

September 8, 2015

The Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman, Tim Aho at 4:00 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, Peretto, and Aho.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Coates, to approve the minutes of the Regular/Special meetings of August 11 and August 27, 2015. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Sharon, supported by Brennan, to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings of August 13 and August 27, 2015. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Chairman Aho requested the addition of New Business #5A, Presentation by Sheriff Valesano & Undersheriff Courchaine regarding the Work Van Program.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Peretto, to approve the Agenda as modified. Voice vote: Ayes. 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Reports:

Leonoff: reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a “Harvest & Haunt” event on September 26, 2015. She noted that there will be a 5K run, chili cook-off, and many other events held at the RV park in Iron River. Peretto: Attended a MMRMA meeting with Rosalie King. Also attended a Medical Care Facility meeting, and reported that the facility is doing quite well, and received four stars from surveyors. Coates: attended Fairboard meeting. Plans are already being made for next year. Brennan: reported that the Veterans office has undergone a tough year. There were health problems for staff and severe water damage to the office. He noted that the office has been moved to the third floor of the Windsor Center. Aho: indicated that the Health Department is running well.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to accept the Commissioner Reports. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Administrator Clisch advised that the Heritage Trail project has been extended to October 6, 2015. Treasurer Camps reported on the auction of public lands for non-payment of taxes. Sheriff Valesano noted that there will be training for his department and also Search & Rescue, in the use of Life Track for elders. He has also filled the vacancy of Jail Administrator with Ryan Boehmke, who has been a Deputy; therefore leaving a Deputy position open. Register of Deeds Greig reported on indexing of records, and also noted that Deputy Register, Laura Ness, will be attending a conference next week. Central Dispatch Administrator, Gagnea indicated that the new radio equipment has been installed. He also reported that Gogebic County will continue to be served by Iron County Central Dispatch, and that he is in the process of getting a chapter of the American Red Cross in Iron County. Prosecutor Powell advised that the Canine Advocate, “Jethro”, has arrived and will be on duty September 18. Other Department reports were included in the Agenda packet.

Moved by Brennan, supported by Coates, to accept the Department Reports. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Finance Committee’s review of bills of August 13, 2015 in the amount of \$736,720.37; and August 27, 2015 in the amount of \$636,012.56. Roll call: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to approve the journal entries of August 13, 2015 as follows: 8907; 8909-8910; 8918; 8920-8946; 8948-8981. Roll call: Aye 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Moved by Peretto, supported by Brennan, to table the request from Northstar/Aspirus for a millage for further study. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Old Business (continued):

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to table action on elected and appointed 5% payroll deduction for insurance until a more detailed accounting can be obtained. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried

New Business:

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Brennan, to table the accumulated benefit payouts of Ryan Boehmke and Vernon Jones of the Sheriff Department. Discussion followed. Chairman Aho noted that there seemed to be a misunderstanding of when Jones was actually retiring. Sheriff Valesano indicated that Jones stayed on for purposes of the emergency management grant, but is now retired.

Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Jeff Bal, GEI Consultants, made a presentation to the Board regarding future Courthouse & Jail improvements, including tuck-pointing of the brick veneer, and window, roofing and boiler replacement.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to authorize \$8,900 to The Markell Company for repairs to the Jail roof. Roll call: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Civil counsel, Steve Tinti, provided an update on what needs to be done for the sale of bonds for the Indian Lake project., noting that all dollars will be paid back by the property owners on the lake.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Brennan, to approve a wage increase of \$1.50 per hour, effective September 1, 2015, for elected and appointed officials, for a one-year period. Roll call: Ayes 4. Nays 1 - Peretto. Motion carried.

Sheriff Valesano informed the Board that UPCAP will no longer be supporting the Community Corrections Workvan in Iron County. Undersheriff Courchaine explained that the Sheriff Department would like to take over the operation of the workvan, and would like the Board to consider help with startup funds of approximately \$2,700, beginning October 1 through the rest of 2015.

Moved by Coates, supported by Brennan, to approve the operation of the workvan by the Sheriff Department, with the amount of funding to be determined by management and a figure submitted to the Finance Committee on September 10, 2015. Roll call: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brennan had several comments regarding the Iron County Veterans office, noting that he was not being critical. He felt that there needed to be some goal setting and more financial accountability, such as monthly and annual reports. Don Wolf, Treasurer of the Veterans Committee, indicated that these reports are being submitted, and feels the office is being run quite well. He invited Commissioner Brennan to attend the next meeting of the Veterans Committee.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to go into Executive Session to discuss applicants for the position of County Administrator. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Coates, to go out of Executive Session. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Moved by Leonoff, supported by Coates, to resume the Regular meeting. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Attorney Tinti read the names of the candidates for County Administrator who are to be interviewed: Charlie Evenhouse; Thomas Lesandrini; and Jenny Steber.

Don Wolf of the Veterans Committee, presented the Board with a second banner to be displayed. Chairman Aho thanked him for the contribution.

The next Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to adjourn. Voice vote: Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

Diane Hilberg, County Clerk

