

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2016

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Bonovetz. Following the Pledge of Allegiance roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Peterson, Kangas, Laabs, Oliver, Wasley, Orlich, Bonovetz

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (June 22, 2016 regular meeting minutes)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Wasley, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda with the additions of appearances by Bessemer Area Schools - Board of Education and Dan Siirila.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

(5 minute limit)

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. Bessemer Area Schools - Board of Education

The Board made a presentation and asked for support from the County to close a portion of Iron Street. The board would like to consolidate Washington School into A.D. Johnston High School. To accommodate the approximately 250 extra students, the plan calls for an addition that would include a gymnasium, music room, and cafeteria. The additional space needed would be gained by the closing of a portion of Iron Street. The plans are still under development, so the board is simply requesting a letter approving of the concept of the closing. John Turkal also spoke and requested a letter of understanding and agreement that included that parking on the north side of the building will be lost. The Board had already met with Pete Matonich, Gogebic County Sheriff, and the County Building and Grounds Committee, which were both favorable to the plan. After discussion, Peterson made a motion to send a letter of tentative approval of closing a portion of Iron Street. Orlich supported.

Roll Call:

YES: (7) Peterson, Kangas, Laabs, Oliver, Wasley, Orlich, Bonovetz

NO: (0) None

Motion Carried.

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2. Becky McIntyre, UPCAP Community Corrections
(RE: via Telecom)

The state no longer financially supports community corrections work crews. Instead they are expanding their support into cognitive behavior and substance abuse programs. Currently the program Thinking Matters is not utilized in Gogebic County. Year-to-date, the referral services with UPCAP have saved the County 350 jail bed days. Chairman Bonovetz inquired if there was potential for a further reduction in jail bed days. Ms. McIntyre stated there was, but there were some limitations. The State targets only those that have three prior misdemeanors or one prior felony convictions. However, qualified inmates, upon successful assessment could be admitted to the program before sentencing to further reduce jail bed days. Motion by Laabs, support by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to support the grant application by UPCAP Community Corrections.

3. Darren Pionk and Dan Siirila, Gogebic County Road Commission
Both spoke to update the board on the storm damage and rescue efforts for those citizens still stranded. Thirty-five citizens have chosen to remain in their homes with power, but no phone. All residents have been contacted and their safety verified. The damage totals are still unknown. Once the roads reopen, they will not be complete—just accessible. The community has had an outpouring of support from businesses and residents. Pionk, Loeper and Siirila are attempting to obtain state funding to aid in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts. Ross Solberg, Undersheriff, described how hard the department has worked to ensure safety and aid the community. Deputies came in off of vacation and all worked extremely long shifts. **A motion** was made by Peterson, supported by Oliver, and carried by unanimous voice vote to send a letter to Governor Snyder expressing concern regarding the lack of financial aid, requesting support and inviting him to tour the damage as Governor Walker of Wisconsin has already done.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Linda Jackson, Forest Supervisor, USFS
(RE: land exchange)

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

2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: third quarter appropriation release)

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the release of the third quarter

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appropriation release after the deduction of per diems already paid in 2016.

3. Judi Brugman, SAPT Director/Contract Manager,
Northcare Network, (RE: FY17 services)

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Kangas and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize Juliane Giackino to work with Judge Massie to complete and submit the application.

4. Keri Duff, GO-CAA Director
(RE: UPCAP letter of support)

A motion was made by Kangas, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to send a letter of support.

5. Jonathan Mead, Executive Director, UPCAP
(RE: UPAAA 2017-19 Multi-year Plan)

A motion was made by Kangas, supported by Oliver to adopt the resolution

Roll Call:

YES: (7) Kangas, Laabs, Oliver, Wasley, Orlich, Peterson, Bonovetz

NO: (0) None

Motion Carried.

6. Gregory C. West, EDFP,
(RE: CDBG program)

Discussion involved sending the money in the revolving loan fund to Northern Initiatives rather than back to the state, so that the money can still be utilized in the local community. **A motion** was made by Kangas, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize proper signatures on the sub-agreement after review and approval of the document by Corporate Counsel, Nicholas Jacobs.

7. Jim Loeper, Emergency Management/9-1-1 Coordinator
(RE: Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG))

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the Chairman's signature on the grant agreements.

8. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: Three MDOT contracts)

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Kangas, and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the proper signatures on each of the three contracts.

INCREMENTS/LONGEVITY:

1. Pamela Niemi, Friend of the Court, One-year Increment

A motion was made by Wasley, supported by Oliver and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the increment.

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OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Oliver expressed reservations about the passing of the motion regarding the presentation by the Bessemer Area Schools' Planning Commission. In the future, he would rather a motion not be made until the matter was added to the agenda with proper public notification.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minute limit)

Bill McDonald, City of Bessemer resident, indicated the City of Bessemer planning commission would ask for public input regarding the closure of Iron Street. He also expressed concern with the additional number of vehicles that would need parking spots if Bessemer schools consolidated. McDonald also made the suggestion that the County check with Lindquist Electric for a more reliable replacement bulb for the flag light.

Juliane Giackino, County Administrator, requested that the Courthouse AFSCME contract be submitted to the law firm of Kohl, Koski and Stoker at the same time the Gogebic County Airport Board submitted their contract for review. Motion by Oliver, support by Kangas and carried by unanimous voice vote to submit the contract.

Deb Fabbri thanked the board for approving Pam Niemi's increment and stated that Ms. Niemi has been doing an outstanding job in her Friend of Court position.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Joe Bonovetz, Chairman

Susan Mitchem, Deputy Clerk