

On Thursday, December 6, 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, Rosalie King, 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 \$ 48,038.79.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: King, Wills, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Jim Lundberg, from Merit Technology, talked about extending the Merit fiber optic service from the Courthouse to the Iron County Medical Care Facility. Our current agreement with Merit is for 10 megs total (5 on, 5 off) of band, and goes until 2014. Merit offers organizations the potential of bringing additional structures or buildings to use Merit at a reduced rate. The band width is expanded, and the cost is shared among more entities, with the result being an actual reduction in costs to the County. For \$ 500 more per year, the band width can be tripled. The advantages of expanding the Merit band width is important with the increased use of electronic medical records. The aggregate band width would give the Medical Care Facility 18 megs, and the County would get 15 megs. This revised contract is being reviewed by the Medical Care Facility personnel. King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to recommend the revised contract to the full board for consideration. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve continuation of the remonumentation project and the committee expenses involved.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, King, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Administrator Clisch reported that the joint meeting between the County Board and the North Star Hospital board members and Medical Care Facility board members, is scheduled for Friday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.

The Northwoods Animal Shelter sent a letter requesting their \$ 1,525/month service contract fee for 2013. It is in the budget.

County Clerk Luhtanen asked if an adjustment should be made in the user fee for certified copies (such as, death, birth, etc.) from her office. Currently, the cost is \$10 for the first copy and \$5 for each additional copy of the same record. The costs associated with printing have gone up, and Dickinson County is now charging \$15 for the first copy and \$10 for each additional copy. Luhtanen suggested \$ 15 for the first copy and \$ 5 for each additional copy. The consensus of the committee was to make sure fees do recover the costs and be similar to those fees of neighboring counties.

The heat in the courthouse has been turned down on the week-ends in order to save costs. However, this Monday, the temperature in the courthouse was down to 60 degrees, and electric space heaters had to be used extensively to bring the temperature up to a comfortable level in which to work. The staff who were present asked if the heat could remain at a constant temperature. Commissioner Lind said a study will be conducted to see how long it takes to recover the temperature.

The FAXES throughout the courthouse complex have only been working sporadically for the past several months, both in receiving and transmitting documents. It caused a major problem on election night. According to the telephone technicians, the telephone entities do not always "talk" to each other, resulting in broken transmissions. However, the use of FAXES are on the decline, and the option of scanning documents and emailing the information could be implemented. Hopefully, the technicians can solve the problem.

Equalization Director Joan Mussato talked of an interest in digital maps. King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:30 p.m.

