

A Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Carl Lind on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. 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: Patti Peretto, Tim Aho, Jim Brennan, Ray Coates and Lind. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the Regular meeting Minutes of March 14, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto to approve the special committee meeting minutes of March 7 and 21, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of New Business # 14, Reappointment of Klaryce Bilski to Jury Board. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment: Ben Smith thought the court house was always open during the noon hour, and the Authority on Aging was meeting on Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Iron River Senior Center.

Commissioners' Reports: Aho gave a verbal update of his recent meetings. There were no other reports. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to accept the report. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Elected and Appointed Officials' Reports: Several officials submitted written reports. Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to accept the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Finance Committee's March 7, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 1,101,298.04; their March 21, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$5,366,227.31; and their April 4, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 215,645.63.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Peretto, Brennan, Coates, Aho, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Aho made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to hire Don Peterson of Renewable Resource Solutions, as the timber sale administrator.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Aho, Brennan, Peretto, Coates, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve Melanie Camps payout of Longevity (\$145.81 and Sick Leave of \$ 933.66, for a Total of \$ 1,079.49), with Vacation Payout Due of \$ 3,543.12 to be put into their Retirement Account; and to approve Joetta Greig's payout of Longevity of \$ 262.50 and Sick Leave of \$ 1,334.29, for a Total of \$ 1,596.79), with Vacation Payout Due of \$ 3,546.88.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Coates, Aho, Peretto, Brennan, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

With this action, the grievances that were filed, will be dropped.

New Business:

Kim Stoker, and Katie Keller, of WUPPDR, gave a presentation of their organization. Stoker provided a handout, "Community Economic Development Strategy and Program Projection and Performance Report from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012." WUPPDR serves the six western counties of the U.P.: Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, Gogebic and Iron. Each county pays a yearly contribution to WUPPDR. From 2007 through 2012, Iron County has contributed \$ 37,888, but has had a "return" of \$ 2,835,515 in grants issued to various projects; or for "every \$1 invested in WUPPDR \$73.94 or 7,384% over the past five years." Stoker encouraged the commissioners and the public to visit their website: [www.info@wupldr.org](http://www.info@wupldr.org).

Also giving a presentation was Karen Thekan, CEO of Northpointe Behavioral Health Systems. She was joined by Bill Adrian, the Chief Financial Officer who has been with Northpointe for 35 years. Thekan pointed out that it has been 50 years since the Community Mental Health System began when President Kennedy signed the Mental Health Act, and she provided a "Quick History of Northpointe." The Dickinson-Iron Community Health Board began in 1964,

and then merged with Menominee County in 1995 to create the current Northpointe BHS. Thekan stressed that the merger was a good example of consolidation of services which the State is highly encouraging. Northpointe employs approximately 250 people and served 1,645 priority consumers this past fiscal year in the three county area. Funding sources come primarily from Medicaid. Then funding comes from General Funds from the State, and local funds are used to provide a 10% match to General Funds, and others. Northpointe operates several group homes and supportive housing. Thekan also provided a calendar which serves as their Annual Report. This year's theme is "Healthy Body, Healthy Living, Healthy Mind" which shows Northpointe's programs which encourage a holistic, integrated approach to helping people live productive, meaningful lives. She also stated that Northcare is the U.P. entity which decides how the Medicaid monies are disbursed to the counties. Northpointe has also helped the Sheriff's department with training and computer assistance to Iron County's IT department.

Equalization Director Joan Mussato had produced the "2013 Equalization Report for Iron County." The recommended 2013 County Equalized Value is \$ 691,122,933 and the tentative 2013 Taxable Value is \$ 493,608,638. The report breaks down the values into the classes of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Timber-Cutover, Developmental, Real Property, Personal Property, School Districts, and the gap between Equalized and Taxable Value. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to accept the 2013 Equalization Report. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Brennan, Peretto, Aho, Coates, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Another presentation was conducted by Beth Tappy, from the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department. She talked of the "Strategic National Stockpile," or SNS, which will provide pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in the event of an emergency situation which overwhelms the local, regional and state resources. The type of supplies which would be disbursed are antibiotics, vaccines, medical and surgical supplies, etc. Tappy explained how the County Chairman Carl Lind is the primary authority to request assets from the Strategic National Stockpile should be it be necessary during a public health emergency. There is also a line of successor authority for the County Board of Commissioners. Tappy explained how the supplies would be distributed (In Iron County it would be from the Forest Park School) and dispensed.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the payout of Vacation time for Crystal Bittner (93.31 hours @ \$ 14.56/hour) for a Total of \$ 1,358.59; and the payout of Sick Leave for Rolayne Jackson (120 hours @ \$ 15.31/hour) for a Total of \$ 1837.20.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Peretto, Aho, Coates, Brennan, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to accept the quote from 906 Technologies for three wireless access points within the courthouse complex at the cost of \$ 3,655.75.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Brennan, Coates, Peretto, Aho, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Discussion was held on staggering the courthouse lunch time. Currently the courthouse offices are closed for a half hour from Noon to 12:30 p.m. Aho made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to table any action until a system could be worked out.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Peretto, Coates, Brennan, Aho, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to appoint Robert Black to the U.P. Resource Conservation and Development Council. This group secures grant funds for tackling invasive species throughout the U.P. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the following ballot language and to place it on the August 6<sup>th</sup> ballot:

"Senior Centers Millage"

"Shall the previous voted increase in the Tax Rate Limitation for the County of Iron general ad valorem taxes be renewed at .27 mills (\$.027 per thousand dollars of Taxable Value) for a period of four years, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used

exclusively for and no other purpose than operations for all Senior Centers in Iron County. This levy would raise an estimated \$ 130,520.21 in the first year. (This being a renewal of the .25 mills for Operations and .02 mills for Program Administration Costs which expired with the 2012 tax levy.”

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Coates, Brennan, Aho, Peretto, Lind  
NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the following ballot language and to place it on the August 6<sup>th</sup> ballot:

“Iron County Maintenance of Effort and Medical Care Facility Operations Millage”

“Shall the previously voted increase in the Tax Rate Limitation for the County of Iron general ad valorem taxes be renewed at 1.5 mills (\$ 1.50 per thousand dollars of Taxable Value) for a period of five years, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, inclusive, the taxes so raised to be used exclusively for payment of Maintenance of Effort and Medical Care Facility operations. This levy would raise an estimated \$725,112.29 in the first year. (This being a renewal of the 1.5 mills which will expire with the 2013 tax levy.)”

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Aho, Brennan, Coates, Peretto, Lind  
NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Building Code Inspector C. Jerry Anderson had requested an increase in his wages due to acquiring a State required certification for his position. Administrator Clisch stated that Anderson is currently making \$ 22.97/hour. A survey of other U.P. counties had been made and Clisch felt that Anderson’s rate of pay is right in line with the other counties. Anderson does receive a wage adjustment at the same time as the other employees’ salaries/hourly wages are adjusted. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Aho, to reject Anderson’s request.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Coates, Aho, Peretto, Brennan, Lind  
NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Chairman Lind read the “Certificate of Appreciation” which the Iron County Central Dispatch received from the State 911 Committee. Everyone agreed that the dispatchers do an invaluable service to the county and it is a very hard job.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the reappointment of Klaryce Bilski to another term on the Iron County Jury Board. This term will expire on April 30, 2019. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 7:25 p.m.

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Chairman Carl Lind

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen