

On Thursday, December 27, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., Finance Committee Chairman Carl Lind called that committee to order. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. County Clerk Joan Luhtanen called the Roll of Members. Present were: Fran Wills, Beverly Camp, and Lind. The bills had been reviewed, and a motion was made by Wills, supported by King, to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$ 195,394.73.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: King, Wills, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Administrator Sue Clisch stated that at the upcoming Regular Board meeting, the issue of paying out accumulated vacation/sick leave to union employees, Melanie Camps and Joetta Greig, who will be assuming elected County positions on January 1st, will be addressed. Clisch had received an email from employee attorney Steve Girard who stated that in Article 33 of the courthouse union contract, "employees only get paid out for vacation when they leave if they are laid off or retire." At this time, it is being recommended that their accumulated funds go into the employees' retirement fund. Clisch stated that had talked to the two employees, and they may grieve it because in the past the cash payout had been done for the Sheriff and others who have become elected officials. Informational.

Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:05 p.m.

Finance Chairman Carl Lind

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

Chairman Wayne Wales called a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners to order at 1:30 p.m. on December 27, 2012. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room in the Commissioners Room in the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. County Clerk Joan Luhtanen called the Roll of Officers. Present were: Beverly Camp, Rosalie King, Fran Wills, Carl Lind and Wales. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, with the correction on Page T-116, of "Wales" for "Wills" on the listing of those commissioners who were Absent, to approve the Minutes of the Regular meetings of November 27 and December 11, 2012. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meetings of November 20, 27, December 6, 11, 13, and 14, 2012. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wales called for Public Comment on Agenda Items, but none was voiced.

Commissioners' Reports: Commissioners King, Wills and Wales thanked the other board members and the courthouse employees for their work and support these past years. This is their last board meeting. Wales noted that the funding for the proposed Heritage Trail is still available. King made a motion, seconded by Lind, to accept the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Reports from Department Heads and Officials: Department heads expressed their good wishes to the outgoing commissioners. County Clerk Luhtanen announced that starting January 1, 2013, the user fee for certified copies of vital records (birth, death, marriage, etc.) will go to \$15.00 for the first copy, but any additional copies requested at the same time, will stay at \$ 5.00 each. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, to accept the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business: Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the Finance Committee's December 6, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 48,038.79; and their December 13, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 129,653.68.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Camp, Wills, Lind, King, Wales

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

The request by Robert Corbett, of the Real Estate Services division of the DNR, for a proposed land exchange involving property at Bewabic Park, had been tabled at the November 11, 2012, County Board meeting. (See Minute Book Page T-116.) Civil Attorney Steve Tinti had

researched the matter. Tinti stated that the “election held on September 21, 1965, was an advisory ballot without any legal substance.” Therefore, “the voters did not legally impose a reverter on the transfer of Bewabic Park from the County to the State of Michigan.” According to Corbett: “The State-owned land is boundary land that has marginal utility for outdoor recreation. Further we believe this exchange enhances the safety and security of shoreline access for both the applicants (Fitzgibbon family) and the general public.” Tinti said the State would be preparing the necessary documents. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to go forward with the land exchange, and resolve to lift the reverter clause to the State of Michigan, and that the “disposal real estate” be conditional upon the placement of a reverter in favor of the County of Iron as to “acquisition real estate.”

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, King, Lind, Wales

NAYS: None

Motion carried..

King made a motion, seconded by Lind, to release Sharon Gagnea’s accumulated Vacation (221 hours) and Sick Leave (450 hours), for a total of \$ 671 hours @ \$ 16.50/hour = \$ 11,071.50, plus prorated Longevity of \$ 583.32. Gagnea recently retired.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: King, Camp, Lind, Wills, Wales

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the Central Dispatch Contract ratified on December 11, 2012; and the Deputies Contract which was ratified on December 11, 2012.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Lind, Camp, Wills, King, Wales

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

New Business:

The release of accumulated vacation/sick leave benefits that Melanie Camps has acquired to date was discussed. Camps is currently the Deputy Treasurer and in the courthouse union. She has won the elected position of County Treasurer, and will be assuming that post on January 1, 2013. In the past, when union employees have assumed elected positions, they have received a cash “payout.” Clisch said the language in the contract does not address this issue. She recommended the “payout” to be put in Camps’ retirement account. Employee Relations Attorney Steve Girard had been contacted, and in his email, he stated: “. . . in Article 33 Pay Advance (former Article 37) that employees only get paid out for vacation when they leave if they are laid off or retire. . . “

Clisch pointed out that things have been mishandled in the past, and she would prefer to go by the language in the contracts, so that the County could avoid getting into trouble. Both Camps and Joetta Greig (who has the same situation of going from a union employee to an elected position of Register of Deeds) stated that past practice should be followed. The payout funds are due either way. Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to table this issue until further research has been completed, and a solution can be reached.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Camp, Wills, Wales

NAYS: Lind, King

Motion carried, 3 to 2.

County Treasurer-Elect Melanie Camps announced that she has chosen Mary Dalpra as her Deputy Treasurer. Dalpra is currently the Crystal Falls Township Treasurer. Informational.

Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to also table the issue of releasing accumulated Vacation and Sick leave for Joetta Greig for further research.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, Wales

NAYS: King, Lind

Motion carried, 3 to 2.

Register of Deeds Mark Selmo is retiring and notified the Board of his resignation of Administrator of the Iron County Remonumentation Program. Lind made a motion, seconded by King, to appoint Register of Deeds Elect Joetta Greig as said Administrator. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements:

The Courthouse will be closed January 1, 2013, for the New Year's Holiday.

The Organizational Meeting of the County Board will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room.

Public Comment:

District 5 County Commissioner Bev Camp announced she is resigning her position as of January 1, 2013, because of her health concerns. Everyone was sad to hear this news.

Joetta Greig announced that Cindy Ricker will be her Deputy Register of Deeds.

Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 2:10 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Wales

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen