

Iron County Board Chairman Carl Lind called to order a Committee of the Whole Special Meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the health care options for the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department. Commissioners who were present: Patti Peretto, Jim Brennan and Lind. Absent was Ray Coates and Tim Aho. Also present was the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Manager Steve Markham.

Markham stated that a decision on the health care plan for the DIDHD employees had to be made by tomorrow. They currently have a January 1st renewal date. This is driven by the Affordable Health Care Act. He had been waiting for information from their health care provider, and there were two options available.

The first option is to do nothing, and their current Simply Blue plan will go away. New plans will become available on January 1st. There would be a potential savings in premiums, but what is unknown are the type of benefits that are available, as well as what the exact premiums are. The DIDHD went to Simply Blue plan just this past April 1st. The HSA account would be limited to \$250. The cost of the premiums are split 70/30 now (70% employer/30% employee). The DIDHD pays for the deductible and part of the co-pays.

The second option is to change the renewal dates from January 1 to December 1, 2014. There would be a rate increase with this, but this would give everyone a chance to see what will happen with the whole insurance issue. This way the only thing that would have to be negotiated would be the plan year, and Markham didn't see that as an obstacle. Markham recommended this option.

He would appreciate having the County Board act on this issue today. Chairman Lind said it will be put on the Regular Board Agenda. Lind adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Chairman Carl Lind

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

A Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Carl Lind on Thursday, July 11, 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. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 13, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the Special Committee Meetings of June 6, June 13, June 20 and June 26, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to add under New Business #10, the Health Department Health Insurance issue; and to switch New Business #9 right after #3 in order so the presenter doesn't have to wait, and to have the Unfinished Business section later on. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment: David Sankey from K & D Services (towing) asked again about the Dispatch Department implementing a rotation system when calling for a wrecker. Sankey was losing thousands of dollars in business. He felt because it was a county operation, it was unfair not to rotate the calls. When the State Police post was here, this is what they did and it worked well. There is no liability to the county because towing companies have to strictly adhere to the insurance company's rules. Sankey has been here before asking for a change in the policy and it seems to go nowhere. Chairman Lind said an answer will be given to Sankey in 30 days.

Commissioners' Reports and Elected and Appointed Officials' Reports: Written and verbal reports were given about recent meetings and upcoming events. Peretto read a letter from one of her constituents, Kathy Purrenhage, who wrote of recent deficiencies at Pentoga Park. Commissioner Coates said he had been to the park, and it looked fine to him, but he would bring the matter up to the Park Manger. Chairman Lind reaffirmed that there would be no Parks meeting this year. Treasurer Melanie Camps thanked auditor Kevin Pascoe for all his assistance. There are 53 parcels up for sale this year for non-payment of property taxes. Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to accept all reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

New Business:

Jennifer Ricker, Conservation District Administrator, introduced Celie Borndal, the new Iron County Forester. Borndal is from Minnesota and expressed her enthusiasm for being here.

Lt. Sholander from the UPSET program gave a presentation of their drug investigation activities. Heroin and meth, as well as prescription drug abuse, are very prevalent here, not just in the big cities. Lt. Sholander gave examples of how meth can adversely affect those people who are hooked on it. The Call In Number is 906-346-9289. Sholander said they are funded through grants, forfeitures and local government and community group support. Sholander was thanked for his presentation. Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to donate \$ 5,000 to UPSET. Peretto stated that this was a very good organization, but questioned if this had been budgeted for this year. Administrator Clisch said there were Revenue Sharing funds that could be used for this item.

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

NAYS: Peretto

Motion carried 4 to 1.

Eric Thompson from the DNR office in Escanaba, informed the Board that a land owner in Mastodon Township wishes to sell her property on the Brule River to the State. The 22 ½ acre parcel will become part of a consolidated block of state owned land, and will provide for additional Brule River frontage and public recreation opportunities. Mrs. Gail Hanley-Petrucci's husband has died, and she wishes that this property be available for everyone to enjoy it as he had. Informational.

Kevin Pascoe, CPA from Anderson, Tackman (auditors) went through the 2012 Audit report for the County. Pascoe stated that after a number of adjustments, an unqualified opinion regarding the County's finances was able to be given. (This is desirable.) The County has a general fund balance equal to five month's of operating expenses, which is good. The net worth of the County went from \$996,000 in 2011 to approximately \$ 2.6 million in 2012.

The budget stabilization fund has decreased due to transfers to the General Fund in order to pay a courthouse bond payment. Pascoe stated that the challenge for the person who is in charge of the budget, is to make amendments to the budget during the year, and not wait to the end and avoid having any funds in a deficit balance. There were some of the same material weaknesses and significant deficiency as before. Pascoe said that with the implementation of the BS & A financial software this year, many of these issues should be resolved.

There were no problems with any of the four programs that the County gets Federal monies for running. Pascoe said the Federal agencies look at the reports. Pascoe was thanked for attending. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Aho, to receive the audit. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Finance Committee's June 6, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 523,892.78; their June 20, 2013, Review of Bills, in the amount of \$ 455,748.55; and their July 2, 2013, Review of Bills, in the amount of 4 603,839.90.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Aho made a motion, seconded by Coates, to table the Merit Network Service Agreement until the October meeting. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Coates, to consolidate the County Clerk and County Register of Deeds' offices when the terms of the current officers expire on December 31, 2016.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Aho made a motion, seconded by Coates, to table any action on the health care plans for the County until the August meeting. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

New Business, continued:

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve a County Credit card to Maintenance Superintendent John Lortie, for an amount not to exceed \$ 3,000.00 On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to table action on purchasing office equipment for the Treasurer's department. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve Journal Entries # 42 through #85. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

A Smoking Ban will be investigated and the County Administrator will report back on how to implement it.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve increasing the credit card limit for the Youth Camp Director Brian Schulze from \$ 3,000 to \$ 6,000. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve Option # 2 , regarding the health insurance plan for the Dickinson-Iron Health Department employees as recommended by its Director Steve Markham. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Resolutions:

Aho made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Resolution to Promote and Develop a Southern U.P. Bike Route for the Governor's proposed bike path from Belle Isle to Ironwood Michigan Trail. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the Resolution directing the Iron County's Deficit Reduction Plan for 2012, which will appropriate \$ 4,401.00 from the General Fund to the Drug Court Grant Program fund, and appropriate \$ 2,326.00 from the General Fund to the Law Library Fund. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Carl Lind

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen