

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Public Hearing  
March 25, 2020  
County Courthouse  
Bessemer, MI 49911  
5:00 P.M.**

**COUNTY OF GOGEBIC**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Gogebic will hold a Public Hearing on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application Proposal for land acquisition of parcels totaling approximately 4,000 acres of property located in Gogebic County.

The hearing will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at the Gogebic County Courthouse, 200 N. Moore Street, Bessemer, MI 49911 for the purpose of hearing public comments on land acquisition of parcels totaling approximately 4,000 acres in Gogebic County.

Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the County Clerk's Office, County of Gogebic, 200 N. Moore Street, Bessemer, MI 49911 until 3 p.m. March 25, 2020.

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 25, 2020**

**County Courthouse**

**\*\*\* No Finance Meeting \*\*\***

**Bessemer, MI 49911**

**Immediately following the Public Hearing**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (March 11, 2020 meeting minutes)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:**

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee-----02/26/2020

**COMMUNICATIONS:** No communications were received.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant
2. Jonathan Mead, UPACC Secretary, (2)  
Great Lakes Shoreline and Emergency Management Safe Schools

**TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL:**

**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (5-minute limit)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 11, 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: (6) Bonovetz, Bryns, Laabs, Lorenson  
Orlich, Siirila**

**Absent: (1) Peterson**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (February 26, 2020 meeting minutes)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Byrns, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with one item added to Other Matters.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**(5-minute limit)**

There were none.

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:**

1. Ambulance Committee -----01/16/2020
2. Dal Pra Scholarship Award Committee---01/27/2020

**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive the Ambulance Committee report as presented and approve motions A and B from the Dal Pra Scholarship Award Committee.

- A. The person eligible for the Dal Pra Scholarship shall not be enrolled in any form of early middle college.
- B. To award 58 scholarship at \$2,500 each whereby Wakefield-Marenisco Schools would receive 8, Ironwood Area Schools would receive 25, Bessemer Area Schools would receive 17, Watersmeet Schools would receive 2 and the Alternative School would receive up to 6.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. City of Bessemer  
(RE: Public Hearing notice)

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

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 11, 2020**

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2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager  
(RE: MDOT Contracts for ARFF Training)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the resolution as presented along with authorizing the Chairman's signature on the contracts with MDOT.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Community Mental Health Board  
Julie Hautala, CEO letter of recommendation  
(Four Positions, Four applications)

**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint four people to the CMH Board. George Beninghaus, Valerie Swanberg, Colleen Kichak and Dan Siirila were appointed for three-year terms.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Agenda Addition:

Clerk Gerry Pelissero informed the Board with the passing of the 9-1-1 Operational Surcharge proposal on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 the Board should remove the question for the May 5, 2020 Election Ballot. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson and carried by unanimous voice vote to remove the proposal from the May 5, 2020 ballot. Because of the removal, Gogebic County will not be holding an election in May.

Chairman Siirila asked members of the Airport Board about the new Hangar that may be built on the current property, which led to a lengthy discussion on the matter.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Administrator Juliane Giackino discussed the development of personnel policies for County employees, which would include the unions, airport, appointed officials and court employees. The Forestry Commission has a policy and she is using that as a guide for development.

She also updated on the elevator at the courthouse, which needs to be replaced, another unclaimed body issue was handled last week.

Commissioner Lorenson thanked Heidi DeRosso and the 9-1-1 Committee for their efforts in the passing of the 9-1-1 Operating Surcharge proposal.

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 11, 2020**  
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The Finance meeting for March 25, 2020 will start at 4:00 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m. A meeting with MEDC members will be held on March 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. if all parties are available for that date and time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Dan Siirila, Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

# **COMMITTEE MEETINGS SUMMARY REPORT**

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee, 2/26/20

No Recommendations

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 4:00 P.M., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan.

Present: Peterson, Siirila, Orlich, Laabs, Bonovetz, Lorenson, Byrns

Absent: None

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Pete Matonich, Sheriff, Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator; Brandon Tauer, IT/security; Kathy Jo Koval, Equalization Director

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

The first item on the agenda was claims and accounts.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Laabs to recommend to the Board to pay the claims as presented along with the prepaids.

A number of questions were asked on the claims presented.

Vote on the motion: Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer with the cash balances and investments report. This report was as of January 31, 2020.

The reports consisted of the investment report, the summary of the investment, retiree health and the cash summary by account for the county.

The Treasurer offered to give this report monthly, quarterly or whenever the Committee felt they would prefer.

The Committee agreed that quarterly this report would be appropriate.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Lorenson to accept and receive the report. Yeas 7, Nays 0, Absent 0. Motion carried.

There were no "Updates on Agency/Committee or Board Appointments".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Lorenson, supported by Mr. Siirila to adjourn at 4:41 P.M. Motion carried.

***George Peterson III, Chairman  
Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee***

RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT  
FOR LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR 2020  
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT

WHEREAS, the County of Gogebic supports the submission of an application titled "Flannery Forestland Acquisition Project" to the MNRTF for acquisition of 4,000 acres of property located in Gogebic County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the County's 5-year approved recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Gogebic desires to enhance the public natural resource based recreation opportunities for it's citizens by acquiring forestland parcels; and

WHEREAS, there has been a Public Hearing, to gain input on the recreational needs of the county; and

WHEREAS, there are Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grants available to eligible counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Gogebic will proceed with the project if they receive the MNRTF Grant and that they will put forth the budgeted amount for the 25% Local Share for the MNRTF.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on the March 25, 2020 at 5 p.m. in Gogebic County Michigan with a quorum present.

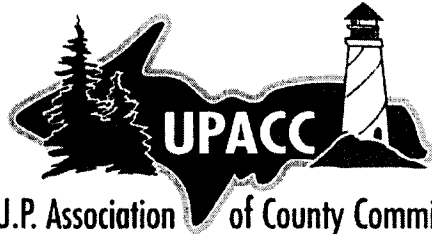
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry R. Pelissero, County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Siirila, Vice-Chairman  
County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:





P.O. Box 606  
2501 14th Avenue South  
Escanaba, MI 49829

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Mach 9, 2020

Senator Ed McBroom  
Senator Wayne Schmidt  
POB 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senators McBroom and Schmidt,

On behalf of the U.P. Association of County Commissioners (UPACC), we would like to express UPACC's opposition to Senate Bill 431 (SB431) as written. Community planning and zoning needs to be administered at the local level. We find this level of government is best suited to determine the needs and desires of our community. If passed, SB431 would remove local government's zoning authority and oversight capability, preempting township regulations for sand and gravel mining operations, regardless of where it is located or the impact to nearby residents.

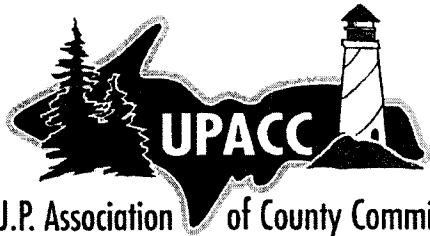
Additional concerns are the unavoidable risks to public health, safety and welfare. Similar to the Michigan Township Association, the U.P. Association of County Commissioners believes local government must maintain its already limited authority regarding mining operations, and is best equipped to balance the needs of residents with the impact of mining operations.

For these reasons, the Upper Peninsula Association of County commissioners asks that you oppose SB431 as written.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Mead  
UPACC Secretary

cc: Upper Peninsula State Legislators  
MAC



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**RESOLUTION**  
**REQUESTING THE GREAT LAKES SHORELINE BE**  
**DECLARED A DISASTER AREA AND TO SEEK ASSISTANCE**

WHEREAS, record high water levels in the Great Lakes have contributed to ongoing shoreline erosion across the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels have caused severe damage to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels are forcing the relocation of roads and infrastructure costing in excess of millions of dollars for the relocation of the roads and compromised public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels are causing detrimental environmental impacts at other various industrial legacy sites along the shoreline, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Counties that have land bordering the Great Lakes recognize the effects of storms, high water, and wind driven wave action that is causing severe erosion to the shorelines, infrastructure, and private property along the Great Lakes, and

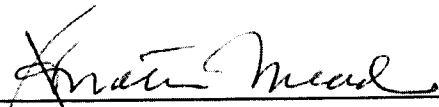
WHEREAS, the conditions of the Great Lakes shorelines directly affect business and Upper Peninsula tourism by limiting access to beaches, boat landings, and parks along the shorelines, and loss and damaged property directly affects the local, county, and state tax base, and

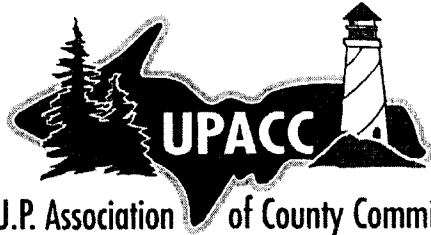
WHEREAS, the shoreline communities in the State of Michigan are desperately in need of additional resources to combat shoreline erosion and protection of natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners (UPACC) requests that the Governor of the State of Michigan along with the State Legislature declare the Shoreline of the Great Lakes in the State of Michigan a disaster area, and that the Governor and State Legislature seek assistance from Congress and the President of the United States of America for this devastating situation which has an impact statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, the U.P. Legislators, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP).

Dated: 3/9/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Mead  
UPACC Secretary



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## RESOLUTION

### Emergency Management and Safe Schools

**WHEREAS**, The Office of School Safety created under the Michigan Public Act (PA) 435 of 2018, alongside Michigan Public Act 670 of 2018, identifies the department of Michigan State Police as being the exclusive agency responsible for all Michigan schools with respect to, but not limited to education, training, reporting and building assessments pertaining to safety and security using an all-hazards approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Peninsula (Region 8) Public Act 390 programs, have been undertaking safe school training and safe school professional development since 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, current Michigan law requires Emergency Management to oversee school drills; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of school safety to the department of Michigan State Police circumvents the underlying core functions of emergency management which is placing school safety programs under the umbrella of all-hazards emergency management planning; and

**WHEREAS**, local responders and local Public Act 390 emergency management programs are far more aware of school dynamics, as they have on-going working relationships with school staff, regularly communicate, plan, and exercise emergency action plans with said schools; and

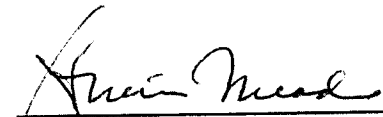
**WHEREAS**, funds for a new division could be better used by redistributing to existing local emergency management Public Act 390 programs that are already providing safe school protocols in their respective jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of School Safety should be established within the Michigan State Police department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MSP EMHSD) Which under the Michigan Public Act 390 of 1978 statutorily appoints the MSP EMHSD as the administrator of emergency management within Michigan and the fiduciary for the distribution of grant monies across all of Michigan's 83 counties in collaboration with local emergency managers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that** the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners (UPACC) requests the Michigan Legislature amend the Office of School Safety placing it within the MSP EMHSD to coordinate the distribution of school security funds with local community response personnel and local Public Act 390 emergency managers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Upper Peninsula counties, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP), the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), Upper Peninsula Legislators and Governor Whitmer.

Dated: 3/9/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Mead  
UPACC Secretary