

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 24, 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 Chairman Peterson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for Bob Morin, former County Commissioner who passed away recently.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: (0) None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (January 10, 2018 meeting minutes)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Oliver 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 add two items to the agenda. Recommendation from the Personnel & Negotiations Committee meeting from earlier today for the Transit Authority appointments, and Fair building window replacement grant application discussion.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

(5-minute limit)

There were none.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee ----12/27/17
2. Personnel & Negotiations Committee -----01/10/18

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Bonovetz and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive reports one and two and place them on file.

3. Personnel & Negotiations Committee -----01/24/18

Transit Appointments

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Oliver to appoint Carrie Hampston and Bill McMullin to the Transit Authority as recommended by the Personnel Committee. There were three applicants for the two open seats on the Transit Board, Hampston, McMullin and Larry Rovelsky. Transit Director Jim Mildren was in attendance and briefly talked about the Transit System over the last 37 years. Some Commissioners asked Mildren about his letter of recommendation back the Board on the three applicants.

The Commissioners thought it was unnecessary for Mildren to add a dispute involving the City of Ironwood Commission, and Mr. Rovelsky in his letter. Mildren is a member of the Ironwood City Commission. After discussion, Hampston and McMullin were appointed to the Transit Authority Board on a six yea - one nay vote.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Lisa Hewitt, County Treasurer
(RE: Credit Card for Linda Dean, Friend of the Court)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve a credit card for Linda Dean in the Friend of the Court office with a credit limit of \$2,000.00

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Alger County

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt a similar resolution in support of Alger County opposing HB5096-5098.

TABLED MATTERS: (From November 21,2017)

1. Carl Lindquist, Executive Director, Superior Watershed Partnership (RE: Heat and Electric Assistance)

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to take the item off the table. Administrator Juliane Giackino informed the Board she has had discussions with Emily Leach of the SWP and she related the information to the Board. Leach informed Giackino that this partnership was formed after electric rates climbed in the central U.P. Some of the programs for electrical assistance are very similar to what the Gogebic Ontonagon Community Action Agency provides. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to name County Administrator Juliane Giackino as the County liaison to the SWP.

Agenda Addition:

Fair Building window replacement Grant application discussion. The subject was brought up at the finance meeting earlier in the day that the County could apply for 50/50 matching window replacement grant to replace 113 windows in the cattle barn. The County would need to apply in early February for a \$50,000 grant. A local \$25,000 would be required of the County. Commissioner Laabs felt a structural study should be done on the building prior to committing any funds. He mentioned that getting a good look at the building at this time year is a real challenge.

Lengthy discussion was then held on the matter, which included committing money for a structural study on the barn and other buildings at the Fairgrounds and prioritizing the needs at the facility.

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Bonovetz to not apply for the grant funds as this time, and set aside \$25,000 from the DTRF and seek a structural study of the building to insure the building is structurally sound.

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Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by a six yea - one nay vote to approve the reports as presented.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL

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

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Oliver to pay the claims as presented along with the pre-paids and make them apart of the minutes.

Roll Call:

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

No: (1) Laabs

Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Clerk Gerry Pelissero mentioned there will be a change in the date of public hearing for the County five-year recreation plan. It was originally set for February 28, 2018 but now can be held prior to the February 14, 2018 Board meeting.

Commissioner Siirila asked Ironwood Township Supervisor Steve Boyd the status of the Forensic Audit for their embezzlement case. Boyd mentioned he spoke with the State and the results should be available soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Tom Hampston, Fair Board member asked when the County would be filling the Fair secretary position. It is hoped a decision will be made by the next Board meeting on February 14, 2018.

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 5:50 p.m.

George Peterson III, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk