

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
“OFFICIAL”
September 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, September 11, 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 a moment of silence as we remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

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 Kent to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on July 10, 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 Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to table the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for August 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of August 15, 2023 through September 11, 2023 in the amount of \$27,483.60. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of August 15, 2023 through September 11, 2023 in the amount of \$831,527.91. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account for August 2023 in the amount of \$12,335.50. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Personnel Committee – Update Personnel Handbook Article 35 was tabled.

Veterans' Affairs Committee KBIC appointment was tabled.

ACTION ITEMS:

Two bids for snow removal were presented for consideration. Prices are per visit per site. KCo.: \$27-Administration Building, \$47-Courthouse, \$52-Jail. Northern Edge Land Management: \$110-Courthouse, \$110-Jail, \$55-Administration Building. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to accept the bid from KCo for the 2023-2024 snow removal season. On Voice Vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Dakota abstaining.

The Board received three names from the two major political parties for appointment to a position each to the Board of Canvassers. The Republican Party nominations were Sue Bollech, Jeffrey Loman and Kathy Salisbury. The Democrat Party nominations were Al Punser, Frant Whitman, and Karen DeKleyn. The appointment is selected by ballot as is required by Election Law. By ballot the Board elected Sue Bollech as the Republican Party and Al Punser as the Democrat Party appointment to the County Board of Canvassers. Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to accept the appointments as elected by ballot. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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

STATE DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BARAGA COUNTY,

WHEREAS, BARAGA COUNTY, Michigan, is a political subdivision within the State of Michigan with an official Emergency Operations plan in compliance with Section 19 of the Emergency Management Act, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

WHEREAS, BARAGA COUNTY, sustained severe losses of major proportions brought on by the Spring 2023 Flooding resulting in the following conditions: infrastructure damage caused by rapid snow melt causing embankment and road structure failures. Significant erosion caused by fast moving melt waters overwhelmed storm sewer and storm water systems causing road damage and closures, including washouts debris deposited on the roadways.

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS certifies that the County Emergency Operations Plan was implemented at the onset of the disaster at 9:06, April 18, 2023 and all applicable disaster relief forces identified therein were exhausted.

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the disaster, public damage and expenditures were extraordinary and place an unreasonably great financial burden on BARAGA COUNTY totaling \$5,554,363.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS requests the Governor authorize a grant to the COUNTY OF BARAGA from the State Disaster Contingency Fund pursuant to Section 19, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

FURTHERMORE, Douglas J. Mills, P.E., Engineer/Manager of the Baraga County Road Commission is authorized to execute for and on behalf of Baraga County the application for financial assistance and to provide to the State any information required for that purpose.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to accept the resignation of Douglas Holma, VFW Post 8945, to the Veterans' Affairs Committee and appoint James P. Dougovito to fill the vacancy. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve and sign the FY2024 Indigent Defense Contract with Tri-County Public Defenders. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan received quotes for a new patrol vehicle: Keweenaw Chevrolet, 2024 Chevrolet Silverado, \$55,146.00. Big Valley Ford, 2024 Bighorn 4X4 PU, \$59,500.00. Sheriff Brogan said the vehicle will be paid from the New Vehicle Fund Balance and the FY2024 budget. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado in the amount of \$55,146.00 from Keweenaw Chevrolet. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the purchase of 2 Defibtech Lifeline AED for patrol vehicles in the amount of \$1,370.00 each. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan said he has received two proposals for the resurfacing of the parking lot at the jail. No action was taken.

Rob Stowe, CEO, BCMH and Kate Beer, Administrator, WUPHD, requested that the Board include them in conversations when plans to spend the opioid lawsuit settlement funds. No action was taken.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS:

No Resolutions presented for consideration.

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 Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, October 10, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk