

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
“OFFICIAL”
June 12, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, June 12, 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, Chad Cichosz, District 5.

Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Action Item (h) BCMH, Baraga County Extended Care Corp Board of Trustee appointments and (i) District Court Emergency Exit Repairs. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on May 8, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only):

Chairman Eilola opened the meeting up for public comment. Todd Overbeek voiced concerns over the resolutions the Board was passing that “have no real impact” on Baraga 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 May 2023 (\$1,120.00). carried. 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 May 9, 2023 through June 12, 2023 in the amount of \$38,924.87. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of May 9,

2023 through June 12, 2023 in the amount of \$637,956.97. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account for May 2023 in the amount of \$21,141.47. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Unfinished Business, Personnel Committee – Update Personnel Handbook Article 35 was tabled.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to table a request from the American Legion Post 444 for flags, wreaths and markers for Memorial Day in the amount of \$500.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to purchase a new lawn mower in the amount of \$579.99 from Skytta's Country Feed & General Store. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the add-on proposal to replace the roof on the canopy of the Administration Building in the amount of \$5,900.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the proposal from MD Contracting to place 5 large boulders around the parking lot at Point Abbaye to deter visitors from driving out to the point and on the trails. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to appoint Chairman Eilola and Commissioner Menge (Alternate) to the UPRC&D Council and approve the annual membership dues in the amount of \$350.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Three sealed bids were by Sheriff Brogan for the old meal van (2014 Dodge Caravan); \$4,501.00 Jim Slater, \$4,111.00 Robert Bianco, and \$2,500.00 Ringwood Motors. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to accept the high bid of \$4,501.00 from Jim Slater for the 2014 Dodge Caravan. The \$4,501.00 will be put into the "New Vehicle Account" and Sheriff Brogan will begin the process of shopping for a new vehicle for the Sheriff's Department fleet. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan reported that the parking lot at the Sheriff's Department needed repair and sealing. Sheriff Brogan obtained a bid from Superior Polymer. The Board directed Sheriff Brogan to obtain a few more bids before they would consider a decision

Lt. Wickstrom, MSP Calumet Post, introduced himself.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to appoint Michael Koskinen and Kathy Hokenson to the Baraga County Extended Care Corp. Board of Trustees. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Commissioner Dakota voted nay.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to advertise for repairs to the District Court emergency entrance. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports were offered.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, America is an exceptional nation made up of a beautiful people, who share a history of triumph over adversity; our freedom won through the sacrifice and blood of patriots, and our nation built on the strength of America's founding documents; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and our brave men and women have boldly protected the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nearly 250 years; and

WHEREAS, we stand in remembrance of those who fought and died to defend and protect us, so that we can all live in freedom, and we are forever indebted to these men and women who demonstrated the greatest love for our country and grieve with their families; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the service, sacrifices, and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and what they continue to do every day to support our great nation; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to the next generation of Baraga County citizens who serve in the United States Armed Forces- the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard, and they continue a legacy of unyielding patriotism, and represent the best of America; and

WHEREAS, as Ronald Reagan expressed, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We did not pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our

children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free;" and

WHEREAS, the people of Baraga County have a deep love for America, and we are a people jealous for liberty, which is essential for protecting our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, as reminded by John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we honor the fallen, thank our veterans, and the men and women currently serving in the armed forces for their sacrifice and service to our great nation from the time of America's birth and into the future, and we are indebted to America's heroes of freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we join the contagious spirit of those who have dedicated and given their lives for freedom; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, at this moment of national importance, we commit to the defense of the rights and virtues of our nation and its founding, preserving freedom and hope for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Michigan Senator Ed McBroom, Michigan Representative Jen Hill, and to the Clerk of each county in the State of Michigan.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Menge said it is time the Board address the retaining wall at the Courthouse and other facility problems. A standing committee was formed; Courthouse and Grounds and Commissioner Menge and Commissioner Dakota will serve on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Eilola called for Public Comment. 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 Dakota to adjourn the meeting until Monday, July 10, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk