

A Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Carl Lind on Thursday, March 14, 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, Ray Coates and Lind. Absent was Jim Brennan. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2013, and Special Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7 and 21, 2013. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to amend the Agenda as follows: New Business #1 Presentation of Northpointe's Annual Report will be moved to next month's meeting, and the addition of New Business #6 an Executive Session. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment:

Bob Black, Iron County Chamber of Commerce Director: Distributed copies of the new, "Iron County Visitor Guide, 'Iron County, The Gateway to the Upper Peninsula,'" which are very colorful and informative.

GiGi Polich Van-Doren and George Polich: Mr. Polich has a property concern. His family owns lake frontage on the east side of Minnie Lake. For over 20 years, they have been using a road on adjacent property which is now owned by Blaise Andreski. Andreski recently acquired the land from the County. Andreski has put up a gate which prevents the Polich's access to their property. Mr. Polich is asking the County to give a public easement for a roadway off of County Road 424 which would cover approximately half the needed distance. They have been trying to get this issue on the board agenda, but were told it was too late. Ms. Van-Doren said it is necessary to get this issue resolved since it also impacts the youth camp. The Polich family has granted access to the camp every year, so the campers can get to their site. Lind said this matter will be turned over to the civil counsel so that he can help the board to get the parties involved.

Dino Giannola (Owner of Watersmeet Trout Hatchery): Expressed interest in running the Cooks Run facility. He had wanted to manage the facility before, but was quite new to the business and was unsure of taking on something new. Giannola asked permission to inspect the facility to see what needs to be done. He has already talked with the DNR about licensing, and would hope to come back to the next board meeting with a proposal. He would like to start operations by May 1st. The consensus of the board was to give him permission to inspect.

County Treasurer Melanie Camps: Felt that the proposed purchase of the BSA financial software purchase is the direction the County should be going. She volunteered DTRF funds (of approximately \$ 60,000) to make the first of three installments.

Commissioners' and Elected and Appointed Officials' Reports: Some officials submitted written reports, and others gave verbal updates of their recent meetings and attendance at conferences. Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to accept all reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to approve the Finance committee's February 7, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 382,191.82; and their February 21, 2013, Review of Bills in the amount of \$ 440,762.25.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

Various persons again discussed the possible purchase of the BSA financial software. Coates made a motion, seconded by Aho, to go ahead with the BSA software, based on the August 15, 2012, proposal with a total software cost of \$ 172,100.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

Five bids were received to the Request For Proposals for managing the County forestry lands. They were from: Terry Read, Brock VanOss, Justin Miller, Eric Stier and Don Peterson. Chairman Lind said the County Administrator, along with one commissioner, will interview the applicants, and to come back to the full board with a recommendation.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve payment of the 906 Technologies invoices from 2012.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

New Business:

Jennifer Ricker, Iron Conservation District Administrator, gave a presentation on the programs and benefits of the Conservation District; such as, a way to improve the environment, create more jobs and fight invasive species. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve the continued yearly appropriation of \$ 3,000 to the Iron Conservation District.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

Also being introduced and giving presentations were Nick Baumgart, the new 4-H Program Agent and Rebecca Krans, Michigan State University Educator. They talked of the expanding options and increased involvement for the area youth with the 4-H programs. There are also new “Educators” to help with economic development, as well as the continuation of the “traditional” M.S.U. services to the community; such as, analyzing soil samples.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve the “Lease Agreement Between the County of Iron and the Dickinson-Iron Community Services Agency” which will be effective from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014. This is for leasing two offices located in the Iron River Senior Citizen Center, with the rental rate of \$ 500.00/month.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to approve Carol Dallavalle to the Authority on Aging. This is an interim appointment. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The Courthouse will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2013, in observance of Good Friday. The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in the Commissioners Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.

Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with the County’s attorney Paul Strom.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brennan

Motion carried.

The time was 7:10 p.m. At 7:50 p.m., the Board came back into Regular Session. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Aho, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 7:51 p.m.

Chairman Carl Lind

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen