

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 9, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 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, Craig Kent, District 3, William Menge, District 4 and Chad Cichosz, District 5.

Absent: Brad Dakota, District 2.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Agenda, adding item c., USPS – Kingsford Center under Resolutions. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on March 11, 2024. On Voice Vote, the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Todd VanDyke voiced concerns over the Resolution Designating Baraga County as a “Freedom to Homeschool” County.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for March 2024 (\$960.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of March 12, 2024 through April 9, 2024 in the amount of \$54,305.17. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of March 12, 2024 through April 9, 2024 in the amount of \$95,049.89. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account expenditures for March 2024 in the amount of \$9,618.03. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The KBIC appointment to the Baraga County Veterans' Affairs Committee was tabled.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Patrick Osterman, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the 2024 annual equalization report. Mr. Osterman reported that the Veteran's exemption no longer removed the property from the tax roll therefore, the actual taxable value for the County is not an accurate picture of the tax collection calculation. He suggested if the Commissioners had questions regarding the actual calculation for what the County will collect to come see him. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has examined the assessment rolls of the several townships in the County, through its Equalization Department, to ascertain whether the real property in the respective townships has been equally and uniformly assessed at true cash value, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners deem such assessments to be relatively equal,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the assessment rolls on the real property of the various townships in the County for the year 2024 and the same are equalized as follows, and the breakdown by class be filed in the County Clerk's office.

**TOTAL AS EQUALIZED**

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>REAL PROPERTY</u>
Arvon	\$89,415,221
Baraga	\$114,573,720
Covington	\$35,016,074
L'Anse	\$146,191,765
Spurr	\$53,091,572

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Equalization Director Osterman reported that the County can now "Opt Out" of the requirement to have a County Designated Assessor. It was his recommendation that the County "Opt Out". Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to "Opt

Out” of the State requirement of a County Designated Assessor. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received one bid upgrade the existing light fixtures to LED. Commissioner Menge made a motion to accept the bid from TC Election in the amount of \$9,390.00 to upgrade the existing light fixtures in the Administration Building and Courthouse to LED. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to clarify that the body cameras purchased from Lenslock that were approved at the November 13, 2023 meeting, in the amount of \$3,596.00/annually for five years will be paid from the LATCF funds for 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027, which is the term of the LATCF grant. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to authorize Chairman Eilola to sign all documents and forms related to the Covington Township land acquisition:

WHEREAS, Baraga County is the recipient of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (TF21-0195) for the North Sturgeon River Recreation Area Acquisition.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that Baraga County, Michigan, does hereby authorize the Baraga County Chairman, Gale Eilola, to sign all necessary paperwork and documents at the closing for the property acquisition.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

No action was taken on funding request from UPSET.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve advertising for the Baraga County Lake Trout Festival in the amount of \$200.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

No reports were offered.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to not pass a Resolution Designating Baraga County as a “Freedom to Homeschool” county. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported Cichosz to not pass a Resolution supporting the adoption of SB662. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to send a letter/resolution expressing concerns over the proposed changes to the UP Mail Processing Center in Kingsford. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Menge commended the local EMS and BCMH ER staff for a job well done for a recent call he had to make.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No Public Comment was offered.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to adjourn the meeting until Monday, May 13, 2024. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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Gale Eilola, Chairman

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Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk