

**SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING and AUDIT/FINANCE MEETING**

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners / Audit Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 22, 2015, in the District Courtroom of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Craig Reiter called the meeting to order. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

Present:           Commissioner Craig Reiter  
                      Commissioner Allan Ott  
                      Commissioner Larry Mersnick  
                      Commissioner Christine Rantanen  
                      Commissioner Patrick Carley  
                      Schoolcraft County Clerk Beth A. Edwards

Absent:           None

Chairperson Craig Reiter led the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners and the members of the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Allan Ott and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 Board and Audit-Finance Meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present. [Copies of minutes are available at the Office of the Schoolcraft County Clerk.]

**It was moved** by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 Closed Session Board Meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners. Roll call vote as follows: Patrick Carley, yes; Christine Rantanen, yes; Larry Mersnick, yes; Allan Ott, yes; Craig Reiter, abstain as he was not present at the meeting. The motion carried by majority aye vote of the Board members present.

Chairperson Craig Reiter asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioner Craig Reiter asked to add Mental Health Specialty Court Application, Letter of Understanding, and Confidential Shredding Services to the agenda and Heritage Windmill Suit update to closed session and moving closed session to 16.5 on the agenda. **It was moved** by Commissioner Allan Ott and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

“Public Hearings”: None

“Brief Public Comment”: None

“Unfinished Business”: None

**“New Business”:** Snow Plow Bids were opened. One bid was received from Graphos Year Round in the amount of: \$85.00 per push for the Courthouse property and \$45.00 per push for the Schoolcraft County Public Transit property. **It was moved** by Commissioner Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to table the Snow Plow Bids until November 12, 2015 Meeting, run the advertisement for bids one more week, and check to see what last year’s plowing was paid at. Roll call vote as follows: Patrick Carley, yes; Larry Mersnick, yes; Allan Ott, yes; Christine Rantanen, yes; Craig Reiter, no. The motion carried by a majority aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to approve the 2015 L-4029 Tax Rate Request for property tax bills and allow Craig Reiter, Chairperson, and Beth A. Edwards, Clerk, to sign the same. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Commissioner Craig Reiter to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to not give the \$5,000 raise to Darrell Dixson and Timothy Noble that was potentially out there by the last board. There was discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Larry Mersnick, yes; Craig Reiter, yes; Christine Rantanen, no; Patrick Carley, no; Allan Ott, no. The motion failed.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the \$5,000 increase to Darrell Dixson based on the recommendation of the prior board. Commissioner Christine Rantanen withdrew her motion.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to go into closed session to discuss the undersheriff and the prosecuting attorney increases of \$5,000 each at the November 12, 2015 Board meeting. Roll call vote as follows: Christine

Rantanen, yes; Patrick Carley, yes; Larry Mersnick, no; Allan Ott, yes; Craig Reiter, yes. The motion carried by majority vote of the all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Patrick Carley to approve and proceed with the Mental Health Specialty Court Grant Application presented by David Maddox, District Court Magistrate. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to approve Craig Reiter, Chairperson, to sign the Letter of Understanding with the AFSCME Union for the Property Assessor in the Equalization Department and present to the same to the union. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to approve the confidential shredding service of Country Mile Document Destruction and purchase a 64 gal can to be used for this service on an on call pickup basis at a rate of \$53.00 per call. There was discussion regarding the on call pick up or a straight monthly pickup of the files to be shredded. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Craig Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Larry Mersnick to decline the increase of \$10/hour raise for Court Appointed Counsel pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit/Finance Committee. There was discussion regarding the need to address the issue in some aspect. Roll call vote as follows: Craig Reiter, yes; Larry Mersnick, yes; Patrick Carley, yes; Christine Rantanen, no; Allan Ott, no. The motion carried by a majority aye vote of all Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Craig Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to send the Court Appoint Attorney Fees back to Audit/Finance Committee to see if there is an alternate recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

**Under Committee and Department Reports, the following matters were heard:**

**Commissioner Craig Reiter:** Doyle Township Meeting.

**Commissioner Allan Ott:** attended Manistique Township Meeting.

**Commissioner Larry Mersnick:** None.

**Commissioner Christine Rantanen:** attended the Road Commissioner Meeting, Commission on Aging Meeting.

**Commissioner Patrick Carley:** attended Planning Commission Meeting; and Building and Grounds Meeting, steps will be started within 10 days.

Sheriff J. Norrington stated he has been out of the office at training and had nothing new for the board.

Undersheriff Darrell Dixson stated he had went to the Dollar Store and got backpacks for the medical supplies in the cruisers. Also briefly discussed Life Tracker/Life Saver as he had put information in the baskets and he will bring that to the next meeting.

Julie Roscioli, County Treasurer, stated the she had just finished up the year end and her office is now starting the new fiscal year's finances.

Larry Mersnick wishes Cindy Nelson well in her retirement and acknowledges her 38 years of service to Schoolcraft County.

Craig Reiter stated that Cindy Nelson has been a wealth of information and he will greatly miss her.

Dave Maddox thanked the board for the support of Specialty Court's in his office. He stated that he interviewed last week for the Probation/Community Service worker and has hired Greg Schultz. Also addressed the Undersheriff issue and Court Appointed Attorney's increase.

Beth Edwards stated that she has appointed Donna LaFoille as her Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds.

**Announcements and Notices:** None

**Public Comment:**

Sheriff J. Norrington addressed the need to have local attorney to appoint to individuals who are innocent until proven guilty.

Keith Rochefort addressed the Snow Plow bid being opened and then a motion to advertise again to get more bids when now everyone knows how much this bid was for.

Dale DuFour also commented on the Snow Plow Bids and the deadline for submission.

Julie Roscioli stated that all department heads should get to come to the board for a raise.

David Maddox commented that the board of commissioners has no statutory basis to evaluate elected officials.

Darrell Dixson thanked the board for taking his job seriously.

It was moved by Larry Mersnick and was seconded by Patrick Carley to rescind the motion to table the Snow Plow Bids until November 12, 2015 Meeting, run the advertisement for bids one more week, and check to see what last year's plowing was paid at. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Larry Mersnick to accept the Snow Plow Bid from Graphos Year Round in the amount of: \$85.00 per push for the Courthouse property and \$45.00 per push for the Schoolcraft County Public Transit property. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present

### **Communications:**

Beth Edwards stated that the Sheriff's Department Full-time employees voted on October 16, 2015, to switch unions to Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council and if an appeal is not filed that would be effective on October 26, 2015.

At 8:55p.m., meeting was turned over to Larry Mersnick, Audit-Finance Chairperson;

**It was moved** by Commissioner Craig Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the Budget Increase request from Sheriff J. Norrington in the amount of \$232.00 for Professional Contractual Services. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Craig Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to approve the budget adjustments for September, 2015 numbered JR-608-15 through JR-647-15, inclusive and budget adjustments for October, 2015 numbered JR-1-15 through JR-9-15. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

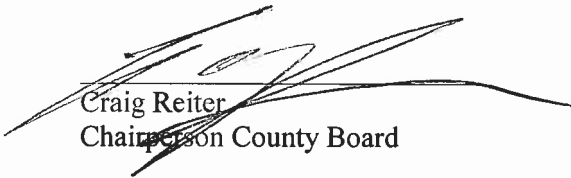
**It was moved** by Commissioner Craig Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to approve the claims and vouchers numbered **3963 through 3647**, inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.


At 8:58 p.m., **it was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Craig Reiter to adjourn into Closed Session to discuss Negotiations with the AFSCME Union, Probate Court Mediation update, and Heritage Sustainable Energy Lawsuit update. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

At 10:35 p.m., Chairperson Craig Reiter recalled the meeting and all board members were present.

Chairperson Craig Reiter asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

**Chairperson Craig Reiter** adjourned the Board and Audit Finance Meeting at 10:36 P.M.

  
Craig Reiter  
Chairperson County Board

  
Larry Mersnick  
Audit-Finance Chairperson

  
Beth A. Edwards, County Clerk