

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., Baraga County Courthouse, 16 N. Third Street, L'Anse, MI 49946.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Chairman Eilola led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Goodreau took Roll Call with the following results:

Present: Gale Eilola, District 1, Brad Dakota, District 2, Craig Kent, District 3, William Menge, District 4 and Chad Cichosz, District 5.

Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on January 9, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only):

Chairman Eilola opened the meeting up for public comment. No public comment was offered.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for January 2023 (\$930.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Cichosz and Commissioner Eilola. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of January 10, 2023 through February 13, 2023 in the amount of \$58,494.97. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Cichosz and Commissioner Eilola. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of January 10, 2023 through February 13, 2023 in the amount of \$251,235.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Cichosz and Commissioner Eilola. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for January 2023 in the amount of \$13,413.43. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Cichosz and Commissioner Eilola. Nays; None. Absent; None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to advertise for an at-large position to the WUPPDR board.

Chairman Eilola appointed Commissioner Dakota to the Baraga County EDC Board.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to accept the resignation of Sally Klassen from the Baraga County Extended Care Corp. Board of Trustees. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

No action was taken on the Opioid Settlement funding.

The Save the Alberta Sawmill group updated the board on their work to save the old Ford Sawmill in Alberta.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the overnight travel request by Madeline Barnett, Probate Court Registrar to travel to Lansing to take the CEO written test. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the overnight travel request by Jill Beeler, District Court Clerk to travel to Lansing to take the CEO exam and attend new Magistrate training. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to sign the 2023 Remonumentation Grant Agreement. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve Chairman Eilola to sign a five-year lease agreement with the State of Michigan for a 160 sq. foot office in the Administration Building for \$400.00/month. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan reported that the L'Anse Area Schools received a grant for a full time Resource Officer. The LAS grant is a 3-year grant. He said he could combine the LAS grant with the other DNR grants (ORV, snowmobile, marine) the Sheriff Department receives to have a full-time deputy paid for by grant funding. Additionally, the new deputy training will be covered by an MSP grant. Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the hire of a full-time deputy, utilizing grant funding. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan reported that he has been approached by Rob Stowe, CEO, BCMH, about a mental health program to help when issues his department deals with a mental health crisis. The program is offered by AVEL that would allow the deputies to have 24/7 access to mental health professionals when needed. AVEL would provide any equipment the department would need. Sheriff Brogan will reach out to the other local departments to see if there could be a collaborative effort to implement the program.

Sheriff Brogan received two quotes for a truck (4x4 with topper) for meal transports for the jail. Keweenaw Chevrolet, \$44,533.00 and Copper Country Ford, \$44,442.36. Commissioner Kent made a motion supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the purchase of a meal vehicle for the Sheriff's Department, at the discretion of the Sheriff (the funding is in the budget). On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Cichosz and Commissioner Eilola. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to sign the 2022-2023 snow removal contract with KCo. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Commissioner Dakota abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to sign the FY2023 Memorandum of Agreement with North Care Network for Drug Court services. On Voice Vote, the motion Carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Dakota said the Finance Committee met with several department heads/Judges to address concerns regarding wages. He said the Finance Committee wasn't prepared to make a recommendation at this meeting.

Commissioner Dakota also addressed the proposed Western UP District Health Department Environmental Health Code. There are some concerns that citizens have that are in the code. Commissioner Dakota recommended the Board review the Code before acting on it.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

There were no informational items.

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approved the following Resolution:

HONORING the Michigan Association of Counties

WHEREAS, Michigan's 83 county governments play a central role in the proper delivery of, and oversight for, critical public services for the state's approximately 10 million residents; and

WHEREAS, Michigan county governments are led by Boards of Commissioners, who are elected from their communities; and

WHEREAS, the State Association of Supervisors of Michigan was formed by representatives of 16 counties on Feb. 1, 1898, in the Senate chamber of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing; and

WHEREAS, the association's name was changed to the Michigan Association of Counties on July 17, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties is the oldest association representing local governments in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, 48 of Michigan's 83 counties have had at least one of their commissioners (or supervisors prior to 1968) serve as president of the association's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the association created the Michigan Counties Workers' Compensation Fund in 1979 to help county members provide workplace safety and injury insurance services to its employees; and

WHEREAS, the association created the Michigan Association of Counties Service Corporation in 1986 to partner with service providers to help counties save money on everything from health insurance to telecommunications services; and

WHEREAS, the association hosts two major conferences every year to bring together county leaders for briefings on trending public policy issues and to hear from state newsmakers and others; and

WHEREAS, the association's advocacy work in Lansing and beyond has advanced the interests of county governments and the residents they serve; and

WHEREAS, no fewer than five association presidents have served or are serving in the Michigan Legislature in the 21st century, a testament to the culture of public service inculcated by the association

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Baraga County wishes to commend and honor the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary year.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Leander Somero addressed the Board regarding the proposed WUPDH Environmental Health Code. He has been through the code pretty thoroughly. He feels there needs to be editing in wording. He is concerned in wording regarding opposing the Health Dept. in a decision. He also had concerns with language that addresses “potential” problems with septic systems in the Code.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to adjourn the meeting until Monday, March 13, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau