

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018

County Courthouse

Bessemer, MI 49911

5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chairman Peterson. The start was delayed due to the finance meeting running a bit over. 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 (August 22, 2018 regular meeting)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

There were none.

APPEARANCES:

1. Paul Anderson, Coleman Engineering
(RE: Revised Resolution)

Anderson discussed the revised resolution with the Board. The Board adopted a resolution in February of this year to proceed with the grant application process for the development of the Iron Belle trail extension from Bessemer to Ramsay. The local match and donation amount have been modified as follows:

Michigan's Western Gateway Trail Authority via MDNR Iron Belle Trail - Mini Grant	\$173,900
Michigan's Western Gateway Trail Authority via Western UP Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$8,900
Michigan's Western Gateway Trail Authority via Gogebic Range Health Foundation (donated amount)	\$200,000
MDOT TAP Grant	\$745,300
Total (sum of match and donations)	\$1,128,100

Less money will be provided by the MDOT TAP Grant than was listed in the prior resolution and \$173,900 will be provided through the MDNR Mini Grant.

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A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Bonovetz to adopt the revised resolution of authorization.

Roll Call:

**YES: (6) Bonovetz, Orlich, Siirila,
Laabs, Oliver, Peterson**
No: (0) None

Motion carried.

resolution is on file in Clerk's office

2. Heidi DeRosso, Emergency Coordinator
(RE: Donation from Enbridge)

Ms. DeRosso informed the Board of a donation received from Enbridge in the amount of \$5,400.00. These funds will be used to purchase a new generator trailer for emergency purposes. When the equipment is received the County and Enbridge officials will gather for a thank you and photo session. **A motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to send a letter of thanks to Enbridge for the donation.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were none.

TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE

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

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL

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

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Orlich, supported Oliver to pay the claims along with the pre-paids and make them a part of the minutes.

Roll Call:

**YES: (6) Bonovetz, Orlich, Siirila,
Laabs, Oliver, Peterson**
No: (0) None

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution supporting Ojibway Correctional Facility
A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the resolution in support of OCF.

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Commissioner Bonovetz mentioned that all the other Counties in the U.P. will be adopting similar resolutions of support.

Crystal Suzik thanked the Board for adopting the resolution in support of keeping OCF open. She also asked if the County was considering helping Marenisco Township with their legal fees to file the injunction to prevent the closure of OCF. The Township has retained a law firm from the lower peninsula, the Clark Hill law firm. Chairman Peterson informed Suzik and those in attendance that the County will be contacting Marenisco Township Supervisor Richard Bouvette tomorrow offering help.

She requested the County Board look at the FOIA report that was released by the MDOC to Ed McBroom and pay attention to copies of emails provided with the FOIA information. She also requested the County send a letter to the Clark Hill firm detailing the State's denial for a requested meeting between representatives of the County, Governor Snyder and MDOC Director Washington. Chairman Peterson mentioned the injunction could be filed by the end of the week.

OTHER MATTERS:

Commissioner Siirila suggested the County write a letter to Ironwood Township seeking a status report on the funds due to the County for the 2016 tax settlement. Township Supervisor Steve Boyd was attendance and he said they would welcome the letter, which could help them when seeking a claim with the bonding company.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Tom Hampston of the Fair Board asked if the County would be willing to apply for a grant to replace the windows in the cattle barn at the Fairgrounds. This was discussed last year, and the County requested the building be inspected to determine if it was structurally sound for replacement windows. The report did indicate the building was sound.

Hampston thought application was in due December.

He asked if the Board planned to approve of a Fair Secretary for FY19. Chairman Peterson mentioned these items would be taken up at the Budget workshop on Monday September 17th.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

George R Peterson III, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk