**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 10, 2021**

**DUE TO COVID-19 MEETING WAS HELD IN**

**COMBINATION –IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Rolof called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., 126 N. Main Street, L’Anse, MI 49946. The Board of Commissioners held the meeting in person as well as an option to attend via Zoom.

**ROLL CALL:**

Clerk Goodreau took roll call with the following results:

Present: Gale Eilola, District 1, Brad Dakota, District 2, Dan Robillard, District 3, Lyle Olsen, District 4 and William Rolof, District 5.

Absent: None.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the amended minutes for the Public Hearing/Meeting March 8, 2021 and the minutes for the meeting held on April 13, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:**

Burt Mason addressed the resolution regarding the impact of the County Revenue Sharing Reserve shortfall and asked how much the County’s shortfall was. Clerk Goodreau reported the “cumulative shortfall” to the County was $37,829. Mr. Mason also presented the Board with an Act that was passed in Oklahoma that makes it illegal to discriminate against any race or sex in Oklahoma school districts.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for April 2021 ($1,900.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of April 14, 2021 through May 10, 2021 in the amount of $61,894.43. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Dakota, Eilola, Olsen, Robillard, and Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of April 14, 2021 through May 10, 2021 in the amount of $389,163.77. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Dakota, Eilola, Olsen, Robillard, and Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the payment of the Sheriff Department Commissary Account for the period of April 14, 2021 through May 10, 2021 in the amount of $2,551.56. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Old Business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Susan Sanders, Auditor, provided the Board with the findings report for the FY20 audit.

Roger Turunen followed up on the County manifesto. Asked the Board if there was anything the they could do to stop the government overreach, specifically at the Health Department. Suggested maybe an advisory committee be formed. Commissioner Olsen said he would like to take part in a committee and any conversations taking place. No formal action was taken.

Dr. Schweickert reported on her findings from the Bayside Village COVID outbreak, acknowledged it wasn’t due to malpractice but a perfect storm of new administration and a slow start to testing. Dr. Schweickert asked the Board what they are will to do to help residents of Baraga County get information about the COVID vaccine. No formal action was taken.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to purchase a 30” ad in the L’Anse Sentinel Summertime Edition in the amount of $185.10. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received two bids for recording equipment in the Circuit Courtroom: JAVS, $41,431.42 and BIS Digital, Inc., $24,739.80. Commissioner Dakota felt confident in the BIS Digital system. Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the purchase of recording equipment for the Circuit Courtroom from BIS Digital, Inc. in the amount of $24,739.80. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the hire of the CJO position in Probate Court starting at $23.00/hour with a $2.00/hour raise upon completion of required certification. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Dakota, Eilola, Olsen, and Rolof. Nays; Robillard. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the request by the American Legion Post 444 of $500.00 for flags, markers, wreaths and etc. for the cemeteries. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve and sign the 2021 L-4029 Tax Rate Request. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The 2021 Tax Rate Request L-4029 will be placed on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to accept the resignation of Bethany Preston and advertise the vacancy. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

The following items were presented for information:

* BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2021, the Delta County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution in support of having a sound scientific managed wolf harvest in the U.P. in 2021, and

WHEREAS, a history of the Michigan Gray Wolf Recovery Plan of 1997 was presented in their resolution along with a large volume of statistical data on the Plan management through the years; and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners wishes to echo the content and message as presented by the Delta County Resolution; and

BE IT RESOLVED; that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to all Michigan counties, our State Legislatures, the Governor’s office and the Michigan Association of Counties as a gesture of our full support on this resolution.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been three months since the Federal Government allocated nearly $5 billion dollars in COVID relief funds to the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these funds were intended to provide crucial relief to small businesses, public health and education in our state; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature passed legislation appropriating $3.5 billion towards these priorities, including nearly $555 million in small business relief funds; and

WHEREAS, despite bipartisan support for the small business relief proposals, the Governor vetoes all $555 million, citing “key points of difference” between her administration and the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, these proposals were promptly repackaged into subsequent legislation and sent back to the Governor’s desk, and

WHEREAS, these proposals were promptly repackaged into subsequent legislation and sent back to the Governor’s desk, and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 2, 2021, these proposals were vetoed by Governor Whitmer for a second time; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is due to receive another $10 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act, and

WHEREAS, Lansing still has not found a path forward on fully appropriating the $5 billion it already; and

WHEREAS, if there is one thing state leaders should agree on, it is getting help to the struggling small businesses in our state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative these funds be disbursed to job providers who are still fighting for solvency and survival; and

WHEREAS, passing state budgets are a shared responsibility between both branches and both political parties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED; that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners urges Governor Whitmer’s Administration and the Michigan Legislature to reach a compromise on their recommended relief initiatives, in the very near future, and release these funds into the hands of the businesses and communities that need it most.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT; the Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to all Michigan counties, our State Legislatures, the Governor’s office and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS,every elected official serving Baraga County swears an oath to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, while free speech is a fundamental right in a free society, and is protected by both the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and by the Michigan Constitution, and entitles every individual to express their opinions in public, the issuance of threats is both illegal and unacceptable, and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge our community including our County staff has endured more than a year of an unprecedented time of global pandemic and economic distress; and further acknowledge that in times of stress, changes, or challenges, there is extra need for patience, civility and support of one another as neighbors and fellow Americans who have come through every other crisis our nation has faced, and

WHEREAS,the Baraga County Board of Commissioners absolutely and unequivocally denounces, condemns, and rejects intimidation, threats, and calls for violence or the unlawful abridgment of rights, liberties, privileges, or immunities, directed at any County employee for any reason whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners wish to affirm their constitutional responsibility to treat every Baraga County employee and every citizen of Baraga County fairly and as equals in the eyes the law; and

WHEREAS,in light of current events, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners wish to confirm and state with emphasis that all of these rights of protection, and due process of the law, fully extend to all Baraga County Departments and all County employees; and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the personnel of Baraga County for their continued professionalism and outstanding work in serving ALL citizens of Baraga County to the extent possible.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS: The Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby denounces threats of violence and affirms its support for its employees, and for equal protection for all citizens of Baraga County.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in 2005 State Revenue Sharing payments were discontinued to counties, relieving the State Budget of $183 million in annual State Revenue Sharing payments to counties, with the promise and agreement that these payments would be restored when each of the individual counties Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund were exhausted

WHEREAS, Baraga County’s Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund was exhausted in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has identified 60 Michigan counties that have received less than the statutorily required amount of State Revenue Sharing since Revenue Sharing Reserve Funds were exhausted; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Association of Counties has identified a $37,829 cumulative shortfall in State Revenue Sharing payments to Baraga County since 2013; and

WHEREAS, with the influx of American Rescue Plan funds to the State of Michigan, there are sufficient funds available to make counties whole with regard to State Revenue Sharing payment shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, unlike Baraga County’s allocation from the American Rescue Plan, the payment of the State Revenue Sharing shortfall will not be restricted to COVID-19 related expenses thereby making it eligible for critical infrastructure projects, pension fund or OPEB contributions and other expenditures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners does hereby support and urge the State of Michigan to fulfill its statutory obligations with regard to State Revenue Sharing payments for all 60 Michigan counties identified by the Michigan Association of Counties that received less than their statutorily required amounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,that the County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader for the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and Baraga County’s State Legislative delegation for their consideration and action.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 203 and House Bill 4432 create the opportunity for competition by an out-of-state for-profit agency that is now publicly-owned; this entity recently issued an IPO raising $350 million; and

WHEREAS, given the resources and availability of trusted PACE providers with strong track records, it is unconscionable to invite non-Michigan providers to jump to the front of the line and take resources away from successful, Michigan small businesses that want to keep expanding to serve the need; and

WHEREAS, current PACE organizations are currently unable to expand at a rate that is commensurate with public demand due to an array of state enrollment hurdles; and

WHEREAS, existing PACE organizations in Michigan have made large investments in our state’s communities and have made a commitment to provide high-quality, cost efficient care to the older adults across the state, PACE has already proven its success in reducing costs and maintaining effective care while improving the overall quality of life for participants; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes Senate Bill 203 and House Bill 4432 which grant an entity to establish a PACE organization in a geographical area already designated to and served by an existing PACE organization.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Olsen reported on the Trail Authority. MiTrails will be turning portions of the trail system in Baraga County over to the Trail Authority.

Commissioner Robillard reported on the BCMH Board of Trustees meeting.

Commissioner Dakota reported on the 911 meeting, the committee will be upgrading radios. Funding is available.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adjourn the meeting until Monday, June 14, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau

County Clerk