

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
“OFFICIAL”
July 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, July 10, 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 Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on June 12, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only):

Chairman Eilola opened the meeting up for public comment. No comments offered.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for June 2023 (\$990.00). carried. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of June 13, 2023 through July 10, 2023 in the amount of \$53,648.24. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of June 13, 2023 through July 10, 2023 in the amount of \$481,494.46. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account for June 2023 in the amount of \$12,306.15. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Personnel Committee – Update Personnel Handbook Article 35 was tabled.

The request from the American Legion Post 444 for flags, wreaths and markers for Memorial Day had previously been allocated and paid out.

ACTION ITEMS:

1 bid was received for the repairs to the District Court Emergency Entrance from Dave Whitman Construction in the amount of 11,873.75. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to accept and award the bid for the District Court Emergency Entrance project to Dave Whitman Construction in the amount of \$11,873.75. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to send a letter of support for reform of revenue sharing (HBs 4274-75 and SBs 229-230) to Representative Jenn Hill. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to adopt a resolution supporting the 2024 Annual Implementation Plan for Service to the Elderly:

WHEREAS, UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, is required to develop a U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2024 Annual Implementation Plan for fiscal year 2024 that provides development and funding for programs to serve older adults in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, during the Annual Implementation development process, UPCAP hosted one public hearing and received input from service providers, older adults, county officials, human services organizations and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, each U.P. county is represented by a county official on the UPCAP Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposed Multi-Year Area Plan; and

WHEREAS, the AAA Multi-Year Plan also requires review by individual county boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has received and hereby supports the U.P. AREA AGENCY ON AGING 2024 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN for services to the elderly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted UPCAP and placed on file.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to pledge \$5,000.00 to UPSET West for FY2024, FY2025, FY2026 and FY2027. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to renew a business membership with the Baraga County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$150.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to send a letter of support to WUPPDR for support of its grant application to Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development to create a Community Development Corporation in the L'Anse area. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve an amendment to the FY23 Child Care Fund budget in the amount of \$5,760.00 for increased funding from the State to add social worker services. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

On recommendation from the Finance Committee (Eilola, Menge) Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to increase the wage of the Prosecuting Attorney's legal secretary (Kelsey Dompier) and child support officer (Heidi Mensch) by \$1.00/hour, retroactive to 10/1/2022. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

BCMh CEO, Rob Stowe, provided an update to the Board: BCMh is one of 3 hospitals in the country to be awarded the contract with a grant from Michigan Center for Rural Health for an in-house VA Representative. This is great news for our veterans.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Dakota said the BC Trails Authority has completed signage and are continuing the process to get the trail system state certified. They are also continuing the work to get the abandonment of rails from Baraga to L'Anse.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMh Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

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

OPPOSING CHANGES TO STATEWIDE SEPTIC CODE (HB 4479 & 4480, SB 299 & 300)

WHEREAS, House Bills 4479 and 4480 and Senate Bills 299 and 300 would amend section 12752 and add Part 128 to the Public Health Code and establish state and local standards for onsite wastewater treatment systems which would require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to develop a statewide code to govern the installation, operation, maintenance and inspection of septic systems;

WHEREAS, the amendatory Act restricts and removes local controls and changes existing regulations and guidelines that have been effectively enforced by counties and health departments across the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Amendatory Act would add additional mandates that would increase the amount of personnel time and expenses that Upper Peninsula health departments would incur under the new Act without adequate funding from the State; and

WHEREAS, the Amendatory Act would gut existing regulations and grant the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality authority to approve local sanitary codes which, in effect, eliminates local control and undermines the duties of local health department to implement and enforce laws; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality lacks the necessary budget and staffing levels to meet the mandates of this Amendatory Act which will place additional financial burden on local authorities; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the State Technical Advisory Committee under the Act would take away and replace local control of the design, permitting, inspection and management of onsite wastewater treatment facilities and limit input into the rulemaking process to four local health department representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Amendatory Act fails to address funding for distressed homeowners and vacated properties with onsite wastewater treatment systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Baraga, Michigan, opposes House Bill 4479, House Bill 4480, Senate Bill 299, and Senate Bill 300 and requests State Legislators to oppose the legislation.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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

OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL
(HB 4526-4528)

WHEREAS, legislation preempting local control over sand and gravel mining was introduced recently in the House with House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528; and

WHEREAS, these bills aim to eliminate local control of aggregate mining operations and place the regulating authority in the hands of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), usurping all local authority including all local zoning, administration, and ordinance over the industry; and

WHEREAS, local governments support access to aggregate materials necessary to fix our roads and are uniquely positioned to know what is best for their communities; and

WHEREAS, the current process allows for local governments to balance these needs along those with their community, protecting the interests and safety of their residents, students, business, and property owners.

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners believes that preempting local control amounts to government overreach.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners strongly urges its State House of Representatives to oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 which would silence local voices on aggregate operations in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners supports the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), Michigan Municipal League (MML) and Michigan Association of Counties in their joint statement in this preemption of local control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Edward McBroom (38th District), Representative Jenn Hill (109th District), Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, the Michigan Township Association, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Association of Counties, and all Michigan Counties.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

No comments offered.

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 Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to adjourn the meeting until Monday, August 14, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk