

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2024 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.

Absent: Chad Cichosz, District 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Agenda, with the following addition; h. Remonumentation Peer Group appointments, i. Baraga County Road Commission, advertise for letters of interest, and move Closed Session to item j. 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 October 9, 2024. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:

Harry Miron, Baraga County Road Commission, voiced support for the re-appointment of Nick Lindemann to the Baraga County Road Commission. Mr. Lindemann's appointment expires 12/31/2024. Mr. Miron voiced the importance of continuity on the Commission and that the current Commission works very well together.

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 October 2024 (\$540.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of October 10, 2024 through November 4, 2024 in the amount of \$67,781.87. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of October 10, 2024 through November 4, 2024 in the amount of \$152,649.47. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kenta to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Account expenditures for October 2024 in the amount of \$6,355.88. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the purchase of a half page advertisement in the amount of \$130.00 in the L'Anse Yearbook 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

The Board received a report from Mike Bach, Copper Country Mental Health Services on Psychiatric Hospitalization Transportation.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve and sign the grant agreement with the MDNR for grant TF23-082 and approve the Resolution as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the County of Baraga, Michigan, does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement **for Point Abbaye Natural Area Campsite & Trail Expansion, TF23-082** as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the County of Baraga does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide One Hundred Thirty Thousand (\$130,000.00) dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.
4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.”

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to table the agreement for EAP services with Great Lakes Recovery Centers. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to place on record the approval of the FULL Western UP Materials Management Planning Committee. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received one bid for snow removal from KCo. The bid was as follows: Jail, \$52.00; Courthouse, \$47.00 and Administration Building, \$27.00 (Per Visit). Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the bid as received. On Voice Vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Dakota abstaining.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to place on record the approval of submitting a Letter of Support to Rep. Jack Bergmann supporting the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve an elevator maintenance service contract with OTIS Elevator Company. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the following individuals to the Baraga County Remonumentation Peer Group: Scott Swanson, Steven Hein, Joe Foster, Gerald Carlson, Jeff West, Chris Nielson, Brandon Juntunen, Steve LeClaire, and Thad Goodwin. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to advertise for letters of interest for the appointment to the Baraga County Road Commission that is to expire 12/31/2024. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to enter into closed session pursuant the Open Meeting Act 15.268 Section 8(e) to discuss pending litigation. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Yeas; Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge and Commissioner Eilola, Nays; None. Absent; Commissioner Cichosz.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered back into open session at 5:56 p.m. Present: Commissioner Eilola, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent and Commissioner Menge. Absent: Commissioner Cichosz.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the terms of the Mediation Settlement Agreement. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to amend the Child Care Budget line item 292-662-705.00 from “Case Worker on Call” to “Case Worker Extra Hours”, with the amount of the budget remaining at \$7,800.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the resolution to join the Insulin Litigation and sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract with Frantz Law Group for legal services. On Voice Vote the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Dakota asked Harry Miron to update the Board on the Trails Authority. Mr. Miron reported that the State has approved sections of the trails. There will be three State certified trails. Mr. Miron will be resigning off the Trails Authority. The Trails Authority have accomplished a lot of work in a very short time. Commissioner Dakota thanked Mr. Miron for his dedication to the Trails Authority. Commissioner Kent would like to see the GMSR radio system that Mr. Elmlad proposed move along which would be good for the ATV riders and first responders. He suggested contacting Eagle Mine and Lyme Timber for funding.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

State Tax Commission, Approval of OPT OUT Designated Assessor.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS SET FORTH IN THE 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 – “Hard Caps” Option – limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 – “80%/20% Option – limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the government body;
- 3) Section 8 – “Exemption” Option – a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has decided to adopt the annual Exemption option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Baraga County Board of Commissioners elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the annual Exemption option for the medical benefit plan coverage for calendar year 2025.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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

PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES BORDERS
AND UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW

WHEREAS, the United States of America has experienced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis due to open border policies, resulting in death, pain, and suffering of innocent people;

WHEREAS, open border policies have instigated an increase in human trafficking and child endangerment, causing irreparable harm to vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution requires the federal government to protect each state against invasion, and the U.S. Code Title 8, Section 1182(f) authorizes the President to suspend the entry of aliens into the United States to protect the interests of the United States;

WHEREAS, public functionaries, elected and unelected, have a duty and oath of office to protect the United States against invasion and threats to Americans;

WHEREAS, certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have engaged in the assistance of illegal aliens, disregarding the laws for legal immigration, and have subverted legal immigration laws for profit;

WHEREAS, the transportation of human beings illegally across the United States borders constitutes assisting an invasion by foreign entities, which is a direct attack against the United

States by adversaries and results in threats both foreign and domestic;

Be it resolved, that the United States shall immediately close its borders to all illegal entry, and initiate a mass deportation of those who have violated legal immigration laws;

Be it further resolved, that all individuals, both within and outside the United States, who have engaged in the attack on our borders and the interests of the people of the United States shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, including but not limited to American citizens involved being stripped of their citizenship and prosecuted for crimes against humanity if found guilty;

Be it further resolved, that the United States shall cease all funding of NGOs that engage in the assistance of illegal aliens, disregarding the laws for legal immigration, and shall investigate and prosecute any individuals or organizations that have profited from the transportation, housing, and trafficking of human beings;

Be it further resolved, that the United States shall enforce its immigration laws and uphold the rule of law, ensuring that all individuals seeking entry into the United States do so through the legal immigration process.

Be it further resolved that those who have been involved in subverting the process of protecting the United States borders and upholding the rule of law, usurping authority never granted, harassing Americans, and violating the rights of any individual of these United States of America shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Be it finally resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, members of the Michigan Legislature, and other relevant public functionaries to express the Baraga County Board of Commissioners instruction of public functionaries on protecting the United States borders and upholding the rule of law according to the protections of our Constitutions.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 875, 876 AND 877

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 875 will change recommended vaccines to required vaccines for children entering daycare and schools and add a reporting requirement for children entering 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 875 will add multiple additional vaccines to the required vaccines including Covid, Flu and Human Papillomavirus (HPV); and

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 876 will modify the School Aid Act, which guides how school funding is distributed as it relates to reporting of required vaccinations to align with Senate Bill 875; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bill 877 will modify the Revised School Code as it relates to vaccine coverage to align with Senate Bill 875; and

WHEREAS, parents who choose not to have their children receive required vaccines must receive education from the Health Department and sign waivers; and

WHEREAS, the estimated number of waivers that will need to be processed will increase by twenty times the current volume, causing unnecessary burden for children, parents, schools, and the health department; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Senate Bills 875, 876 and 877 represent government overreach and an invasion of privacy for the citizens of Michigan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes Michigan Senate Bills 875, 876, and 877 and also urge our State Legislators to do the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board directs the County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to all State Representatives and State Senators serving Baraga County and all Michigan Counties.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

No Commissioners comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to adjourn the meeting until Monday, December 9, 2024. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Gale Eilola, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk