

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. , Iron County Board Chairman Carl Lind opened a Public Hearing on the County's Proposed 2014 All Funds Budget. The hearing was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Crystal Falls, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. All Commissioners were present: Tim Aho, Jim Brennan, Patti Peretto, Ray Coates and Lind.

Chairman Lind called for comments. The Board heard from the following persons:  
4-H Leaders/Advocates: Carol Waura (?), Marvin Hill, Lynn Aho (who read a letter from Carol Callovi), Christine Martinson, and Melissa Marcell who all supported the local 4-H program which has taught skills to many children over the years. Participation in the 4-H program helps not only the children, but the community as well. They agreed that MSU needs to be accountable, but asked the County Board not to let the kids suffer as a result.

Chairman Lind called for further comments on the 2014 County Budget, but none were voiced, and the Public Hearing was declared closed at 1:22 p.m.

Immediately following the hearing, a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Carl Lind on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse in Crystal Falls, MI. 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 Brennan, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of November 14, 2013, and to approve the Special Committee Meeting Minutes of November 14, 21 and December 5, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the Agenda., with the addition under New Business # 15, Purchase of a vehicle for the Sheriff's Department. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment: Ray Kudwa from Mastodon Township was not in favor of another airport based on earlier letters from the Michigan Department of Transportation. Jennifer Richter clarified that the Soil Conservation District was seeking approval for fees, not the allocation. Terry Kanap asked for consideration renting camp sites at Pentoga Park, especially seasonal rates and paying for the site at the courthouse during the winter months.

Commissioners, Elected and Appointed Officials' Reports: Written and oral reports were given. Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to accept all the Commissioners' reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to accept the other reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Finance Committee's November 21, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 362,909.07; their December 5, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 143,165.05.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Chairman Lind wanted the airport committee to continue the feasibility study to secure a new airport site. Civil Council Steve Tinti pointed out that the committee would need to determine the cost of acquisition, and other expenses, as well as determining the funding sources which may or may not exist to generate necessary revenue. Tinti was directed to provide a copy of the concerns to the airport committee so they may gather the information and report back to the County Board. No motion made.

Aho made a motion, seconded by Coates, to accept the three year contract with 906 Technologies with a monthly maintenance cost of \$ 3,250.00. They have been providing good service to the County.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Doug Brahee, Interim Director for MSU, tried to answer questions about the cost of support for the County Extension programming. The cost of \$ 34,545 for 2014 was not possible for the

County to pay. Brennan said that Iron County does not want to get out of 4-H, but could only afford \$ 17,000. He pointed out that amounted to approximately \$ 1,700/club. Brahee said that instead of a part-time person, that would only provide a quarter-time person, and MSU would not support that low level of participation. Further discussion was held about the type of person MSU would hire, the travel time involved and how Dickinson County has twice the population of Iron, and they are only paying half, and other issues. Brahee said he would relay the County's concerns to MSU officials. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to table approving the Memorandum of Understanding with MSU. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Bill Leonoff asked the Board to consider re-establishing the allocation to the Iron County Historical Museum. Leonoff explained the huge scope of the activities and land that the museum is responsible to manage. It is a primary visitor/tourist center, and advantageous for the County to support. Leonoff asked if in the future, the Board would consider funds for the museum. Lind said it was too late for the 2014 budget, but would be reviewed next year.

Participation with the Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation (See Minute Book Page T-184, November 14, 2013) was again resumed. Aho made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve and participate with Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation for the Michigan CDBG program, subject to civil council reviewing the document.

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

NAYS: Brennan

Motion carried 4 to 1

New Business:

Present from the Iron County Soil Conservation Office were Jennifer Richter, Bob Gussert and Harry Robie. The fees for the Soil and Sediment Program have not been increased since 2004. There has been a shift away from commercial permitting fees, and the residential fees have not kept pace with the time and training needed to be provided to residential clients. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to allow the adjustment to the permit fees in the Soil Conservation Office as presented in the packet.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Dwayne Wensel, Jim Butler and Don Boulange were present to ask for approval to display an Iron County Historical Deer Head mount. This deer was shot by Ben Komblevitz in 1942 in the Morrison Creek area, weighed 204 pounds, and is registered with Boone and Crocker as the 13<sup>th</sup> largest non-typical in the whole State of Michigan. They explained that Iron County has been known for its deer hunting heritage and record bucks. They would be honored to have it on display at the Courthouse for all to see. Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to accept the Kombleviz deer head mount with gratitude. A plaque will also be erected giving the facts of the hunt, and the Wensel family (who had it) will be provided with documentation. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to give permission to raise the Iron County Construction Code fees for Residential as documented by Building Codes Inspector Jerry Anderson. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Lind stated the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pentoga Park Burial Grounds will be reviewed at a later meeting.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to restructure the Parks Manager position from full time to "Seasonal" (April 14 through November 14, 2014). This is a necessary step to balance the 2014 budget.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Brennan, Aho, Peretto

NAYS: Coates, Lind

Motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the 2014 Iron County Budget as amended.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the 1.8% wage increase for employees in Central Dispatch and the proposed POAM Trial Court Unions.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the Journal Entries for October, November and December, 2013, as presented by County Treasurer Melanie Camps. These had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

There were several openings on various county committees. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve Jack Franz to the Iron County Housing Commission, and Ray Kudwa to the Authority on Aging, On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Resident Ben Smith said Sonne Stowell would be interested in serving on the Authority on Aging. Lind said a letter should be submitted by Stowell. There were no applications for the Construction Code openings.

Even though there are some vacancies on the local EDC board, Peretto hoped that this board would be re-vitalized and that the County should partner with the EDC. Lind has sent requests for information to this board, but has not received any answers. Brennan was very concerned about the lack of jobs and the number of businesses declining, and was not comfortable dissolving the EDC. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to table the dissolution of the local EDC, until such time as a meeting can be held with EDC members. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Crystal Falls Supervisor Tom Lesandrini said that the County would still need a contact person for economic development issues. The townships and counties will continue to work together to keep and promote businesses, but the County will take on the responsibility of loan payments. Peretto made a motion to approve Rosalie King and Ray Kudwa to the EDC board, but there was no second, and the motion died.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the Sheriff purchasing a new vehicle for the fleet. A USDA grant has been received to help defray part of the cost.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Civil Council Steve Tinti questioned the board if it was their intent to have management issue a lay off notice to the current parks employee. This would be the next mandatory step due to their motion to change the position to part-time. This was the board's consensus.

#### Resolutions:

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, approving the resolution turning over the CDBG funds to the Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation, State of Michigan, pending the review of legal council of the contract, and authorizing the Board Chairperson to represent and vote on behalf of Iron County as a member of the Regional Fund Approval Committee. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the resolution transferring accounts from Valic to MERS. This action had been approved in June, but legal council had to revise some wording. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the employer resolution establishing uniform transfer provision. Again some wording had to be revised. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The Board of Commissioners will be holding an Organizational meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Aho, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 3:35 p.m.

