**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 13, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Rolof called the Regular Meeting on Monday, Monday, June 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., in the Circuit Courtroom, Baraga County Courthouse, 16 N. Third Street, L’Anse, MI 49946.

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

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

Absent: None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on May 9, 2022 (with the following change: *Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota* to approve the Sheriff’s Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for April 2022 in the amount of $14,401.03). On Voice Vote, the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:**

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C. Tollefson.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for April 2022 ($990.00) and May 2022 ($1,060.00). On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen, and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of May 10, 2022 through June 13, 2022 in the amount of $39,184.94. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola , Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of May 10, 2022 through June 13, 2022 in the amount of $326,988.70. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the Sheriff’s Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for May 2022 in the amount of $8,994.67. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard allocate $290,000.00 in ARPA funds to the Baraga County Road Commissioner for equipment. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

District Court Judge Daavettila reported to the Board that he will have two employees in District Court by early July. He would like to make some changes to the structure of the District Court office, probation department and the Drug Treatment Court. Currently the District Court has $17,500 allocated to Probation. Judge Daavettila is requesting the Board approve allocating $10,000.00 to support the Drug Treatment Court case manager position (in Houghton County) and the $7,500.00 be transferred to the Magistrate wage who will also take on some probation duties. He recommended the Magistrate/Probation Officer position be made a salary position and the salary be set at $43,000.00.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to allocate $10,000.00 of the Probation budget to the Drug Treatment Court case manager position (in Houghton County). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the salary for a combined Magistrate/Probation Officer position in the amount of $43,000.00. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the annual membership with the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of $125.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to accept the resignation of Jill Beeler from the Baraga County DHHS Board and advertise for letters of interest. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the annual membership with the Baraga County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of $150.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve $666.67 for the American Legion Post #144, American Legion Post #444 and the VFW Post 8945 for flags, markers, wreaths, and etc. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve an overnight travel request for Dawn Howe and Madeline Barnett, Probate Court. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the purchase of a computer and monitor in the amount of $1,350.00 from Baraga Telephone Company for the Probate Court Juvenile Caseworker. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

The Board discussed the need for the replacement of the roof on the Administration Building. Commissioner Olsen worked with the representative from Duro Last to provide the necessary specifications of the job. Commissioner Robillard suggested the County work with an engineer to oversee the project. Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to advertise for bids for the replacement of the Administration Building roof in the L’Anse Sentinel, Mining Journal and Mining Gazette. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Robillard reported on the Western UP Health Dept. meeting.

Commissioner Olsen reported on a meeting with the Baraga County Trails Authority. Olsen suggested ARPA funds are set aside for trails.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

* BCMH Board of Trustee, Minutes

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN HB 4729, 4730, 4731 & 4732

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for-profit corporation from Seattle, WA, has been lobbying the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation that undermines the integrity of Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the legislation that Zillow is lobbying for would require Register of Deeds and Treasurer Office across the State of Michigan to provide for-profit corporations copies of any official records maintained by those offices at a significant discount or in some instances free of any charge. As a result, the taxpayers will be responsible for picking up the tab for providing these records and the financial burden created by the loss of revenue for these offices; and

WHEREAS, if the Bills become law, they would impose new restrictions and limits on what Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards and would burden Michigan taxpayers with the cost to provide records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations; and

WHEREAS, Zillow and other corporations will capitalize on selling publicly owned records, provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing Michigan residents at a higher risk for fraud and theft; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds and the Michigan Municipal League are united in opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners OPPOSE Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4732, as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of Michigan taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Greg Markkanen, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds and the Michigan Municipal League.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Rolof invited the Board to the EDC “after hours” meeting on Wednesday, June 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Olsen stated that now that there will be a vacancy due to retirements in the District Court, he would suggest the Board consider raising the starting wage to $18.00/hour to attract quality applicants. Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to raise the starting wage for full time employees to $18.00/hour. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Robillard, Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Commissioner Dakota reported he took a tour of the Bay Ambulance facility and met with Gary Wadaga. Commissioner Dakota suggested the County consider earmarking ARPA funds to help support Bay Ambulance. He would like to see all the townships, the village, the county and the KBIC to collaborate to help Bay Ambulance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Polkinghorne reported on concerns of a DNR boat ramp on Beaufort Lake that needs to be replaced. He also reported on concerns of the lack of the lake being stocked with fish by the DNR. He asked the County Board to consider a letter of support or resolution supporting the group’s efforts to have the DNR replace the boat ramp on Beaufort Lake and that the DNR continue to stock the lake with fish. The group is circulating petitions to present to the DNR.

Many members of the audience spoke of concerns over the MTU’s consideration of demolishing the Alberta Ford Sawmill. After much discussion Commissioner Olsen made a motion for the Board to submit a letter to the Dean of Forestry, MTU, to consider restoring the building. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Melody Wagner, candidate for State Representative, 109th District, introduced herself.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to adjourn the meeting until Monday, July 11, 2022. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau

County Clerk