

A Public Truth and Taxation Hearing on the Proposed 2013 All Funds Budget for Iron County was opened by Chairman Wayne Wales on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. The Hearing was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. Commissioners who were present: Beverly Camps, Rosalie King, Fran Wills, Carl Lind, and Wales. Finance Chairman Carl Lind said the 2013 budget was balanced. The proposed budget for the General Fund has Revenues/Expenditures of \$ 5,307,873.00. The Amended 2012 Budget was \$ 6,000,232.74. The Actual Budgets for past years were: 2010: \$ 6,151,088.66 and for 2011: \$ 5,028,162.10. Lind called for comments on the budget.

The Board heard questions/comments from the following citizens:

Ben Smith Questioned the funding/ballot language of the senior citizen centers.

Patti Peretto Asked about the \$ 20,000 of proposed Revenue coming from Timber Sales. Was told the County Forester John Force was investigating some areas for harvest. Asked if the Delinquent Revolving Tax Fund is ok, was told by County Treasurer Cornelia that it was.

Rosalie King Questioned the transferring \$ 264,000 from the Stabilization Fund (last year) in order to balance the 2012 budget. Administrator Sue Clisch said that the raises for salaries in 2012 were never brought forward from the former administrator. King questioned when the County will receive the refunding of the county monies spent for establishing the Indian Lake Level. Civil Counsel Tinti outlined the future procedures which will have to transpire first. He hopes that the Order will be signed in December. King also questioned the increases in the Sheriff's department. Sheriff Valesano responded that the wages had been increased, as well as the cost of fuel. These costs are not discretionary, and other than that his budget remains flat. King then questioned the Central Dispatch budget and if the funding for the employees that were transferred into that now separate department, came from the Sheriff's department. Tinti explained the funding sources for 911: Surcharge on phones, a portion of the telecommunication tax from the State, and payment for dispatch services from Gogebic County. Tinti stressed that because Central Dispatch still handles calls/dispatching for the Sheriff's department, a component of the cost will continue to be borne by the County's General Fund.

Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Powell Questioned the salaries that were listed for some of the Elected/Appointed Officials. Some salaries showed an increase, and others did not. The proposed 2% increase was included for some officials, but not all. A discussion about the need to cut back the overall cost of the county was held. The salaries for the County Register of Deeds and County Treasurer were adjusted to be the same as the outgoing officials. It had been proposed to reduce those salaries of the brand new officials. The legality of lowering it was questioned, but the consensus of the County Board was not to lower them. However, the staffing in both of those departments was to be reduced from a full-time person, to a part-time person. This was suggested so no one would lose their job, but rather eliminate the position through attrition.

Patti Peretto Questioned the increase in "Contributions," but the answer will have to be researched. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to close the Public Hearing. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 5:59 p.m

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Chairman Wayne Wales

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

Chairman Wayne Wales called a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. 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 Officers. Present were: Beverly Camp, Rosalie King, Fran Wills, Carl Lind and Wales. King made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wales called for Public Comment on Agenda Items, but none was voiced.

Commissioners Reports: Several commissioners gave updates on their recent meetings and upcoming events. Commissioner Lind gave a breakdown on the Medicare Facility Project. It is on schedule. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business: Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the Finance Committee's October 25, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$309,199.77; their November 1, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 1,118,047.19; and their November 8, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of

\$ 2,745,923.25.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

In the budgeting process, the contract for services with the Northwoods Animal Shelter had been approved at \$ 16,500 for the year. This had been increased from \$ 13,500/yearly or \$ 1,125 per month to \$ 1,375/month. At an earlier presentation, the Animal Shelter personnel requested an additional increase of \$ 150/month or \$18,300 per year. The cost of utilities is extremely high. Wales made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the level to \$ 18,300/yearly (an increase of \$ 400/monthly from last year's funding) and adjust the County budget accordingly.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, Wales

NAYS: King, Lind

Motion carried, 3 to 2.

Civil Counsel Tinti was directed to update the contract to reflect the changes.

#### New Business:

Detective Lt. Sholander from UPSET (Upper Peninsula Substance Abuse Enforcement Team) gave a presentation on their organization. They try to keep the communities safe from illegal drug use and manufacture of drugs; such as, methamphetamine. They cover twelve counties in the U.P. ; the largest area east of the Mississippi. Sholander stated that drugs are not jurisdictional or geographical, so therefore, their team comes from all over. The people are properly deputized, even by the FBI. They are seeing cocaine, prescription pills, and a huge influx of heroin in Menominee, Dickinson and Iron. They have cleaned up 40 "meth" labs, and clean-up can run up to \$10,000.

They are funded by donations and grants. It takes about \$ 188,000/year to operate. Their forfeiture funds are drying up since medical marijuana is now legal, so they cannot confiscate vehicles from persons using marijuana. Additionally, the clean up costs from areas contaminated from meth are significant. Sholander would like to work more closely with local law enforcement. He also would like to partner with another organization in order to apply for grants, especially for an "Awareness Project" he would like to develop. He asked for a monetary consideration from the County.

The commissioners, and Prosecuting Attorney Powell agreed it was a worthwhile organization, and thanked Lt. Sholander for his presentation.

In other business, Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the Michigan Works Interlocal Agreement, and authorized the Board Chairman to sign same. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Drain Commissioner Tom Clark said that Iron County's population was now below the 12,000 threshold and recommended that in 2016, after his term expires, that the position of Drain Commissioner be eliminated. The County Road Commission would then take over those duties. Clark felt that they have an engineer on staff, and it would save money.

He also requested the County apply for a "State Dam Management Grant Program" through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The county would receive \$ 30,000 which would require a 10% county match. Applications must be sent by December 1, 2012 to be considered in the 2013 funding cycle. Clark also passed around his Dam Inspection Reports for the Lakes of Stager, Sunset and Fortune. He needs easements to do his inspections. No action was taken, and the new board in January will be informed of the situation.

Camp made a motion, seconded by Wales, to approve a 2% wage increase for the Elected and Appointed officials. Civil Counsel Tinti said the total amount of the increases and where the funds would be coming should be stated. Camp then rescinded her motion, and Wales rescinded his second. The computations will be ready for the next meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lind made a motion, seconded by King, to approve the airport lease between Earl Koski and the County, and to authorize the Board Chairman to sign the same.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to ratify the wage increase of 2% with the Corrections Officers Contract and the Courthouse AFSCME Local 1424 for 2013.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Announcements:

The courthouse will be closed for Thanksgiving Holiday on November 22 and 23. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:30 p.m. with a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2013 Budget prior to the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Ben Smith spoke about transportation in the U.P.

George Brunswick said he didn't like the way the appointment to the U.P. State Fair was done.

With no other business to consider, Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 7:15 p.m.

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Chairman Wayne Wales

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen