

**GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting**

**December 12, 2018**

**County Courthouse**

**Bessemer, MI 49911**

**5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Siirila.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: (6) Bonovetz, Laabs, Oliver,  
Orlich, Siirila, Wasley**

**Absent: (1) Peterson**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (November 28, 2018 regular meeting minutes)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with two items added to Other Matters: Road Commission compensation change and the recommendation from the Personnel & Negotiations Committee for the Road Commission.

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

There were none.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Anthony Holland, District Ranger US Forest Service  
(RE: Environmental Assessment Pomeroy Vegetation Management Project)

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

2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager  
(RE: MDOT contracts Fixing the rights and obligations approved on November 13, 2018)

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the Chairman's signature on the contracts and adopt the resolution as presented.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Wells Fargo Credit card payment approval

**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley to pay the Wells Fargo credit card invoices as presented totaling \$10,594.75.

**Roll Call:**

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

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

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Agenda Addition:

Road Commission compensation change

Siirila mentioned the Road Commission is seeking County Board approval to pay \$25.00 for committee meetings and mileage to attend those meetings. Siirila confirmed that any compensation change to road commission members must be approved by the County Board of Commissioners. **A motion** was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve road commission members may receive \$25.00 per committee meeting and mileage to attend committee meetings.

Personnel & Negotiations Committee recommendation

Road Commission Board Appointment

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Dennis Skinner of Wakefield Township to the Road Commission for a six-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

December 26, 2018 meeting and Finance meeting

**A motion** was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to change the second meeting of the month and the Finance meeting to Thursday December 20, 2018. The Finance committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. and the regular meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m.

2019 Board Reorganizational meeting date

**A motion** was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to set the 2019 Re-Organizational meeting for the newly elected board to Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Ambulance Authority

Mr. Jim Lorenson, Chairman of the Ambulance Committee mentioned he met with Corporate Counsel Nick Jacobs and have agreed the County does not have to form an Ambulance Authority at this time. The County can manage the ambulance service with Ambulance Committee.

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Recommendation from the Ambulance Committee for Ambulance Service

Lorenson then provided the County Board with the recommendation from the Ambulance Committee for Ambulance Service for the western part of the County from Marenisco Township west. The Ambulance Committee recommends the County award the bid to Beacon Ambulance for \$370,000 for the calendar year 2019 beginning January 1, 2019. Brief discussion took place on the bid process and then **a motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley to award the ambulance service contract to Beacon Ambulance for \$370,000 to provide service in the County except in Watersmeet Township.

**Roll Call:**

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

**No: (0) None**

**Motion carried.**

The contract between Watersmeet Township and Aspirus Wausau for ambulance services in Watersmeet Township doesn't expire until March of 2019, the Ambulance Committee will have a recommendation later for those services.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Juliane Giackino updated the Board on the Michigan Indigent Attorney Commission. The County has received the contract and she forwarded the information to Judge Pope for feedback.

She contacted Ironwood Township regarding their contribution to the ambulance service 2018.

Finally, she mentioned Jim Saari is still trying to meet the with State to discuss the Michigan Works pension issue.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)**

Joann Balduc, Commissioner District 4 elect, introduced herself to the Board and mentioned she has a medical issue that will prevent her from appearing in person in January at County Board meetings. She did request to call in to monitor those meetings.

Larry Grimsby, Erwin Township Supervisor, apologized to the County Board members that were not officially invited via mail to the MTA Christmas Party.

A member of the public asked the Board to follow the City of Ironwood council's approach the sales of recreational marijuana with the recent law changes in Michigan.

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**A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to seek an opinion from Corporate Counsel if the County must take any action regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana in Michigan.

Randy Kashieh spoke about the education of his school age daughter and a law suit he has filed against attorney Anna Talaska.

Jim Lorensen mentioned it took a lot of people to work on the ambulance issue in the County, not just a few people.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Dan Siirila, Vice-Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk