**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**December 14, 2020**

**DUE TO COVID-19 MEETING WAS HELD IN COMBINATION –**

**IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM**

**Due to technical difficulties the Zoom portion of the meeting was not active. Because the meeting was not held via Zoom, Chairman Koskinen removed the Resolution Recommending Impeachment of Governor Gretchen Whitmer.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Koskinen called the Regular Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., L’Anse Township Hall, 126 N. Main Street, L’Anse, Michigan 49946.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Present: Mike Koskinen, District 2, Dan Robillard, District 3, and William Rolof, District 5. Present via conference call: Gale Eilola, District 1 and William Menge, District 4.

Absent: None.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Chairman Koskinen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the Agenda, adding Honorary Proclamations before Action Items a.. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on October 13, 2020. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Koskinen opened the meeting up for public comment. Roger Turunen asked the Board to consider working with the community to help protect the local businesses from State of Michigan agencies. He asked that the role of county commissioners across the United States be looked at to see what the local officials can do to fight over reaching bureaucratic agencies to protect local business.

Sheriff Rick Johnson thanked the Board for working with him throughout his tenure as Sheriff.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for November 2020 ($990.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of November 10, 2020 through December 14, 2020 in the amount of $30,442.14. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of November 10, 2020 through December 14, 2020 in the amount of $432,780.98. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve the payment of the Sheriff Department Commissary Account for the period of November 10, 2020 through December 14, 2020 in the amount of $4,738.24. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Chairman Koskinen read a proclamation of honor to Commissioner William Menge and retiring Sheriff Rick Johnson. Prosecuting Attorney Joseph O’Leary read a proclamation of honor to Chairman Michael Koskinen.

9 bids were received for the Point Abbaye Phase II project. The low bid was in the amount of $43,008.00 received from MD Contracting, Inc. Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the Point Abbaye Phase II bid in the amount of $43,008.00 received from MD Contracting, Inc. By Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Eilola, Koskinen, Menge, and Rolof. Nays; None. Abstain: Robillard.

Three letters of interest were received for the appointment to the Baraga County Road Commission; Harold Miron, Michael Koskinen, and Bill Paquet. Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to appoint Harold Miron to the Baraga County Road Commission. Chairman Koskinen called a Roll Call Vote. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Eilola, Robillard and Rolof. Nays; Menge and Koskinen. Chairman Koskinen stated the motion didn’t carry because a 2/3 majority was required on the vote. Discussion followed. It was pointed out that Chairman Koskinen shouldn’t vote because he has a conflict of interest. Chairman Koskinen said he would abstain however there would still need to be a 2/3 majority. There was further discussion. Chairman Koskinen asked Prosecuting Attorney Joseph O’Leary for clarification. Prosecuting Attorney O’Leary indicated he would research the County Boards Rules of Order and Roberts’ Rules of Order and provide an official opinion on the matter. There was further discussion. Commissioner Robillard recommended we call the Roll Call Vote appointing Harold Miron passed and if it’s not correct then another meeting would be held correcting the appointment. There was further discussion. Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to table the appointment until Prosecuting Attorney O’Leary could provide an opinion. Chairman took a voice vote with Commissioner Robillard voting no.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to appoint David Haanpaa, VFW Post 3897 and Douglas Holma , VFW Post 1190 to the Baraga County Veterans’ Affairs Committee. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to appoint Ms. Carole LaPointe to the Baraga County Health and Human Services Board. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Equalization Director Patrick Osterman explained that the State Tax Commission is now requiring local units of governments to have a Designated Assessor which would act as a “standby assessor”. Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to sign the Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor with all Baraga County townships and Ms. Lora Osterman. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the 2021 contract with Baragaland Senior Citizens, Inc. and a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute grant applications. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to sign the contract with the State of Michigan for the 2021 Remonumentation grant in the amount of $46,915.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to sign the contract with Susan Sanders for the FY20 audit. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Rolof made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adopt the following vacation schedule, with the active employees that have accumulated beyond the 30 work days be grandfathered into the past vacation schedule:

Beginning of Employment (after probation period)               5 work days

Start of 2 years to 4 full years      10 work days

Start of 5th – 9 full years                    15 work days

Start of 10th – 14 full years                  20 work days

Start of 15th – 19 full years                  25 work days

Start of 20th – on                                  30 work days

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The request to reinstate longevity for all active employees was tabled.

Chairman Koskinen suggested a retirement policy for commissioners who have served over 30 or 40 years. Commissioner Eilola agreed but thought it should be for commissioners who have served over 20 years. Commissioner Eilola proposed the policy. Item was tabled.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to approve an employee Christmas party to be held on December 23, 2020 from 1-4. Employees must attend or take paid time off or work their normal shift. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Robillard gave an update from the WUPHD and the proposed changes to the local Health Code.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

The following items were presented for information:

* BCMH board of Trustee, Minutes
* 2021 County Board of Commissioner Schedule

**RESOLUTIONS:**

No Resolutions.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**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 Monday, January 11, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Michael R. Koskinen, Chairman Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk