

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**October 28, 2020**

**County Courthouse**

**Bessemer, MI 49911**

**5:00 p.m.**

**\*\*\* Finance Meeting at 4:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (October 14, 2020 regular 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 ---09/23/2020
2. Dal Pra Educational Award Committee -----10/05/2020
3. Personnel & Negotiations Committee -----10/14/2020

**APPEARANCES:**

1. Circuit Court Judge Michael Pope and District Court Judge Anna Talaska  
(RE: update to SJI grant progress and implementation)
2. Equalization Director Kathy Jo Koval  
(RE: Apportionment 2020)

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
(RE: Town of Land O'Lakes comprehensive plan)

**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 Minutes**

**October 14, 2020**

**County Courthouse**

**Bessemer, MI 49911**

**5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent: (0) None**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (September 23, 2020 Public Hearing and regular meeting minutes)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Peterson, supported by Byrns, 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. Congressman Jack Bergman

(RE: Local stations and Direct TV Customers)

Congressman Bergman informed the Board his office is working on the loss of local channels to Direct TV subscribers. He discussed the process, which includes contacting the FCC and providing demographics and locations throughout the County to establish media markets. He will keep the Board up to date.

2. Lac View Desert Chairperson, James Williams Jr.

(RE: Land Trust/Roads in Gogebic County)

Mr. Williams was unable to appear at the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Charly Loper, Bessemer City Manager  
(RE: Easement)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs, and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the easement as requested.

2. Juliane Giackino, County Administrator  
(RE: USDA grant; boiler NRC building)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson, and carried by unanimous voice vote to proceed with the USDA application for a new boiler for the NRC building.

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3. Mike Harma, Airport Manager

(RE: FY2021 first and second quarter appropriation request)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs, and carried by a 6 yes and 1 no vote to release the FY21 first and second quarter appropriation as requested.

4. James Lorenson, Fair Board Chair

(RE: FY2021 appropriation request)

**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Bonovetz, and carried by unanimous voice vote to release \$8,750.00, which is one-half on the FY21 appropriation.

5. James Lorenson, Fair Board Chair

(RE: one at large position)

**A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Laabs, and carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise for the at large position.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Agenda Additions:

1. Reschedule of November 11, 2020 Board meeting

**A motion** was made by Peterson, supported by Bonovetz to set the meeting for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at the regular time of 5:00 p.m.

2. DHHS Board term

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorenson, and carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise for the position.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Juliane Giackino updated the Board on the CRLGG grant process and the State Treasury requirements for reporting the expenses related to COIVD19 by the County.

Sheriff Matonich asked whether the County was going to put the work crew 2011 Ford Econoline Van up for bids. **A motion** was made by Peterson, supported by Bonovetz, and carried by unanimous voice vote to allow the Sheriff to seek bids on the vehicle. **A motion** was made by Lorenson, supported by Peterson, and carried by unanimous voice vote to allow the Sheriff to seek bids on the 2011 Ford Explorer that was used by the County for travel purposes.

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**CLOSED SESSION:**

1. Pending Litigation, consult with Counsel  
**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Lorensen to go into closed session to discuss litigation strategy with the County's Attorney.

**Roll Call:**

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

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

**A motion** was made by Laabs, supported by Lorensen to return to open session.

**Roll Call:**

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

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

**A motion** was made by Lorensen, supported by Peterson, and carried by unanimous voice vote to agree to the litigation strategy and file a Third-Party Complaint in the matter of G20-152CZ, if Corporate Counsel Nick Jacobs approves.

**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 6:10 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, 9/23/2020

No Recommendations

2. Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra and Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee, 10/5/2020

No Recommendations

3. Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole 10/14/2020

No Recommendations

A meeting of the Gogebic County Finance, Budgeting, and Auditing Committee was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Gerry Pelissero, Clerk/Register; Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator; Linda Dean, Friend of the Court; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Michael Pope, Circuit Court Judge

The first item on the agenda was the claims and accounts.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Lorenson to approve the claims as presented along with the claim to Erickson Roofing in the amount of \$10,720. The Administrator had emailed this to the Board requesting that this be added prior to the meeting. Ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was Great Lakes Recovery regarding the Employee Assistance Program renewal.

The Administrator stated this is a yearly renewal of the Employee Assistance Program currently provided by Great Lakes Recovery Centers with a cost of approximately \$1,080. The funds are in the budget for 2021.

A motion by Mr. Lorenson supported by Mr. Bonovetz to recommend to the Board to renew the Employee Assistance Program through Great Lakes Recovery Centers from October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021. Ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Clerk regarding the budget amendments. This is something that is done at the end of the fiscal year; however, budget amendments have been quarterly. He highlighted some of the larger revenues and expenditures.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Laabs to recommend to the Board to approve the budget amendments as presented by the Clerk in the amount of \$149,397. Ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

The Clerk then stated that often times there are other funds, for example, the Friend of the Court, Ambulance fund or whichever secondary fund which may end in a deficit on September 30. The Treasurer would cover with monies out of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

Commissioner Siirila looked to the Treasurer as he indicated there was no money in the DTRF to cover such fund balances.

The Treasurer stated that is the place there are any monies at this time however, there is not a surplus at this time to supplement the General Fund Budget but cover the secondary funds.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Lorensen to authorize the Treasurer to cover any funds which could end up in a deficit for September 30, 2020 from the DTRF. Ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the Administrator regarding the CARES Act monies. The Administrator stated that State omitted the last payment of the revenue sharing. The State replaced it with additional dollars from the CARES Act, however those dollars have strict guidelines under the Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grants Program. The amount of the money received was \$128,901. Those monies have been deposited into the County's account. She stated that she was on a Podcast with Michigan Association of Counties on Tuesday and the guidelines vary slightly as the Clerk, Treasurer, and Administrator were on a zoom meeting this afternoon with the Auditors and got a slightly different explanation as to what is allowable and what is not. The Administrator stated that at this point the department heads will continue to work together and keep open communications open with the auditors as well as assistance from Michigan Association of Counties to ensure the County spends those dollars properly. Those dollars will be audited and if they are not spent correctly, they will have to be turned back to the State of Michigan.

No action was required.

Under "Other Matters", on updates on agency/committee or Board appointments, Commissioner Bonovetz spoke to the resolution that had circulated through several counties and had come from UPCAP as well regarding the appointment of Victoria Enyart to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Many of the Upper Michigan counties spoke in opposition to her reappointment as she has been an obstacle to the dark stores reform and has resulted in financial loss from local and state government due to flawed interpretations of state tax laws. However, the Board had not met in time for that to happen from Gogebic County.

Commissioner Siirila spoke to an item on the Board agenda regarding the Flannery property.

Commissioner Bonovetz referred to a District 1 Council Advisory Committee meeting that he and the Administrator had joined in on and that there was a gentleman from the Forestry Division of Michigan State University speaking to the many Sugar Maple trees in the Upper Peninsula and the active market for selling of maple syrup. He requested that the gentleman, speak to the County Forester. They also partner with the schools as well as Gogebic Community College regarding Sugar Maple trees and tapping for Maple syrup.

The Administrator stated that the monies that were talked about at a prior meeting regarding Drug Court and the lack of reimbursement has been rectified. Money has been reimbursed to the County for expenditures in this fiscal year. The reimbursements for last fiscal year were still

being pursued. She further stated that the members can view the new line items in the budget for next year when it is distributed to them.

The Treasurer spoke to the DTRF. She stated that she should have a motion to cover the ambulance fund up to approximately \$90,000 for fiscal year 2020 and no other fund at this time should need a budget amendment.

Commissioner Bonovetz indicated that he had spoken to Representative Markkanen and he indicated that the retirement monies which was about 1.1 million was in the state budget as of now.

A short discussion ensued.

The Administrator stated that if that money continues to be in the budget and it is passed, future reimbursements to the County's Retirement Fund would need to be agreed upon by the other counties as well.

Sheriff Matonich stated that he has an opening at the Sheriff Department. A female Corrections Officer has left to take another job and he needs to fill that position and is going to begin that process.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Laabs to adjourn at 4.53 p.m. Motion carried.

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



A meeting of the doctor Steven Fortunato Dal Pra and Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee was held on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 4:00 PM courthouse Bessemer Michigan.

Present: Bonovetz, C. Lupino, J. Lupino, Murphey (virtual), Oliver (virtual)

Absent: none

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator, Mike Spalding, Vice President, Portfolio Manager; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer

Chairman Bonovetz Called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM and turned it over to Mr. Spalding for an overview of the Gogebic County Educational Trust.

Mr. Spalding went through the portfolio beginning with the Financial Market Review. The data was from August 31st of 2020. He touched briefly on investment themes and staying invested regarding of politics. Mr. Spalding spoke briefly on the Narrow Market indicating the S&P 500 returned roughly 9.5% from January 1 of 2020 to August 31st of 2020. He touched on the value of stocks versus the growth of stocks which was data from June 30th of 2020 and also the importance of diversification. He spoke to asset allocation and continuous portfolio management.

Mr. Spalding asked for questions along the way. A short question an answer period ensued.

Mr. Spalding then spoke to the Asset Allocation Summary on each account, that being the Colleen Joan Morgan Dal Pra and the Steven Fortunato Dal Pra. The total was roughly \$3,000,000. He went through the Chart of the Historical Cash Flow Summary and the Investment Performance for each of the trusts .

Mr. Spalding asked again if there are any questions which was followed by a short question and answer period ensued. It was the consensus of the committee that they were comfortable and pleased with the service being performed by Woodtrust Asset Management.

Mr. Spalding then left the meeting at 4:42. The committee had a short discussion regarding the presentation .

Mr. Lupino asked the Administrator when the next meeting would be and what would be included on that agenda. She indicated she would look back to see when the next meeting should be scheduled according to prior years. She indicated she will email the committee members as to when the next meeting should be and what action needs to be taken.

There were no "Other Matters" .

There were no "Public Comments:".

A motion by Mr. J. Luppino, supported by Ms. C. Lupino to adjourn at 4:44 PM. Motion carried.

**Joe Bonovetz, Chairman**  
**Dr. Steven Fortunato Dal Pra & Colleen Dal Pra Educational Award Committee**

A meeting of the Gogebic County Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse, Bessemer, Michigan

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Juliane Giackino, Administrator; Gerry Pelissero, Clerk/Register; Brandon Tauer, IT/Security; Lisa Hewitt, Treasurer; Kathy Jo Koval, Equalization Director; Pete Matonich, Sheriff

Chairman Siirila called the meeting to order at 4:30 and turned it over to the Clerk Register as he was on the agenda regarding vacancies in his office.

Clerk Pelissero indicated that on or about January 1, 2021 he is anticipating two vacancies in his office. The new rate of pay for those positions would be \$16.75 per hour which is \$3.00 less than the current employees are receiving. He, along with the Clerk/Register Elect would be hiring a full time Chief Deputy Register and a full time Deputy Clerk. He indicated he could use dollars out of the Automation Fund for the Deputy Register position as it meets the criteria for such. That is approximately \$11,145. He stated that the part time employee would be leaving at the end of the year however no letters of retirement or departure have been received. He stated the Automation Fund can be used for servers and computers which have been purchased and saved the General Fund money. This fund has been established since 2003. He indicated that he would also in this proposal like to increase the Accounts Processor effective January 1, 2021, from a pay grade 7 to a pay grade 8. Her current rate is \$20.02, and she would go to \$20.16.

Chairman Siirila indicated that is quite a small increase for the work done and responsibilities in this position.

A short question and answer period ensued.

Commissioner Bonovetz also asked if the County could approve a higher paygrade and/or step increase within that study.

However, the Clerk indicated that the Union contract specifically speaks to promotions and it states that the individual involved in the promotion process would go to the next level that reflects a pay increase.

Commissioner Lorensen cautioned the committee members and requested justification of an increase through an updated job description. However, he also stated that he is not against the pay change, he just wants to ensure justification so that there is some reasoning for such as this pay change may open the opportunity for other employees to do the same.

Commissioner Lorensen gave much concern to the MGT study and the negativity he has heard in two years from department heads, employees, and Board members regarding such.

Commissioner Bonovetz gave a history of the MGT study.

Commissioner Lorensen felt that something needed to be done and/or a committee formed to revisit the study, start over, or go back to the county had prior.

The Administrator stated that the original MGT study was never used probably due to the cost affiliated to the County but the various groups within the County are all using a different pay scale.

Sheriff Matonich indicated that his deputies were for the most part satisfied with their pay grades that they negotiated.

The AFSCME Union also negotiated and approved their pay grades.

No action was taken.

The next item on the agenda was the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding a vacancy on the Department and Health and Human Services Board which occurs on October 31, 2020 requesting the County to advertise and appoint such vacancy to be filled immediately.

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Laabs to recommend to the Board to advertise for the vacancy on the Department of Health and Human Services Board with applications to be turned in to the Clerk's office. Ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

Under "Other Matters", Commissioner Lorensen stated that various commissioners spoke to improving the compensation system on a number of occasions and asked what the Committee's prerogative was.

Commissioner Bonovetz did feel that this should be done to be effective in January and a committee could be formed with all the department heads.

Clerk Pelissero made a comment to the effect that the current study is working to a degree but could be just improved slightly.

There were no further "Other Matters".

There were no "Public Comments".

A motion by Mr. Bonovetz, supported by Mr. Orlich to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. Motion carried

**Dan Siirila, Chairman**

**Personnel & Negotiations Committee/Committee of the Whole**

## Gerry Pelissero

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**From:** Susan Mitchem  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** Gerry Pelissero  
**Cc:** Juliane Giackino  
**Subject:** 10/28/20 SJI Grant Presentation

Gerry,

Will you please add Judge Pope and Judge Talaska to the agenda for the County Board meeting on October 28, 2020? Brenda J. Wagenknecht-Ivey, Ph.D. from CEO, PRAXIS Consulting, Inc. will also be attending remotely. Together, they will be giving a brief presentation and update regarding the SJI grant progress and implementation, as well as providing copies of the courts' strategic plan.

Thank you,

**Susan M. Mitchem**  
Court Administrator – 32<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court  
200 North Moore Street  
Bessemer, MI 49911  
906-663-4211

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GOGEBIC COUNTY

**EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT**

Director: Kathy Jo Koval     Deputy: Tina Marie Romosz

October 19, 2020

Gogebic County Clerk

ATT: Gerry Pelissero

RE: 2020 Apportionment

Dear Gerry,

Please include Equalization on the agenda for the next Count Commissioner's meeting so we can confirm and approve the Gogebic County Apportionment for 2020.

Thank you.

Kathy Jo Koval, MAO, MCPPE  
*Equalization Director*

*Gogebic County*

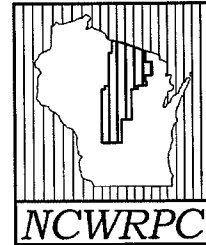
*200 N. Moore St.*

*Bessemer, MI 49911*

[www.gogebiccountymi.gov](http://www.gogebiccountymi.gov)

# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110  
Web Page: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

## MEMORANDUM:

**To: Adjoining local governments and other interested parties**  
**From: NCWRPC**  
**Re: Town of Land O' Lakes - Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing**  
**Date: October 15, 2020**

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The Town of Land O' Lakes Plan Commission passed a resolution recommending the adoption of the Town of Land O' Lakes Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing to receive comments is scheduled for November 18, at 5:30pm at the Land O' Lakes Town Hall (4331 County Rd B, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540). Following the hearing the Town Board will consider enacting an ordinance to adopt the Comprehensive Plan.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation (Sec. 66.1001 State Stats.) requires that the following be notified of the public hearing:

- Every governmental body located in whole or in part within the Community;
- The clerk of every local governmental unit that is adjacent to the Community;
- The Wisconsin Department of Administration;
- The local regional planning commission;
- The local public library that serves the Community.
- In addition, any owner/operator with possible interest in non-metallic mineral resources in the area.

The Comprehensive Plan can be reviewed at the Town Hall during office hours 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday or online at:

<http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/lol/>. Comments should be directed to Plan Commission Chair, Mike Stopczynski. He can be reached at 715-547-3665 or [stopsrefrig@gmail.com](mailto:stopsrefrig@gmail.com) during 10am-3pm.