

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 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 Eilola led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman Eilola instructed Clerk Goodreau to take 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, with the following addition; e. WUPPDR and BHK appointments. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on September 11, 2023 and the Public Hearing and Special Meeting held on September 26, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:

No public comment received.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C. Tollefson.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for August 2023 (\$1,090.00) and September 2023 (\$990.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Cichosz made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of September 26, 2023 through October 10, 2023 in the amount of \$57,000.92. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of September 12, 2023 through October 10, 2023 in the amount of \$587,766.99. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Account expenditures for September 2023 in the amount of \$19,410.38. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the wage plan as cited in Article 35.1 of the Personnel Handbook as follows: for hourly full-time, non-contract employees – Clerk’s Deputy, Treasurer’s Deputy, Legal Secretary Probate Court Registrar and District Court Clerk starting wage to top earning wage, currently \$21.95/hour. Janitor starting wage to top earning wage, currently \$20.50/hour. Fieldman Equalization Deputy starting wage to top earning wage currently \$23.00/hour. – A chart outlining the plan for all employees within the three years will be on file in the County Clerk’s Office. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to table the KBIC appointment to the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to approve the 2023 millage rates submitted by Equalization Director Patrick Osterman with the following resolution. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County has examined the Certificates, statements, papers and records submitted to it showing the amount of monies (expressed millage rates) to be raised in the several townships of the County, School, Township and other purposes, now on file in the office of the County Clerk, and properly certified to, no objections being made to raising any such monies by any taxpayer to be affected thereby.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board directs that the several amounts be raised for County, School, Township, and other purposed and that said amount (in millage) be spread on the assessment rolls of the proper township as follows:

**2023 MILLAGE RATES
BARAGA COUNTY**

ARVON TOWNSHIP

State Education Tax	6.0000
School Operation	13.0000
Intermediate School	0.3952
Intermediate School	1.9155
Intermediate School	0.9875
County	8.5338
County Roads	1.9856
Senior Citizens	0.9928
Township	0.9258
Township Fire	1.4037
Township Ambulance	0.2807
Township Road	0.9358
NON-HOMESTEAD	37.3564
HOMESTEAD	24.3564

L'ANSE TOWNSHIP

State Education Tax	6.0000
School Operation	18.0000
School Bond	2.6000
School Sinking Fund	0.9990
Intermediate School	0.3952
Intermediate School	1.9155
Intermediate School	0.9875
County	8.5338
County Roads	1.9856
Senior Citizens	0.9928
Township	1.0000
Township Fire	1.0000
Township Ambulance	1.0000
NON-HOMESTEAD	45.4094
HOMESTEAD	27.4094

BARAGA TOWNSHIP

State Education Tax	6.0000
School Operation	17.9820

SPURR TOWNSHIP

State Education Tax	6.0000
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School Bond	0.0000	School Operation	18.0000
Sinking Fund	2.9970	School Bond	0.0000
Intermediate School	0.3952	School Sinking Fund	1.7291
Intermediate School	1.9155	Intermediate School	0.2030
Intermediate School	0.9875	Intermediate School	1.7314
County	8.5338	Intermediate School	0.2686
County Roads	1.9856	Intermediate School	1.5000
Senior Citizens	0.9928	County	8.5338
Township	0.9962	County Roads	1.9856
Township Ambulance	1.5000	Senior Citizens	0.9928
Township Fire	1.5000	Township	0.9790
NON-HOMESTEAD	45.7856	Township Fire	2.4474
HOMESTEAD	27.8036	Township Garbage	2.2199
		Township Roads	1.9732
		Township Cemetery	0.3452
		NON-HOMESTEAD	48.9090
		HOMESTEAD	30.9090

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP

State Education Tax	6.0000
School Operation	18.0000
School Bond	2.6000
School Sinking Fund	0.9990
Intermediate School	0.3952
Intermediate School	1.9155
Intermediate School	0.9875
County	8.5338
County Roads	1.9856
Senior Citizens	0.9928
Township	0.9762
Township Recreation	0.9775
Township Fire & Amb	0.9775
NON-HOMESTEAD	45.3406
HOMESTEAD	27.3406

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Cichosz to accept the Baraga County Mine Inspector's 2023 Annual Report and place it on file in the County Clerk's Office. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to table the Sheriff's request to purchase body camera equipment from Lenslock. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Brogan reported that he was unable to secure the vehicle from Keweenaw Chevrolet that the Board approved last month. He received two bids from dealerships that handle fleet vehicles. Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the purchase of 2023 RAM SSV 4x4 Crew Cab from John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles in the amount of \$47,787.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to table awarding the contract for engineering services for an assessment of the Courthouse and Grounds to obtain additional proposals. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

In January the Board of Commissioners appointed Commissioner Kent to the WUPPDR Board. Due to a scheduling conflict Commissioner Kent was unable to fulfill his duties on the

WUPPDR Board. Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to appoint Chairman Eilola to the WUPPDR Board. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Due to Chairman Eilola being appointed to the WUPPDR Board he was unable to fulfill his position on the BHK Board. Chairman Eilola appointed Commissioner Dakota to the BHK Board.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No Reports were presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- DISCA, closure of operations in Baraga County

RESOLUTIONS:

No Resolutions were presented for consideration.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

No Commissioners comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Fran Whitman voiced concern regarding the closure of DISCA – Meals on Wheels operations in Baraga County.

Catherine Andrews voiced concerns over the current health care system and the World Health Organization. Ms. Andrews asked the Board to consider a resolution calling for the removal of the United States from the WHO. No action was taken.

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, November 13, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau
County Clerk