

On Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., the Iron County Finance Committee was called to order by its Chairman Jim Brennan. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. Roll Call was taken with the following members present: Ray Coates, Patti Peretto, and Brennan.

Chairman Brennan called for financial issues from those present:

County Treasurer Melanie Camps asked if the Journal Entries she had distributed earlier could be acted upon, but not all the committee members had an opportunity to review them.

County Treasurer Melanie Camps then informed the committee of a proposed State Senate Bill which would allow the counties who have “opted out” of selling foreclosed properties, to “opt in.” Camps said that 71 of the 83 Michigan counties “opt in”; that is, conduct their own foreclosure sales. Iron County currently lets the State conduct the sale. However, the sale is held downstate, and she feels that we would get a better local response if the auction was held in the U.P. The State has received approximately \$600,000 in fees in the last ten years from sales of Iron County properties.

Right now Iron County does not have an opportunity to “opt in.” There have been occasions when counties could choose to “opt in,” but it is now closed. Camps is in favor of the new legislation. Camps outlined how the proposed auction procedure would be handled if her office did it. This would mean more work for her office, but Camps felt the added income would offset the cost to have her part-time employee be a full-time employee. Informational.

Equalization Director Joan Mussato presented a chart showing, “Estimate of Lost Revenue under Personal Property Phase-Out.” This chart was shown by municipality, and listed the 2013 Commercial Personal Property, Value of Property Over \$ 40,000, and Property Under \$ 40,000 and the percentage of difference in each, as well as the totals. The first phase showed a proposed loss in 2014 to the County of \$ 24,448.73. Mussato said that a statewide ballot question would be presented at the August, 2014, election, and voters would be asked if there should be a continued phase out of the personal property tax.

The committee then reviewed the bills. Peretto made a motion, seconded by Coates, to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$ 350,012.04.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Coates, Peretto, Brennan

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:35 p.m.

Finance Chairman Jim Brennan

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen