

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**August 9, 2017**

**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 Peterson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent: (0) None**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (July 26, 2017 regular meeting)**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Orlich, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote approve the agenda as presented along with two items added to Other Matters; 9-1-1 resolution and recommendation from the Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting of earlier today.

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

There were none.

**APPEARANCES:**

1. Representatives from Copper Peak  
Bob Jacquart representing Copper Peak Inc, gave an update on the progress to bring International ski flying back to Copper Peak. The engineering design for the hill will be completed by December of this year. Fundraising and securing grants for the hill are continuing. Jacquart mentioned the State of Michigan is a big supporter and has the project high on the priority list for funding and support. Funds could be available through the MDNR Trust fund and a recent Department of Agriculture Grant was received in the amount of \$125,000.00. Copper Peak is still on the list to host the final competitive meet of the season in September of 2019.

Stacy Welling-Haughey of the MDNR mentioned DNR Director Keith Creagh is very supportive of doing whatever is necessary to aid the project. MDNR Trust Fund monies could be tapped for the project if Gogebic County was a property owner at the site.

Jerry Wuorenmaa, of WUPPDR is working on the County five-year recreational plan and Copper Peak's recreational bike and hiking trails will be part of the plan, which could aid the Project.

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The group then answered a few questions from the Board.

2. Representative of Gabridge & Company

(RE: 2016 Audit Presentation ending 9/30/16)

Sue Buitenhuis of Gabridge & Company presented the 2016 Gogebic County Audit. She mentioned the County received a clean audit opinion, which is the best opinion. The County General Fund balance at the end of the nine-month budget was \$972,364.00. Her main focus was the sensitivity of the net pension liability. The rate of investment returns has a direct impact on the net pension liability. In 2016 the County changed to a fiscal year effective 10/01/2016. Buitenhuis said the report is a bit skewed because of the 9 month budget, and the next audit will show a true 12 month fiscal year budget analysis.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Scott Parrott, Director, Gogebic County DHHS

(RE: Board term expiration)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise for the Board appointee to the DHHS Board.

**TABLED MATTERS:** (From July 26, 2017 regular meeting)

1. Judge Michael Pope

(RE: Jury Board appointment)

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to take the item off the table.

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Susan Mitchem to the Gogebic County Jury Board.

2. Charly Loper, City of Bessemer

(RE: TIF and DDA amended plan)

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to take the item off the table.

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive and place on file the City of Bessemer TIF and DDA amended plans without comment.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

**Agenda Additions:**

Jim Loeper discussed with the Board the proposed resolution in support of Senate Bill 400 and House Bill 4651. The resolution would amend the Emergency Telephone Services Enabling Act to include prepaid wireless devices in the funding of 9-1-1 operations statewide. The bills would raise the State 9-1-1 charge from .19 per device to .25 per device and increase the amount a County could assess from .42 per device to .55 per device without a vote of the people.

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The proposed legislation will not affect the County surcharge amount. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila to adopt the resolution as presented and authorize the Chairman's signature.

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve and accept the 2016 Gogebic County Audit report.

Personnel & Negotiations Committee recommendation.

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila to have Clerk Pelissero and Corporate Counsel Nick Jacobs draft a policy that requires all non-County employees working on County property provide liability coverage prior to working on County owned property or equipment owned by a lessee on County property.

Sheriff Matonich informed the Board of the current overcrowding at the jail, capacity is 32 and today the jail was at 40. He is currently housing inmates in Iron County Wi., and Ontonagon County Mi. and will be seeking additional Counties as housing possibilities.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Administrator Juliane Giackino gave her monthly update. Most of the information was presented at the Personnel & Negotiations Committee held earlier today.

Circuit Judge Michael Pope invited Commissioners to a meeting with a representative of the State Court Administrator's Office, who will be completing a security and safety inspection of the Courthouse. The meeting will be held Thursday August 10 at 8:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minute limit)**

Jerry Wuorenmaa discussed that the County's 2013 HAZ-MAT plan has to be updated for 2018. WUPPDR is willing to provide assistance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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George Peterson, Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk