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: (4) Bryns, Laabs, Orlich, Siirila

Absent: (3) Bonovetz, Lorenson, Peterson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (General Fund Public Hearing and September 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes)

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Bryns and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bryns and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with two additions to Other Matters.

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

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. MAC Executive Director Steve Currie
Director Currie discussed the State budget, the vetoed programs by Governor Whitmer and how they could impact Counties. Over \$1 billion in budget cuts were made by the Governor. Negotiations are planned for the coming weeks to reallocate funds to PILT, Jail Reimbursements to Counties and Secondary Road Patrol programs. Currie spoke on the legislative issues that will be coming up in next legislative session. MAC will work to see the appropriation grant of \$971,000 for Gogebic County is restored, these funds were a remedy to the MI Works Manpower pension issue. Currie answered a few questions from the Board.

2. Rich Rossway, Director of Constituent Services
For 110th State Representative Greg Markkanen
Mr. Rossway discussed the budget cuts and vetoes by the Governor and talked about the pension issue that Rep Markkanen has been working since he took office 10 months ago; they hope to get these funds reintroduced in a supplemental budget. Markkanen continues to work to repurpose the Ojibway Correctional Facility in Marenisco Township. Rossway suggested a Board resolution to the Governor requesting the pension grant funds be restored.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Paul Anderson, Coleman Engineering
(RE: Iron Belle Trail local match resolution)

Mr. Anderson appeared at the meeting to discuss any questions on the resolution. Chairman Siirila mentioned he discussed the resolution earlier today with Corporate Counsel Nick Jacobs. Siirila said Jacobs didn't see any issues with adopting the resolution. **A motion** was made by Laabs, supported by Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the resolution as presented.

2. Jonathon Mead, President & CEO UPCAP
(RE: Governor Veto of entire 298 section of DHHS budget)

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

3. Susan Ahonen, City of Wakefield Clerk
(RE: Public Hearing notice)

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

OTHER MATTERS:

Agenda Additions:

1. Greg Ryskey, Forestry and Parks Director
(RE: recommendation of appointee)

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint John Matonich to the un-expired term on the Forestry and Parks Commission. The term will expire June 30, 2022.

2. Four-Year Terms for County Commissioners

A motion was made by Byrns, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the resolution as presented in support of four-year County Commissioner terms of office.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Juliane Giackino updated the Board on the Employee Assistance Program usage in past years. She mentioned the MEDC and EDA Federal program for economic growth in the County and informed the Board that Gogebic Community College is working on a Workforce Development program.

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A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to send a letter or resolution to Governor Whitmer requesting the grant funds to the County be restored.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk