

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2019
County Courthouse
Bessemer, MI 49911
Immediately following the Public Hearing

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Siirila. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL:

**Present: (6) Bonovetz, Byrns, Laabs,
Orlich, Peterson, Siirila**

Absent: (1) Balduc (resigned effective 1/14/2019)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (January 9, 2019 reorganizational meeting)

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Bonovetz 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 along with three additions. An appearance by Circuit Judge Michael Pope, and two recommendations from the Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee from earlier in the day.

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

There were none.

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS:

1. Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee -----12/21/2018

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Joann Balduc, Commissioner District Four
(RE: resignation)

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

2. Mike Harma, Airport Manager
(RE: release of 2nd quarter appropriations)

A motion was made by Peterson, supported by Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to release the 2nd quarter appropriation.

3. Rudy Grbavcich, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Chairman
(RE: advertising for positions on GBRA)

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Peterson and carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise for positions on the GBRA Board.

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TRIAL BALANCE/CASH BALANCE:

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

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

A motion was made by Peterson, supported by Byrns to pay the claims and the pre-paids as presented and make them a part of the minutes.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS:

Approval of the land exchange

A motion was made by Orlich, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the land exchange and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents to facilitate the land exchange between Gogebic County and Tobermorry Farms LLC, 1000 Allanson Road, Mundlein, IL 60060.

Ambulance Service Agreement between Gogebic County and Beacon Ambulance Service

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Byrns to approve the Ambulance agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on the agreement.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

Agenda Additions:

Circuit Judge Michael Pope introduced Probate Judge Anna Talaska to the Board of Commissioners. She mentioned she has been on the job for 23 days and so far, so good.

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Secondly, he advised the Board that any wage or benefit changes that affect court staff employees must be first addressed to the Chief Judge of the County. Judge Pope is the Chief Judge. He was disappointed that he was not informed of the wage and salary increases that were approved at the December 21, 2018 County Board meeting. He is willing to move forward and is requesting a meeting to discuss the wage and salary increases because some that were approved at the meeting were not implemented.

Finance, Budgeting & Auditing Committee recommendations---01/23/2019

Excel energy easement

Excel Energy offered to purchase an easement on County property located in the City of Ironwood on the HOPE Animal Shelter property. Excel is offering to pay Gogebic County a one-time payment of \$1,500.00 plus \$117.60 for the 0.0100 Acres X \$14,700.00 x 80% per acre fair market value.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the easement agreement and authorize the Chairman's signature on the document.

Medical Examiner hiring to replace retiring Doctor Charlie Iknayan. Jim Loeper mentioned Dr. Jeff Miller of Wakefield has been offered the position. **A motion** was made by Peterson, supported by Byrns to approve of the hiring of Dr. Jeff Miller for the balance of this fiscal year at \$300 per month.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

TABLED MATTERS:

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Agreement

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to take the item off the table.

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Peterson to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Agreement.

Roll Call:

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

No: (0) None

Motion carried.

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County Administrator asked about dates for a Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting for union negotiations and a few other matters. After discussion, **a motion** was made by Bonovetz, supported by Laabs and carried by unanimous voice vote to set a monthly Personnel & Negotiations Committee for 4:30 p.m. prior to the first regular meeting of the month. If there aren't any items for discussion the meeting will not be held. A Personnel & Negotiations Committee was set for Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the union negotiations, an appointment to the DHHS Board and a matter involving the Juvenile Court.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit)

Jim Loeper said the Gogebic County Emergency Action Plan has been updated and the plan will be reviewed again in five years.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bonovetz, supported by Orlich and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Dan Siirila, Chairman

Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk