**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Rolof called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Circuit Courtroom, Baraga County Courthouse, L’Anse, Michigan 49946.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

Absent: Brad Dakota, District 2.

**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 Olsen to approve the Agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on August 9, 2021 and Special meeting held on August 25, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:**

No public comment offered.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

As presented.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for August 2021 ($1,140.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of August 9, 2021 through September 13, 2021 in the amount of $139,046.96. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll call was as followed: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Olsen, Commissioner Robillard, and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent: Commissioner Dakota.

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 August 9, 2021 through September 13, 2021 in the amount of $841,388.22. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll call was as followed: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Olsen, Commissioner Robillard, and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; None. Absent: Commissioner Dakota.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to approve the payment of the Sheriff Department Commissary Account for the period of August 9, 2021 through September 14, 2021 in the amount of $15,175.85. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

The Board received one bid for snow removal. KCo bid $55-Jail (per visit), $45-Courthouse (per visit) and $25-Administration Building (per visit). Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to accept the bid from KCo for snow removal as follows: $55-Jail (per visit), $45-Courthouse (per visit) and $25-Administration Building (per visit). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received two bids for Property/Liability Insurance. Hannula Agency, Inc. – Tokio Marine HCC proposed $39,937.00. U.P. Insurance Agency, Inc. – MMRMA, proposed $36,330.00. Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to accept the bid as proposed by U.P. Insurance Agency, Inc. – MMRMA for Property/Liability Insurance in the amount of $39,937.00. Commissioner Eilola questioned why the County would change insurance agents after being with Hannula Agency for so many years. Commissioner Olsen noted the amount of coverage was different. Hannula Agency provided 3 million in coverage. U.P. Insurance Agency provided 1 million in coverage. The grant/certification options with MMRMA were discussed. Commissioner Olsen rescinded his support of the motion. Commissioner Robillard’s motion died for lack of support. Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to accept the bid as proposed by Hannula Agency, Inc. in the amount of $39,937.00. By Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Olsen, and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; Commissioner Robillard. Absent; Commissioner Dakota.

The Board received three names from the two major political parties for appointment to a position each to the Board of Canvassers. The appointment is selected by ballot as is required by Election Law. By ballot the Board elected Steve Fair as the Republican Party appointment to the County Board of Canvassers. There was a tie between James Ekdahl and Karen DeKleyn for the Democratic Party appointment. Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to table the appointment to the Democratic Party position on the County Board of Canvassers until the September 28, 2021 Special Meeting. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Patrick Osterman, Equalization Director, requested an increase of $7,000.00 to his budget to hire a PTE. Mr. Osterman provided statistics to show the increased work load and budgetary numbers to support his request. Mr. Osterman will also be increasing his fee schedule to help offset the budget increase. Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the hire of a PTE in the Equalization Department. By Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Olsen, and Commissioner Rolof. Nays; Commissioner Robillard. Absent; Commissioner Dakota.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to table the Probate Court PTE request until the September 28, 2021 Special Meeting. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan provided the Board with two bids for security cameras at the Jail. The bids were $41,955.00 – Sudacik and $68,451.57 – Heartland Business Systems. Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept the bid from Heartland Business Systems. More discussion followed. Commissioner Olsen rescinded his motion. Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to table the request to purchase security cameras in the Jail. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to lift the Local State of Emergency dated April 2, 2020. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Baraga County Branding Committee is requesting $30,000.00 from the County for Phase II of the branding project. Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Olsen to table the request until further information on the rules for the ARPA funds are available. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

The following items were presented for information:

* BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
* Portage Health Foundation, UPSET West – thank you

**RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION TO EXEMPT BARAGA COUNTY FROM THE**

**PROVISIONS OF 2011 P.A. 152 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

**WHEREAS,** on September 27, 2011, 2011 P.A. 152, an act to limit a public employer’s expenditures for employee medical benefit plans, became immediately effective; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 8 of Act 152 authorizes a local unit of government, including a county government, upon a 2/3 vote of the governing body, to exempt itself from the requirement of the act for the next succeeding year; and

**WHEREAS,** the Baraga County Board of Commissioners will adopt a budget for Fiscal Years 2021 – 2022 which is balanced, maintains responsible recommended general fund equity balances and funds current employee medical benefit plans within existing revenues; and

**WHEREAS,** Baraga County employees have cooperated with the Baraga County Board of Commissioners in new and innovative fashions to significantly reduce the costs of employee health care benefits, saving the taxpayers of Baraga County in the last few years; and

**WHEREAS**, by exempting itself under Section 8 of Act 152 for calendar year 2022, Baraga County is allowed to continue making changes over time that yield significant reductions in health care costs in a manner that is fair to both taxpayers and employees; and

**WHEREAS,** vigorous challenges to the legality of Act 152 are expected and the costs associated with litigation required to support the validity of Act 152 will likely be substantial; and

**WHEREAS,** by exempting itself under Section 8 of Act 152 for calendar year 2022, Baraga County can avoid costs of litigation, avoid other implementation expenses, and allow Baraga County to continue making changes over time that yield significant reductions in health care costs in a manner that is fair to both taxpayers and employees**;** and

**WHEREAS,** exempting Baraga County from Act 152 for calendar year 2022 is equitable considering that Baraga County’s employees have already demonstrated by their actions a continuing willingness to fairly share in the burden of meeting the significant economic challenges associated with Michigan’s long recession, a recession caused by fiscal policies originating in Lansing not by the actions of the Baraga County Board of Commissioners or its employees**;** and

**WHEREAS,** the equitable nature of a 2022 exemption for Baraga County employees is further demonstrated by the fact that the State of Michigan, as the employer of some 45,000 workers, effectively exempted itself from the mandate of Act 152 by refusing to place the question of applying Act 152’s limitations to state workers on the ballot.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that acting pursuant to the authority granted a county under Section 8 of Act 152, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby exempts Baraga County from the requirements of 2011 P.A. 152 for calendar year 2022.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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

**OPPOSING PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS,** NorthCare Network has served for several years as the public mental health and intellectual developmental disabilities services provider for this community, serving approximately 8,500 residents in Baraga County each year; and

**WHEREAS,** NorthCare Network was created by an intergovernmental agreement with the County Board of Commissioners in the Upper Peninsula as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and

**WHEREAS,** Every year thousands of individuals and their families in this community depend on the public behavioral health system for daily and life-long supports and services; and

**WHEREAS,** The Baraga County Board of Commissioners opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services and/or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services; and

**WHEREAS,** The Baraga County Board of Commissioners believes recent proposals in the Michigan House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system for the following reasons:

* Beneficiaries would stand to lose access to services, supports and input into the design and operation of their services and supports system. Many Michiganders would be left out of the redesign proposals completely;
* Public oversight, governance, operations and accountability would be ended;
* Current proposals for redesign are not based on performance metrics related to positive outcomes, effectiveness and efficiency measures associated with the current public system. Also, there is no clear statement about the problems that the Senate or House are attempting to address or solve;
* The Senate proposal specifically incentivizes and prioritizes profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the beneficiaries served by the public behavioral health system;

**WHEREAS,** Instead of damaging our public behavioral health system through pursuit of these proposals recent innovations by the public behavioral health system should be supported. The Baraga County Board of Commissioners supports and asks our Legislative and Executive Branch leaders to support;

* Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
* Behavioral Health Homes
* Opioid Health Homes
* State Innovation Models
* Local primary and behavioral health integration infrastructure and care coordination at the point of service delivery

**WHEREAS,** The public behavioral health system is the safety net system for our state's most vulnerable and needy people, we believe strongly that the public safety net behavioral health system must remain public in governance, accountability, funding and operation and we believe strongly that representatives in the community and to the whole board of directors through participation in local public board meetings under the Open Meetings Act, and recent proposals by the Michigan Senate and House eliminate these key features of the behavioral health system, we stand united in opposing these proposals, and

**WHEREAS,** The premise of these proposals seems to be that privatization (Senate) and state-centralization (House) are better than local access, local control, local accountability, collaborative regional local management and local oversight. These are just a few of the beneficial features of the current public behavioral health system that the House and Senate proposals ignore and for these reasons we stand united in opposition to them, and

**WHEREAS,** Having come through a recent pandemic, and currently dealing with further results of the pandemic, this is no time for a major upheaval of the public behavioral health system that so many thousands of persons, their families and entire communities rely on for support. The public behavioral health safety net has ensured continued services and supports for all these people in our communities throughout the pandemic period.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by** the Baraga County Board of Commissioners, that we request that our policy making representatives support, improve and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that you support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, publicly accountable, publicly operated regional and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary engagement, individual and population health, behavioral wellbeing, quality of life and community betterment such as those mentioned above. These are among the accomplishments of the public system that would be destroyed by pursuing these new legislative proposals.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, September 28, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau

County Clerk