**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**April 14, 2020**

**DUE TO COVID-19 MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM**

**ALL MOTIONS WERE ROLL CALL VOTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Koskinen called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom, Baraga County Courthouse, 16 N. Third St., L’Anse, Michigan 49946.

**ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Koskinen instructed Clerk Goodreau to take roll call with the following results:

Zoom/Video/Audio: Gale Eilola, District 1, Mike Koskinen, District 2, Dan Robillard, District 3, William Menge, District 4.

Absent: William Rolof, District 5.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the Agenda, adding item i. Appointment of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, and Commissioner Robillard. Nays; None. Absent; Commissioner Rolof.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on March 9, 2020 and the Special meeting held on March 19, 2020. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, and Commissioner Robillard. Nays; None. Absent; Commissioner Rolof.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chris Swartz, President, KBIC. KBIC has obtain rapid 14 COVID testing machine. The KBIC has the ability to do the rapid testing but does not have the testing supplies needed to do the testing locally. President Swartz was looking for local collaboration. Margie Hale, CEO, BCMH, reported the Hospital has the necessary supplies. She advised President Swartz reach out to her and BCMH would help get KBIC the necessary supplies. Jeff Hubbard, Emergency Manager, reported that the local community is receiving supplies for BCHM and the Bayside Village. President Swartz would like to see local emergency planning for COVID as a local community. Prosecuting Attorney, Joseph O’Leary, said that the Federal government looks favorably when Tribes and local communities make certain requests jointly. Such collaboration might streamline the process and help the local community obtain even more supplies.

Commissioner Rolof entered the meeting via Zoom during the comment period.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer, Jill C. Tollefson, presented monthly financial reports.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the following budget amendments:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BARAGA COUNTY** |  |  |  |
| **PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2020 |  |  |
| Account Name | Account Number |  Debit  |  Credit  |
| Transfer out to Child Care | 101-000-999.92 |  |  $ 175,000.00  |
| Child Care Fund Appropriation | 101-965-960.10 |  $ 175,000.00  |  |
| Transfer Out to Veterans Affairs | 101-000-999.93 |  |  $ 27,344.63  |
| Veterans Affairs Fund Appropriation | 101-965-960.23 |  $ 27,344.63  |  |
| Transfer Out to Law Library | 101-000-999.69 |  |  $ 12,816.00  |
| Law Library Fund Appropriation | 101-965-960.29 |  $ 12,816.00  |  |
| Transfer Out to Indigent Defense | 101-000-999.34 |  |  $ 29,558.70  |
| Indigent Defense Fund Appropriation | 101-965-960.34 |  $ 29,558.70  |  |
| Contractual Expense | 101-710-800.00 |  |  $ 37,325.00  |
| MSU Extension Position | 101-965-960.40 |  $ 37,325.00  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **GENERAL FUND – TOTALS** |  |  $ 282,044.33  |  $ 282,044.33  |

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for March 2020 ($880.00). On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof . Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of March 10, 2020 through April 14, 2020 in the amount of $94,831.35. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Eilola 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 10, 2020 through April 14, 2020 in the amount of $834,786.37. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the payment of the Sheriff Department Commissary Account for the period of March 10, 2020 through April 14, 2020 in the amount of $6,150.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Patrick Osterman, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the 2020 annual equalization report. Mr. Osterman was pleased to report that the taxable value and assessed value has grown slightly county-wide. The significant growth was in Baraga Township due to the power generating plant. He noted the power generating plant is 100% complete. Commissioner Rolof made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Menge 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 2020 and the same are equalized as follows, and the breakdown by class be filed in the County Clerk’s office.

**TOTAL AS EQUALIZED**

 TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY

Arvon $71,126,076

 Baraga $131,221,045

 Covington $30,744,635

 L’Anse $113,574,434

 Spurr $37,458,299

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

The Board of Commissioners received on bid for the removal and replacement of the roof on Baraga County Jail. McGrath, Inc., $46,000.00. Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to accept the bid received from McGrath, Inc. for the removal and replace of the roof on the Baraga County Jail in the amount of $46,000.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to accept the repair work order submitted by Thyssenkrupp for the required Safety Test and the additional door work on the elevator at the Courthouse in the amount of $1,600.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the contract extension with MGT Consulting Group for the 2019 and 2020 Countywide Cost Allocation Plan, $6,500.00 annually. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the annual agreement renewal with Heartland Business Systems for FileDirector software support in the amount of $1,464.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the 2020 Remonumentation grant agreement with the State of Michigan in the amount of $55,576.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to adopt the following resolution rescinding the motion made on June 10, 2020 appointing Steven Tinti as County Civil Counsel and authorizing Prosecuting Attorney Joseph O’Leary as primary civil counsel:

WHEREAS, in June 2019 the Baraga County Board of Commissioners determined that the best interest of the County were served by retaining outside legal counsel to act as primary civil counsel for Baraga County, and relieve the Office of the Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney of that responsibility pursuant to MCL 49.71; and

WHEREAS, the Board has now determined that the County of Baraga will be better served by the Office of the Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney once again providing primary civil counsel services to the County of Baraga.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS,

1. The Baraga County Board of Commissioners Resolution dated June 10, 2019 appointing Mr. Steven Tinti as civil counsel is hereby rescinded.
2. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Baraga is again authorized to proceed as primary civil counsel for the County of Baraga in accord with MCL 49.153.
3. Attorney Steven J. Tinti shall no longer act as primary civil counsel for the County of Baraga and for its county officials.
4. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prevent Baraga County or its officials from retaining Mr. Tinti as needed for specific civil matters which may arise from time to time.

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the resolution allowing BCMH to obtain a Payroll Protection Program:

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant adverse impact on the financial condition of Baraga County Memorial Hospital (“Hospital”) and other hospitals and health care systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has passed the Cornavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”) to provide financial relief to those organizations that have experienced a significant adverse economic impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act created the Payroll Protection Program under which certain organizations can apply for and receive forgivable loans to be used to pay the organization’s payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent and utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital believes it is in the best interest of the Hospital to obtain a forgivable Payroll Protection Program loan in order to obtain funds the Hospital can use to pay Hospital payroll costs and certain other operating costs; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the loan: (i) the principal amount of the loan accrues interest at the rate of 1% per annum; (ii) the loan is payable over two years and includes a six month deferment; and (iii) the entire principal amount of the loan, together with accrued interest, is forgivable if (a) the loaned amounts are used by the Hospital to pay Hospital payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities, and (b) the Hospital maintains its staffing and payroll levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to section 331.1406 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Board of the County shall, and hereby does, APPROVE the Hospital obtaining a Payroll Protection Program loan in the amount of $1,984,500, on the terms prescribed for such loans by the United States Small Business Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Hospital may execute such documents and issue such notes and obligations as the Hospital may deem necessary to obtain such Payroll Protection Program loan.

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to appoint Wendy J. Goodreau as the Chief Executive Officer and Jill C. Tollefson as the Chief Financial Officer. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Baraga, State of Michigan, pursuant to Michigan Statute, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the County Government of Baraga County, Michigan;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Baraga, State of Michigan, have expressed concern with the debt and expenses to our taxpayers;

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer first requested a $.45 gas tax increase and rejected the Legislature’s plan to invest an additional $375 million without any tax increase:

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan already spends approximately $4.5 billion a year on road repairs;

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer is now planning the $3.5 billion in state road bonds; bonds from between 2001 and 2011, costing approximately $200 million annually, to be paid off in 2036;

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer’s plan will add more money to the bill and extend payments well into the future adversely affecting our children and grandchildren;

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer’s bonding plan will only effect high-traffic roads in the southern and metro areas of Michigan;

WHEREAS, the majority of roads, including rural roads, will have no benefit from this added and unnecessary debt;

WHEREAS, any road plans should include making sure every penny paid in taxes at the pumps goes to fix our roads, including the 6% sales tax drivers already pay. This alone would add $800 million more per year to road repairs without raising taxes;

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners oppose Governor Whitmer’s plan to increase the bond debt by billions, when there are other alternatives.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Baraga County Board of Commissioners, that the County of Baraga, Michigan, be, and hereby, oppose Governor Whitmer’s Road Bonding.

BE IT, FURTHER RESOVLED, that the Board directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Counties of the State of Michigan, the Michigan State Legislature and State Senators, and the Governor of Michigan.

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Office of School Safety created under the Michigan Public Act (PA) 435 of 2018, alongside Michigan Public Act 670 of 2018, identifies the department of Michigan State Police as being the exclusive agency responsible for all Michigan schools with respect to, but not limited to education, training, reporting and building assessments pertaining to safety and security using an all-hazards approach; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula (Region 8) Public Act 390 programs, have been undertaking safe school training and safe school professional development since 2005; and

WHEREAS, current Michigan law requires Emergency Management to oversee school drills; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of school safety to the department of Michigan State Police circumvents the underlying core functions of emergency management which is placing school safety programs under the umbrella of all-hazards emergency management planning; and

WHEREAS, local responders and local Public Act 390 emergency management programs are far more aware of school dynamics, as they have on-going working relationships with school staff, regularly communicate, plan, and exercise emergency action plans with said schools; and

WHEREAS, funds for a new division could be better used by redistricting to existing local emergency management Public Act 390 programs that are already providing safe school protocols in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Office of School Safety should be established within the Michigan State Police department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MSP EMHSD) which under the Michigan Public Act 390 of 1978 statutorily appoints the MSP EMHSD as the administrator of emergency management within Michigan and the fiduciary for the distribution of grant monies across all of Michigan’s 83 counties in collaboration with local emergency managers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners requests the Michigan Legislature amend the Office of School Safety placing it within the MSP EMHSD to coordinate the distribution of school security funds with local community response personnel and local Public Act 390 emergency managers.

BE IT FURTER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Upper Peninsula counties, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress, the Michigan Association of Counties, Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Greg Markkanen and Governor Whitmer.

On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Koskinen, Commissioner Menge, Commissioner Robillard and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Menge provided a report from UPCAP.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

The following items were presented for information:

* BCMH Board of Trustee, Minutes
* Baraga County EDC, thank you letter

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Baraga County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Baraga County fully supports the concept of the *Stepping UP* initiative; and

WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the county to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping UP.* We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping UP* to:

* Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
* Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals’ needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program and case levels.
* Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
* Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
* Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
* Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes. PASSED AND APPROVED on this 9th day of March, 2020

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, and members of our State and Federal leadership.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to adjourn the meeting until Monday, May 11, 2020. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Michael R. Koskinen, Chairman Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk