

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 West Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: None.

A Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held on August 3, 2010, be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following Late Additions: 11a) Employees Substitutes; and 11b) Shoreline Safety Initiative.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 3, 2010 through August 12, 2010 in the amount of \$1,100,951.04, and BiWeekly Payroll for the period ending August 7, 2010, in the amount of \$659,886.50, be approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following Informational Items be accepted and placed on file:

- a. Communication from Governor Granholm reappointing Gerald O. Corkin to the Michigan Iron Industry Museum.
- b. Congratulations from Congressman Bart Stupak to Gerald O. Corkin on being reappointed to the Michigan Iron Industry Museum.
Comm. Struck congratulated Chairperson Corkin on reappointment and service to the Michigan Iron Industry Museum.
- c. Communication from American Airlines regarding DOT's Final Approval of American's Alliance with Trans-Atlantic Oneworld Partners.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the Committee of the Whole Recommendation approving the initial and final approval of FAA Grant Agreement No: 3310, related MDOT Contract Agreement, concur with the bids received by MDOT and recommendation of Associated Constructors, the Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt, the Construction Contract, and authorize the Board Chair, Civil Counsel and the County Clerk to sign all documents.

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10b) It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the Committee of the Whole Recommendation approving the Tower Use Lease Agreement with the Michigan Civil Air Patrol and authorize the Board Chair to sign.

10c) The County Board considered appointments to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Chairperson Corkin explained that per MCL 125.2655(e) "...persons appointed by the chief executive officer of the municipality, subject to the approval of the governing body...." Following is the list of candidates:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Marquette County Economic Development Corporation | Marquette County Planning Commission |
| Shari Davie, Marquette | Michelle E. Jarvie, Negaunee |
| Tim Ryan, Marquette | Ken Kaiser, Marquette |
| Economic/Property Developer | Local Government Representative |
| Vikki Kulju, Ishpeming | William W. Carlson, Negaunee |
| Real Estate | Engineering/Construction |
| Henry DeGroot, Northland | Lance Lindberg, Negaunee |
| Carolyn A. McDonald, Marquette | County Treasurer |
| Carol Vining Moore, Marquette | Anne Giroux, Ishpeming |
| Les Thatcher, Skandia | County Commissioner |
| | Paul Arsenault, Ishpeming |

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following applicants be appointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Marquette County Economic Development Corporation – Tim Ryan, Marquette; Marquette County Planning Commission – Michalle E. Jarvie, Negaunee; Economic/Property Developer – Vikki Kulju, Ishpeming; Local Government Representative – William W. Carlson, Negaunee; Real Estate – Carol Vining Moore, Marquette; Engineering/-Construction – Lance Lindberg, Negaunee; County Treasurer - Anne Giroux, Ishpeming; and County Commissioner - Paul Arsenault, Ishpeming.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered the hiring of retired employees for temporary, seasonal, or part-time employment. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Elected Officials, Department Heads and Managers were invited to address this issue and explain the value of these employees in their departments.

Comm. Pellow explained that she was under the impression that the retire/rehire program was rescinded and no retired employee would be rehired. Comm. Pellow, along with Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak and Comm. Heikkila, object to this still being done. Staff understood that the retire/rehire policy was rescinded for full-time employees only.

Circuit Court Judge, Thomas Solka, Probate Judge, Michael Aneregg, and Sheriff, Michael Lovelace, were present to support the temporary hiring of retired employees. They explained that retired employees are the best qualified applicant. The provided examples of how temporary retired employees are used. Judge Solka pointed out that the practice of temporary employment is addressed in the personnel policy. Judge Anderegg pointed out that the County Board cannot control who elected officials hire. Sheriff Lovelace pointed out that the County has an obligation to the taxpayers to hire the very best people.

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Commissioners discussed and debated whether the rescinded policy included the hiring of retired employees on a temporary, seasonal, or part-time basis. Discussion also included whether the hiring of such employees would violate the action taken on February 16th. Comm. Cihak distributed an opinion from Peter Cohl addressing the co-employer relationship between county commissioners and elected county officials. He cited an excerpt from that opinion which clearly states that Judge Anderegg is correct. "Each elected County officer determines non-economic issues, including, but not limited to whom to hire..." Comm. Cihak also requested that this issue be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, Chairperson Corkin polled each Commissioner as to whether or not they object to hiring retired employees for temporary, seasonal, or part-time employment. A unanimous consensus was reached to continue this practice. Comm. Pellow questioned whether formal action need be taken showing the consensus of the Board on this issue. No formal action was taken.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommended a policy be brought back to the Board addressing the recent MERS change, and further that any change in direction be specified clearly. He also recommends against any handcuffing of department directors or elected officials in choosing the best person for the job.

Chairperson Corkin announced that this issue needed to be addressed. He thanked the Elected Officials for their comments and all for attending.

11b) The County Board considered a Shoreline Safety Initiative. Comm. Struck stated that this initiative is regarding the recent drowning that has occurred in Lake Superior. He explained that any death is a tragedy that affects the community. Comm. Struck has met with Marquette City Mayor, John Kivela, to discuss any plans the City may have. A comprehensive plan is being developed to deal with this issue. He stated that this is not only a problem for Marquette, but a problem for all of us as a community. He suggested that Marquette County work with the City of Marquette, under their leadership, along with the townships that are adjacent to the Lake Superior (Chocolay, Marquette, Powell) and any other township entity to draft a comprehensive plan that could be put in place. Discussion followed. Comm. Heikkila felt the City of Marquette should take the lead. It was noted that the City of Marquette has an Ad Hoc Committee in place regarding this initiative.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board direct Staff to work with the cities, townships, and any other interested organization to develop a community initiative to address the drowning in Lake Superior.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Joe Benson, President, Local 2914, explained that are many poor feelings from the employees. He feels that there is an out lash from the public due to this issue. He stated that the Union was asked to help the County by participating in the retire/rehire policy in lieu of layoffs. Mr. Benson urged Commissioners to read the collective bargaining agreement. The collective bargaining agreement describes irregular part-time employees. He also stated that the collective bargaining agreement supersedes any personnel policy.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Pellow spoke regarding the retired/rehired employees. She stated that the policy, in her opinion, had some problems. She felt the discussion cleared the air on the temporary issue.

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Comm. Wallace explained that when campaigning he tried hard to show support for the employees of Marquette County. The majority of folks in District 2 understand the issue. The decision was made that the Board is doing the right thing.

Chairperson Corkin updated the Board on the MAC Conference. He reported on Unfunded Mandates; Federal Health Reform; an Ottawa County Insurance Authority; Reverse Auction Bids on Commodities; and informed the Board that Comm. Cihak was noted for his work on Jail Reimbursement.

Comm. Cihak also updated the Board on the MAC Conference. He reported on a Review of the County Jail Reimbursement Program; and the Roles and Relationships between County Boards of Commissions, Various Agency Boards, Elected Officials and the Courts. He requests this information be added to the agenda next week for discussion. He also reported on a MERS Overview by the Retirement Outreach Director; and explained a letter from Oceana County regarding State Revenue Sharing.

Comm. Struck reported on a meeting with Bill Hood, American Airlines Managing Director of State and Community Affairs. He also announced that the Mackinac Bridge Authority meeting will be held in Marquette County for the first time in December.

Comm. Heikkila congratulated Chairperson Corkin on his reappointment to the Michigan Iron Industry Museum; and commended Chuck and Wanda Bergdahl for their commitment to the Marquette County Fair.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board congratulated and thanked Chuck and Wanda Bergdahl for their 20 plus years of service to the Marquette County Fair and the U.P. State Fair.

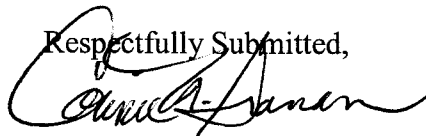
Comm. Bergdahl announced that the 4-H kids raised \$66,000.00 with the sale of livestock at the Marquette County Fair.

Comm. Wallace announced that Governor Granholm will be at NMU on Thursday, August 19, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Chairperson Corkin will be present on behalf of the County to discuss the new economy.

Chairperson Corkin thanked all for attending this meeting.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk