

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 27, 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, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

**Present: (6) Bonovetz, Laabs, Orlich,
Peterson, Siirila, Wasley**
Absent: (1) Oliver

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (June 13, 2018 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 Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented. Jim Lorenson will give a brief Ojibway Corrections Facility update during Other Matters

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

There were none.

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Economic Development & Capital Improve. -----06/06/18
2. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee -----06/13/18
3. Health & Welfare Committee -----06/18/18

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. James Loeper, Emergency Management/9-1-1 Coordinator
(RE: Storm damage update)

Mr. Loeper provided an update on the damage assessment from the June 15 and 17 storms in Gogebic County. Public property damage has been estimated at \$244,314.00 and private property damage is at \$100,000. Loeper added that most of the roads that were damaged are now passable but need permanent repairs. Twelve houses in the County make up the estimated private property damage.

He will meet with FEMA officials Thursday June 28, 2018 to provide the damage assessments. The County did meet the State of Michigan threshold of \$67,000 and will now begin the process of seeking disaster relief aide. Loeper answered a few questions from the Board will keep them up to date.

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2. Equalization Director Kathy Jo Koval
(RE: 2018 Summer Tax Rate)

Ms. Koval presented the 2018 Gogebic County Summer tax rate and State L-4029 for adoption and signature. She requested the County set the 2018 summer tax rate 6.68 mills. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila to adopt the 2018 summer tax rate at 6.68 mills and authorize signatures on the State L-4029 2018 Tax Rate Request form.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS:

Ambulance Service Agreement (items 17 and 18 will be clarified at the meeting)

Jim Lorensen addressed the Board on the Ambulance Service Agreement between the County and Beacon Ambulance Service. Lorensen discussed the cost to the County and the local municipalities, which will provide short term financial support to Beacon Ambulance for a nine-month period equals \$200,000. The agreement will be effective as June 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, with a 30-day written notice of cancellation by either party.

The Board felt all municipalities should be listed as agreeing to pay their share of the \$200,000.00 not just Gogebic County agrees to pay Beacon. The language will be changed to reflect all contributors to the \$200,000 amount for ambulance service. Brief discussion took place, which included what fund the County would use to provide their share of the fee for service. An Ambulance Service Special budget would have to be adopted.

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Bonovetz to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with the changes made to items 17 and 18 within the contract.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

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Jim Lorensen gave a brief update on the possibility of the closure of the Ojibway Corrections Facility in Marenisco Township. The State Department of Corrections is looking at the closure of a prison in the State of Michigan. One of four prisons are on a short within the to be closed by the end of this year. Two are in the Lower Peninsula and two in Upper Michigan, one is in Newberry and the other is OCF. Lorensen mentioned a committee of key people within Gogebic County is being formed to oppose the OCF closure and provide information on the economic impact that OCF has within the County. This group may travel to Lansing if necessary to speak directly to the decision makers within the DOC.

A motion was made by Wasley, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt a resolution in support of OCF.

Proposed Ballot Language for Ambulance Service Millage for November 6, 2018 General election.

Discussion took place on the language that was prepared by Jim Loeper as an example of what could be used for a ballot question for ambulance services. The draft language was a three-year millage at one (1) mill, which would raise if levied approximately \$510,000.00 in the first year. Ballot language would have to approved by August 14, 2018 for placement on the November 6, 2018 General Election. Discussed items included the amount to be levied and what expenses would be paid by such a millage for ambulance services. A committee will be formed to work on the language, to form an ambulance authority if necessary and come with a plan that the voters can understand and support. A meeting will be set up to discuss all these issues.

Surplus vehicle bid opening.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to open the surplus vehicle bids. Chairman Peterson mentioned only one bid was received. The bid was from Watersmeet Township on the 2012 Dodge Charger for \$2,600.00. The minimum bid was set at \$2,500.00. **A motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Wasley and carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the bid from Watersmeet Township at \$2,600.00.

Siirila asked County Treasurer Lisa Hewitt the status of the Ironwood Township taxes owed to the County and others. Hewitt mentioned the negotiations with the Insurance company holding the bond are continuing. The total owed is \$810,000.00, which is due to the County, GOISD, State of Michigan, Ironwood Area Schools.

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Laabs asked if the Road Commission was still considering a move into the Ironwood Industrial Park area, Siirila thought this option for the Road Commission to move into Ironwood was off the table.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

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 5:55 p.m.

George R. Peterson III, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk