

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 9, 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, Byrns, Laabs, Lorenson
Orlich, Siirila**

Absent: (1) Peterson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (November 24, 2020 meeting minutes)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with an appearance by Emma Cook of Enbridge.

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

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. Melissa Wangler, Northern Michigan Regional Manager, MIDC
(RE: MIDC Standard 5 approved)

Ms. Wagner presented a power point via zoom to the Board and covered the history of how and why Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) was created. The FY20 State total system cost is \$157,698,982.00. The County is required to appropriate a minimum amount to help supplement the MIDC program. The FY21 county contribution is \$104,296.00. The County program began with the first four standards being implemented.

Standard 1 requires training and education of counsel.

Standard 2 requires the initial client meetings between attorneys and clients.

Standard 3 provides a process to hire experts and investigators to help in the case.

Standard 4 is Counsel is at the first appearance of a client in front of the Judge.

Standard 5 is the next one to be implemented and that standard is expected to be ready for FY22. The County must provide their plans for implementation by April 27th, 2021.

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Standard 5 requires independence from the Judiciary. Currently Judges are approving the attorneys that will represent the clients. The Court administrator is working to ensure attorneys are being paid correctly and the MIDC is staying within the allocated budget. Standard 5 will eliminate some of those responsibilities. Wangler then answered a few questions from the Board and Judge Michael Pope briefly spoke on the subject. No official board action was required at the meeting.

Agenda addition:

2. Emma Cook, Community Outreach Officer for Enbridge Ms. Cook discussed the Enbridge Line 5 litigation with the State. On November 13, 2020, the State of Michigan began legal action to terminate the 1953 easement which Enbridge allows distribute fuel to the upper and lower peninsulas. Enbridge continues to work on the permitting process to complete the tunnel project to safeguard the transmission of fuel under the straits of Mackinac. Cook took a few questions from the Board. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz, and carried by unanimous voice vote to resend the resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners in support of Enbridge Line Five operation. The resolution was adopted in August of 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Gerry R. Pelissero, County Clerk-Register
(RE: Re-organizational meeting)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Byrns, and carried by unanimous voice vote to set the re-organizational meeting for January 4, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS:

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to provide each County employee with a \$25.00 Christmas gift card from Sunday Lake Supermarket.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

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ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Juliane Giackino informed the Board the FY20 Audit will performed by Gabridge & Company remotely this year due to COVID-19. She asked if the Board was going to hold the final meeting in December as scheduled on Wednesday the 23rd. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson, and carried by unanimous voice vote to set the meeting for Tuesday, December 22nd. The Finance committee at 1:00 p.m. and the regular Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. Finally, she mentioned the Capital Improvements and Economic Development Committee should hold a meeting at the Fairgrounds to look over the buildings and possible repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

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 5:58 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk