

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2023**

---

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Tuesday, April 11, 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 Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Action Item (g) District Court, Recording Equipment and (h) Probate Court, overnight travel – Juvenile Caseworker. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on March 13, 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.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve BA#03-2023:

**BARAGA COUNTY**  
**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

BA # 0-2023

For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2023

Account Name	Account Number	Revenue Increase - (Decrease)	Expense - Increase- (Decrease)
--------------	----------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

---

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - REVENUES**

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - EXPENDITURES**

Salary and Wages	293-000-703.00	\$	7,302.00
Social Security and Medicare	293-000-715.00	\$	559.00
Computers and Equipment	293-000-726.00	\$	160.00
Operating & Office	293-000-727.00	\$	5,315.00
Veteran's Assistance	293-000-841.00	\$	(13,336.00)

---

\$	-	\$	-
----	---	----	---

---

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for March 2023 (\$960.00). 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 Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of March 14, 2023 through April 11, 2023 in the amount of \$62,412.76. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of March 14, 2023 through April 11, 2023 in the amount of \$448,838.73. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account expenditures for March 2023 in the amount of \$8,162.73. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Patrick Osterman, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the 2023 annual equalization report. Mr. Osterman was pleased to report that the taxable value and assessed value has grown county-wide. Commissioner Dakota made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent to adopt 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 2023 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	\$77,141,590
Baraga	\$104,310,557
Covington	\$33,900,011
L'Anse	\$119,075,250
Spurr	\$44,617,977

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to table an amendment to Article 35 (wage plan) of the Personnel Handbook. On Voice Vote the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to write a letter of support to Greenland Township supporting Greenland Township's request for ownership of the Lake Mine spring. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to accept the proposal from Compass Land Consultanst in the amount of \$4,900.00 to perform the 2<sup>nd</sup> appraisal report for the Covington Township Land Acquisition MNDR Grant. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the General Fund to borrow funding to the Baraga County Land Bank funds in the amount not to exceed \$128,774.00 for the purpose of demolition of the Old Side Track building in the Village of Baraga. The General Fund will be reimbursed once the project is complete and the grant is funded. 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 Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to grant permission to Prosecutor O’Leary to sign settlement documents in the National Opioid Settlement. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the purchase of a 4-channel recording system for District Court in the amount of \$14,318.50, with the funds to come from the ARPA funding. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve mandatory overnight travel for Juvenile Caseworker, Dawn Howe, to Grand Rapids to do a visit with a placed juvenile. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Dakota reported that the Baraga County Trails Authority will hold an

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- Portage Health Foundation, UPSET West Funds
- Gogebic County BOC, UP Environmental Health Code

**RESOLUTIONS:**

No Resolutions for consideration.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Dakota asked Harry Miron to update the Board on the Baraga County Trails Authority. Mr. Miron said the Baraga County Trails Authority is ready to sign agreements for trails. The trails will be State certified, which will provide funding for maintenance. Also, the Sheriff’s Department will receive funding to patrol the trails. The Trails Authority will be holding an open house on 4/15/2023 from 12-4 at the CVB and invited the Board to attend.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Baraga County Road Commission Manager, Doug Mills, thanked the Board for the letters of support for various potential road projects.

Mr. Mills also explained how the Road Commission makes decisions for road restrictions.

Harry Miron asked the Board to consider forming a committee to address short term rentals.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to adjourn the meeting until Monday, May 8, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk