

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 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: (6) Bonovetz, Laabs, Orlich  
Peterson, Siirila, Wasley**

**Absent: (1) Oliver**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (November 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with two recommendations from the personnel and negotiations committee meeting from earlier today.

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

**(5 minute limit)**

There were none.

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:**

1. Personnel & Negotiations Committee -----11/21/2017

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley to offer Kathy Jo Koval the position as the Equalization Director for Gogebic County with a starting salary of \$48,500.00 effective 1/1/2018.

**Roll Call:**

**YES: (6) Laabs, Wasley, Bonovetz,  
Orlich, Siirila, Peterson**

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to post the deputy director union position in the Equalization department at a pay grade 6.

**APPEARANCES:**

1. Jim Loeper, Emergency Management/9-1-1 Coordinator  
(RE: RAVE alerting system)

Mr. Loeper discussed the RAVE Alert system with the Board, which allows Gogebic County residents to sign up for free to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts via email, text or voice notification on their land lines before, during and after emergencies. Interested people can sign up for the app at the County web site, Gogebic.org. Loeper will be visiting all the school district and the College plus the municipalities and the Hospital to provide additional information.

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 2017**

**Page Two**

2. Paul Anderson, Coleman Engineering  
(RE: MWGTA Phase 2 money issue)

Mr. Anderson returned to discuss the Iron Belle Trail Phase Two money issue with the Board. The County is owed approximately \$30,000 from the Phase Two project. Anderson provided an agreement between Michigan's Western Gateway Trail Authority and Gogebic County. The MWGTA will provide the funds to Gogebic County in the interim until the State provides Gogebic County with the full 100% of the original funding. The County Board at their November 21, 2017 agreed to be the applicant for Phase Three of the Iron Belle trail if the County received the balance of the funds from Phase Two by the end of the year. The agreement states when the County receives the reimbursement from the State, MWGTA will then be reimbursed by the County.

The County Board then asked questions about the project agreement for Phase Three of the Iron Belle Trail, which again would be between the MWGTA and Gogebic County. Commissioner Laabs was concerned with the language in the agreement, specifically number 2, which states:

2. *If the Grant is secured, it will be necessary for all aspects of the work to be completed in accordance with Federal and MDNR rules and regulations, or the County, as the recipient, might be liable for financial or other penalties.*

Discussion took place on the language and if it could be modified or removed completely from the agreement. Siirila and Wasley were concerned that the County could again be providing funds for projects that later down the road cost the County more funds than the project's original costs. The Michigan Works pension liability issue was mentioned as an example. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported Wasley to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Phase Two agreement between Gogebic County and the MWGTA, which states the MWGTA, and authorized the Chairman to sign the Phase Three project agreement with the language changed as follows:

2. If the Grant is secured, it will be necessary for all aspects of the work to be completed in accordance with Federal and MDNR rules and regulations, or the County, as the recipient, **will not be** liable for financial or other penalties.

**Roll Call:**

**YES: (6) Wasley, Bonovetz, Orlich,  
Siirila, Laabs, Peterson**

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 2017**

**Page Three**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Linda L. Jackson, Forest Supervisor, USFS  
(RE: East Region Recreation RAC)

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

2. Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR  
(RE: Notice of Intent, Economic Development Administration)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to send a letter of support for the Notice of Intent.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Agenda additions from Personnel & Negotiations Committee ---12/13/17

**A motion** was made by Wasley, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve of the Tentative Agreement between Gogebic County and the Sheriff Deputy's association union to extend their current contract for three months beginning 1/1/2018.

**A motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Bonovetz to purchase the 9-1-1 vehicle for \$4,000.00 with funds coming from the Building & Grounds budget.

**Roll Call:**

**YES: (6) Wasley, Bonovetz, Orlich,  
Siirila, Laabs, Peterson**

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Administrator Juliane Giackino updated the Board on the following items. The FOB door security system is up and running, there were a few issues but they have been resolved. The Courthouse will be closed on the afternoon of December 20<sup>th</sup> for CPR training for employees. This is offered thru the Gogebic County Health Foundation. She discussed legislation that has yet to be acted on in Lansing that could provide funding for Copper Peak and their planned renovation projects. The bills may not be voted on until early 2018.

E-mail for County Board members was discussed with a final decision to be made later.

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 2017**

**Page Four**

Commissioner Siirila asked if the Fair appointment which was part of the prior personnel & negotiations committee should be acted on. After brief discussion, **a motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Crystal Suzik to the Fair Board for a three-year term expiring in 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minute limit)**

Kathy Jo Koval was in attendance and inquired as to how she fills the deputy director position; does she need board approval of the person she hires. Administrator Giackino mentioned that the position is in the union and the contract for hiring should be followed. The Department Heads hire the people within their department.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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George Peterson III, Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk