

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 13, 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, Oliver,
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila**

Absent: (1) Wasley

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (October 24, 2018 regular meeting minutes)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with one addition to other matters; airport contracts.

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

Yvonne Clark of Watersmeet Township spoke on the Ambulance Authority and recent passage of the ambulance millage. She had four points to discuss on the subject. Why wasn't there a specific plan prior to the vote for people to consider? Watersmeet will provide three times the millage money as any other municipality in the County. Were grant funds applied for to help the funding of the ambulance service? Why weren't any commissioners present at the townhall meeting that was held in Watersmeet Township in October?

Jim Lorensen of the ambulance committee addressed her concerns.

APPEARANCES:

1. Richard Bouvette, Marenisco Township Supervisor
(RE: OCF lawsuit update)

Mr. Bouvette updated the Board on the lawsuit between Marenisco Township and Michigan DOC. Judge Stephen Borello is the Judge on the case and hasn't made any rulings to date. The firm of Clark Hill was hired by Marenisco Township and so far, the attorney bills for September and October have totaled over \$70,000. Bouvette mentioned that earlier this year the County in a letter agreed to help. So far Marenisco Township has spent \$10,000 and have a about \$18,000 from fundraisers. Watersmeet and Wakefield Townships have agreed to lend support as well.

Bouvette was hoping a decision would made shortly and their attorneys may contact Judge Borello and inquire as to the status of the lawsuit.

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Bouvette answered a few questions from the Board and then **a motion** was made by Siirila, supported by Orlich to commit \$25,000 to help Marenisco Township with the lawsuit.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter of support to MNDR

(RE: Iron Belle Trail from Bessemer to Ramsay)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the Chairman's signature on the letter of support as presented.

2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager

(RE: release of 1st and 2nd Quarter appropriation)

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Orlich to release the first and second quarter appropriation to the airport. Discussion took place and the main item was a \$6,500 raise given to airport manager Mike Harma, and whether the County should withhold a portion of their appropriation to offset the raise. Orlich then withdrew his support and the motion was not considered. Laabs then made a motion to hold the appropriations for a month until the matter could be discussed further. Discussion continued and without support for the Laabs motion, Siirila made **a motion** to release the 1st and 2nd quarter appropriations with support from Oliver.

Roll Call:

YES: (3) Siirila, Orlich, Oliver

No: (3) Bonovetz, Laabs, Peterson

Motion failed.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to release the 1st quarter appropriation to the airport.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

3. Highland Copper Company

(RE: Press release)

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

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OTHER MATTERS:

Ambulance Authority discussion and Authority Appointments Discussion took place on the draft of the Request for Proposals to provide ambulance service in Gogebic County. The draft RFP was taken from Iron County Michigan and was not tailored to fit any company. How the County would fund the ambulance prior to taxes being received was also discussed and County Treasurer Lisa Hewitt would look into the matter. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to approve the release of the RFP once it is approved by Corporate Counsel.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

Peterson then announced appointments to the Ambulance Authority. Members include: Jim Lorenson, Jim Loeper, Paula Chermiside, Pete Matonich, Lisa Hewitt, Joe Bonovetz, Jeff Wasley, Nick Jacobs, Juliane Giackino, Dr. Gina Santori and Dr. Gary Pusateri from Watersmeet.

MSU Extension Memorandum of Agreement

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize the Chairman's signature on the MOA with MSU Extension.

Agenda Addition:

Airport Contract with MDOT for Runway and Lighting Rehabilitation

A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Bonovetz to adopt the resolution and authorize the Chairman's signature on the contracts.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

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AFSCME Contract agreement discussion

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs to move into closed session to discuss negotiations strategy on the AFSCME contract.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Laabs to go back into open session.

Roll Call:

**YES: (5) Bonovetz, Orlich,
Siirila, Laabs, Peterson**

No: (0) None

Motion carried

Oliver had to leave during the closed session and was not present for this roll call vote.

A motion was made by Laabs, supported by Orlich not accept the tentative agreement.

Roll Call:

YES: (3) Orlich, Laabs, Peterson

No: (2) Siirila, Bonovetz

Motion carried

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize a supplemental actuarial study be completed on sick leave pay out.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Administrator Juliane Giackino mentioned she will be interviewing for the Fair secretary position later this week. She briefly discussed her trip to Lansing to meet key officials to the discuss the economic needs of Gogebic County with the closure of the Ojibway Correctional Facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Siirila, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

George R. Peterson III, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk