

August 11, 2015

The Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Tim Aho at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken, with the following members present: Brennan, Coates, Leonoff and Aho. Absent: Peretto

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting, along with minutes of the Executive Session for July 15, 2015; and Special meetings of July 20 and 27. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Brennan, to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings of July 16 and July 30, 2015. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Chairman Aho requested the addition of New Business #8a, Resolution for the UPWARD Talent Counsel; and New Business #8b, Sheriff Valesano's Request for Transfer of Sick Time for a Sheriff Department Employee.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to approve the Agenda as amended. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

There was no Public Comment.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Coates reported on attending the Fairboard and Council on Aging meetings, noting that preparations for the Fair are progressing nicely. Commissioner Aho reported on the Health Department meeting. Commissioners Brennan and Leonoff had no reports.

Department Reports:

Administrator Clisch reported on the Heritage Trail project. She is hopeful that the project will be completed by the end of September. Clisch also noted that the 2016 budget process will be starting, with meetings to be set up with department heads after August 18.

Sheriff Valesano informed the Board that the roof of the jail is in need of repair, as it leaks in many places. He also asked for permission to move forward with hiring a replacement for Jail Administrator, Vernon Jones, who will be retiring at the end of August. Chairman Aho informed the Sheriff that there are no restrictions, and that he may begin the process of replacement.

Prosecutor Powell noted that the Victim Advocacy Canine may arrive by the end of August. She also reported that juror compensation will see an increase in the future.

Other department reports were included in the Agenda packet.

Moved by Coates, supported by Leonoff, to approve the reports as presented. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Moved by Brennan, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Finance Committee's review of bills of July 16, 2015, in the amount of \$355,770.60; and July 30, 2015, in the amount of \$407,688.49. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Leonoff, to approve the journal entries of July 2, 2015 and July 16, 2015, as follows: #8648-8651; 8653-8671; 8674-8685; 8688-8707; 8709-8714; 8716-8720; 8722-8743; 8745-8763; 8764-8770; 8772; 8776-8781; 8786-8815. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the request of Northstar/Aspirus for a millage to be used for improvements in the east-side ambulance garage.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to table the request of Northstar/Aspirus for further study and consultation with legal counsel. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

New Business:

An invitation to join the Iron County Lake and Streams Partnership was presented by Mike Golas. The organization is free to businesses and other groups, with a \$10 participation fee for individuals. The organization's primary goal is to expand community outreach and education regarding aquatic invasive species, and developing community participation in prevention and control projects to protect our lakes and streams for generations to come.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to join the Iron County Lake and Streams Partnership. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Leonoff, to table the discussion regarding health insurance payroll deduction for elected and appointed officials. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Leonoff, to approve the accumulated benefits payout to Sheriff's Deputy Wade Cross in the amount of \$6,467.59. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to approve the appointment of Don Peterson, Abby Miller and William Leonoff to the Iron County EDC Board, with terms to be determined by the EDC Board. Ayes 4. Nays 0. Abstention 1 (on William Leonoff) - Leonoff. Motion carried.

Treasurer Camps requested permission to destroy tax rolls which are stored at Peninsula Title. She explained that these records are on microfiche, and State law allows the destruction of tax rolls which are 21 years or older.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to allow disposal of Iron County tax rolls from 1976 to 1984, which are stored at Peninsula Title. Voice Vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to approve renewal of the contract for the Merit Network for one year. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Brennan, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Cooperative Reimbursement Contract extensions for the Prosecuting Attorney and Friend of the Court. Voice Vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to approve the extension of a license agreement for use of an existing roadway to Keweenaw Land Association through November 1, 2016. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to support the Resolution for the Upward Talent Council. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Sheriff Valesano explained that a Corrections Department employee wishes to transfer his sick time to a Courthouse employee who will soon be on maternity leave. Commissioner Leonoff asked if it would be a problem, going from one union to another. Civil Counsel, Steve Tinti, indicated that he could see no legal reason for it not being done. Chairman Aho noted that as there is no clear policy, it could be setting a precedence.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to approve the sick time transfer between the Corrections Department and Treasurer's Department, with the policy that future requests will only be considered if the overall financial cost to the County does not increase. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

The Board did not go into Executive Session as indicated on the Agenda. They moved immediately to a Public Hearing regarding the purchase of a patrol car for the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Aho called for public comment. None was forthcoming.

Sheriff Valesano explained that his Department has applied for a grant for a patrol car as he has done for approximately 10 years, and that the grant pays for one-third of the cost.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to adjourn. Voice vote: Ayes 4. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Diane Hilberg, County Clerk

