

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Eilola called the Regular Meeting on Monday, November 13, 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.

Absent: Chad Cichosz, District 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on October 10, 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 Dakota to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for October 2023 (\$990.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of October 11, 2023 through November 13, 2023 in the amount of \$88,837.14. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of October 11, 2023 through November 13, 2023 in the amount of \$297,058.36. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Account expenditures for October 2023 in the amount of \$6,594.82. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to table the KBIC appointment to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mike Bach, Copper Country Mental Health provided a detailed report on acute inpatient psychiatric hospitalization statistics and general services that Copper Country Mental Health provides.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to appoint the following individuals to the Baraga County Parks & Recreation Committee: Thomas Leeds, Barb McEwen, Joe Lee and Rich Wickstrom. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received two bids to install a window in the Michigan Works! office: Dave Whitman, \$3,867.00 and Mike Rothenberger, \$2,190.00. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the installation of an exterior window in the Michigan Works! office of the Administration Building in the amount of \$2,190.00 with the expense to be built into the Michigan Works! lease. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve a five-year lease with Michigan Works! for office space in the Administration Building in the amount of \$661.50/month. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to establish by resolution a Retiree Health Funding Vehicle with MERS to prefund OPEB liability with the first deposit for FY2024 to be \$20,000.00. The full resolution to be placed on file with the County Clerk. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to purchase body camera equipment from Lenslock, Inc. in the amount of \$3,596.00 per year for five years.

Sheriff Brogan reported that the Sheriff's Department received a MMRMA RAP grant for body camera equipment for FY2024 in the amount of \$2,800.00. Therefore, for the first year of the Lenslock agreement the County will only have to pay \$796.00 out of the General Fund budget. Sheriff Brogan reported that the Sheriff's Department will be able to apply every year for the grant funding.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to follow Judge Brenna's Order regarding the Christmas and New Year holiday schedule as follows: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day December 25th and December 26th. New Years Eve and New Years Day- January 1st and January 2nd. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the agreement with Great Lakes Recovery Center for the FY2024 EAP Services. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to make the following medical examiner deputy appointments for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2027: Dr. Craig Vickstrom, Dr. Jeffrey Sweers, Dr. Abigail Prentice and Dr. Luokusa. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Dakota reported that Michigan Technological University is not working with the trails authority in fact they are now putting up gates to limit access. The trails authority is working with legislative officials to try to get MTU to work on a trail solution with the trails authority.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

No action was taken on a resolution Supporting Operation Greenlight for Veterans.

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

RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT OF HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company’s Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the BARAGA COUNTY fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company’s Copperwood Mine Project.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent 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 2024.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Menge discussed the Avel eCare Virtual Crisis Care Program between BCMH and Baraga County Sheriff's Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Melody Wagner reported she is a candidate for the 109th District for the House of Representatives. She discussed the 4-H program.

Dawn Howe, Juvenile Caseworker, said Probate Court received a very generous donation and they received a grant from Copper Shores for bringing a presentation on human trafficking to the area.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to adjourn the meeting until Monday, December 11, 2023. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau
County Clerk