

At 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, June 13, 2013, in the Iron County Courthouse, County Board Chairman Carl Lind called to order a Public Hearing to receive comments on a proposed grant through USDA Rural Development. These funds will be used towards a purchase of a new patrol vehicle. The Federal funding amount that was requested with the pre-application was for \$ 12,000.00. Also present were County Commissioners Patti Peretto, Tim Aho, Jim Brennan, and Ray Coates.

The Board heard from Sheriff Mark Valesano about this request. The Sheriff said that his department has taken advantage of this grant opportunity to purchase patrol cars for a number of years. This has enabled him to rotate the fleet, so that the newest cars are dependable vehicles allowing the officers can respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

The poor economic climate in Iron County has been one of the factors which enhance the eligibility to receive the USDA Rural Development assistance. Sheriff Valesano said the \$12,000 is approximately one-third of the cost of a new vehicle. The balance of the purchase price is in his department's budget. Undersheriff Tom Courchaine stated if the grant is approved, it usually is available to use for three years.

Chairman Lind called for Public Comment three times, but none was voiced. With no other comments, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 5:37 p.m.

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Chairman Carl Lind

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

Immediately following the above Public Hearing, a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Carl Lind. 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 Board meeting of May 9, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the Special Committee Meeting Minutes of May 9 and May 24, 2013, with the correction in the first paragraph which should read "Tim Aho" instead of "Ray Coates." On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to approve the Agenda, with the addition under New Business # 9, Sheriff's grant application request. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment: There was none voiced.

Commissioners' Reports: All the commissioners gave verbal reports of their recent meetings. Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to accept the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

At this time, there was unveiling of the "Code of Conduct" plaque in memory of Commissioner Beverly Camp, who had recently died. Bev Camp's husband, Larry, stated that the hardest thing Bev had to do was resign her seat on the county board because of her illness. She loved being on the County Board. He thanked everyone for their support.

Elected Officials/Department Heads' Reports: Written reports had been submitted by various elected officials and appointed department heads. Administrator Sue Clisch stated that the auditors would be attending the July 11 Board meeting. Commissioner Peretto requested that the administrator's report be sent prior to the meeting so she could review it. Clisch stated that in her contract her report could be written or verbal. Clisch also stated that a personnel meeting will be held next week with insurance agent Vince Rose to explore health insurance options. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, 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 May 9, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 287,976.75; and their May 23, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 911,937.90.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the “Lease Agreement Between the County of Iron and the Dickinson-Iron Community Services Agency.” The term of this lease is for one year beginning on June 1, 2013 and ending May 31, 2014. This is for offices located within the Iron County Senior Center located in Iron River. DICSA will pay \$500/month for use of two offices, and exclusive use of the kitchen when congregate or home delivered meals are being prepared. Brennan said either party can terminate the lease with 60 days notice, an increase from the previous 30 days. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

A Public Hearing to consider consolidation of the County Clerk’s and Register of Deeds’ offices was set for Wednesday, June 26, at 1:00 p.m. Civil Counsel Steve Tinti stated that it is necessary to hold a minimum of one public hearing on the proposed consolidation; the adoption has to be a “regular agenda item” at a meeting not less than 10 days or more than 30 days from the public hearing, and there needs to be a two-thirds vote of the commissioners in favor of the consolidation. If approved, this consolidation would not go into effect until December 31, 2016, when the current term of these offices expire. Commissioner Aho asked if a new county board could reverse the decision, and Tinti replied they could.

The Board heard from Bill Artwich and Barb Gajewski of Many Waters, LLC, about their method to eradicate Eurasian Milfoil in Chicagoan Lake. Artwich explained the Diver Assisted Suction (DASH) Harvesting removal procedure. Artwich is a diver and he would be using “suction harvesting” from the bottom lands. Their boat is modeled after a harvesting boat in Lake Tomahawk that has been successful. Artwich explained that approval would have to be given by the DNR, and the starting factor of this process may be influenced by the spawning of the bass species. They proposed to pull approximately two acres and the estimated cost is \$ 5,500 to \$ 6,000 plus a \$50 permit fee. Reports will be made to the county board about the level of effectiveness. Administrator Clisch said the funds would come out of the boat wash fund which has a balance of \$ 11,000. Peretto suggested that the all the parties who are affected: The Chicagoan Lake Home Owners, Stambaugh Township and the County, get together to further explore and evaluate this situation. Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, to accept the Many Waters, LLC, proposal as stated above, to harvest the Eurasian Milfoil.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

#### New Business:

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the 2013 Allocated Millage request as submitted by Equalization Director Joan Mussato. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried.

“Certificates of Appreciation” were given to Sheriff Mark Valesano, Undersheriff Thomas Courchaine, Deputy Ryan Boehmke, Deputy Adam Schiavo and Administrative Assistant Lynda Cross for their help to the Cook County, Illinois, Cold Case Homicide Unit, for their assistance in helping take Jacquelyn Greco into custody in March. Greco had been charged with murder. A round of applause followed the presentations.

Jim Lundberg of Merit Network was present to explain the proposed five year agreement schedule with the County. Lundberg stated that the County’s “band width” will be shared with the Iron County Medical Care Facility, so overall, the County will be saving money. The cost for the first year is \$ 18,638. The current contract expires at the end of November. Aho said 906 Technologies stated the County does not need this line; it is a duplication of another service. Aho made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to table the contact with Merit Network to gather more information.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Peretto, Brennan, Aho

NAYS: Coates, Lind

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to appoint Dorothy Dixon to replace Carole Stachowicz, who recently resigned from the Iron County Housing Commission. On Voice vote, the motion carried. This unexpired term will expire on December 31, 2013.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Journal Entries 1 through 41.3, 417 -418, 420 and 54. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the “Iron County Pre-Funded Retirement Health Insurance Individual Account Plan,” “401 (a) Retirement Plan,” and “MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement” (Corrections from prior years’ omissions) with the Michigan Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) /Valic and IRS.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the sale of surplus property (old office equipment/furniture) which has been stored on the third floor of the courthouse. This sale will be open to the public as well as County Courthouse employees. It will be posted on the Iron County website, and it will last one week. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Brennan outlined the history and problems with the Western Upper Peninsula Alliance Agreement. This is a proposed mutual agreement with the counties of Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon and Iron. This new agreement will immediately terminate and replace the WUP Manpower Consortium Agreement. Brennan explained that the State may unfairly penalize and fine the six counties for non-compliance that has occurred over the past twelve years. Brennan made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to adopt the agreement to approve the Interlocal Agreement establishing the Western U.P. Alliance.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Brennan, stating the County Board approved Sheriff Valesano’s continuation of the grant application process with the USDA Rural Development, and further do assure and do authorize that the local match of \$19,000 to be deposited in a Restricted Account at or before closing of the “not to exceed” \$12,000 grant for a \$ 31,000 Fully Equipped Patrol Vehicle. A “Letter of Assurance of Local Match” will be signed to continue the process leading to the obligation of Federal Funds.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Resolutions:

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the MERS 2010 Uniform Defined Contribution Program Resolution. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the MERS Employer Resolution Establishing Uniform Transfer Provision. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements:

A Public Hearing on Combining the Register of Deeds’ and County Clerk’s offices will be held on Wednesday, June 26, at 1:00 p.m.

The next Regular County Board of Commissioners’ meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be held in the Commissioners’ Room of the Courthouse.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 7:00 p.m.

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Chairman Carl Lind

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen