

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was to order at 5:02 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 (December 27, 2017 regular meeting)

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 Siirila, supported by Oliver and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with two additions to Other Matters; discussion on the pension liability involving Michigan Works and authorized signatures for the Retirement Commission and Retiree Health Committee.

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

There were none.

Election of Vice-Chairman:

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to open the floor for nominations. Oliver nominated Dan Siirila; the chairman asked three more times for additional nominations and heard none. **A motion** was made by Oliver, supported by Wasley and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for Dan Siirila as Vice-Chairman.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Abstain: (1) Siirila

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mike Rogers, Watersmeet Township Supervisor
(RE: Road Commission relocation project)

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

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2. Tracy Lektzian, Office Manager UPCAP
(RE: UP 911 Authority Administrative Board)

A motion was made by Wasley, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Jim Loeper to the U.P. 9-1-1 Authority Administration Policy Board.

3. Rudy Grbavcich, Gogebic County Brownfield Authority
(RE: Gogebic Range Bank - Bessemer project)

Mr. Grbavcich informed the Board of the Brownfield Project that the Gogebic Range Bank has applied for. The Bank will be converting the old Bessemer Auto Body Shop located in Bessemer's Industrial Park to an Operation Center which will house 17 offices and a bank vault. In accordance with Brownfield procedures and policies the City of Bessemer had to first pass a resolution to approve the plan, which the city did earlier this month. The plan then must be presented to the County Board for approval. A public hearing will be held later this month and then the Gogebic County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority would give the final approval of the project.

Neil Beckman of Gogebic Range Bank discussed the bank's plans for the building and the additional employees that will be hired to work at the operations center.

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

4. Jim Loeper, Drain Commissioner
(RE: resignation)

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

OTHER MATTERS:

Agenda Additions:

Pension Liability Manpower issue.

Wasley mentioned that this matter has been dragging on for at least three years without any resolution. Wasley felt the County should hire an attorney to pursue the funds which the County is entitled to. A few years ago the County agreed to join other Counties from the U.P. and paid for an attorney that would seek an Attorney General's opinion on the matter. **A motion** was made by Wasley, supported by Oliver and carried by unanimous voice vote to have County Administrator Juliane Giackino contact that same attorney to inquire if he will agree to additional work on behalf of the County.

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County Treasurer Lisa Hewitt presented a confirmation letter for the Board to approve which lists the membership of the Gogebic County Retirement System Board and the Gogebic County Retiree Health Committee. **A motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the list as presented.

Gogebic County Employee Retirement System

George Beninghaus

George Peterson **III** (replaces Joe Bonovetz)

James Oliver

Vacant seat - filled by election to be finalized February 5,

2018 Lisa Hewitt (replaces Sue Pertile)

Stephanie Zaleski (replaces Donna Frello)

Gogebic County Retiree Health Committee

James Oliver

Gerry Pelissero

George Beninghaus

Lisa Hewitt (replaces Sue Pertile)

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Administrator Juliane Giackino mentioned that the comment period for the Gogebic County Recreation Plan runs until February 10, 2018. After that date it will be necessary for the County to hold a public hearing on the plan. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Oliver and carried by unanimous voice vote to set the public hearing for February 28, 2018. She will let WUPPDR know of the date for the public hearing. WUPPDR will complete the proper posting of the public hearing. Giackino also mentioned work is still being on the MGT wage study.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minute limit)

Paul Putnam of the MSU Extension office was in attendance along with members of the Gogebic County Extension office; all gave a brief update on the programs offered to Gogebic County residents.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

George R. Peterson III, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk