

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

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners / Audit Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 8, 2015, in the District Courtroom of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 4:00 p.m. Acting Chairperson Larry Mersnick called the meeting to order. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

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

Absent: Commissioner Craig Reiter (excused)

Acting Chairperson Larry Mersnick 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.

Beth A. Edwards, made on correction to the communication section of the September 24, 2015 Minutes which should have read “Darrell Dixson met with Mr. Rick Demers at MBANK regarding the \$2,000 given for Body Armor and receive a check together with a letter advising that those fund were specific for the purchase of Body Armor and nothing else. He also met with Mark Larche from State Saving Bank and Dennis Cook from Manistique Federal Credit Union for possible funds for safety equipment for the Sheriff’s Department. He has also talked to Shopko regarding donation of backpacks for their medical supplies in the cars. **It was moved** by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015 Board and Audit-Finance Meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners as amended. 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 September 24, 2015, Executive (Closed Session) Board Meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Chairperson Larry Mersnick asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioner Larry Mersnick asked additions or deletions to the agenda. Beth

Edwards asked that the additional funds for Courthouse Security and Plat Books be added. Commissioner Larry Mersnick asked that the closed session be moved on the agenda to 15.5. **It was moved** by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott 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”: Honorable William W. Carmody, 11th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, appeared asking for an increase in Court Appointed Attorney Fees from \$40 per hour to \$50 per hour and then a graduated 5 year increase of \$55 and then \$60. These fees have not been raised since before 1985 when he started as a Court Appointed Counsel in this area. There was discussion regarding reimbursement by the parties and how much on average is collected. No action taken.

Honorable William W. Carmody, 11th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, advised that the Circuit Court Recorder has resigned and he asked for permission to advertise for a contracted part-time Court Recorder at a rate of \$125 for a half day and \$250 for a full day of service, with no benefits. **It was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to approve the posting of the Contracted Circuit Court Recorder position as outlined by Judge Carmody. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Christine Rantanen to appoint Judy Foubare as the resident board member of the Schoolcraft County Housing Commission term expiring October 15, 2020. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Allan Ott and was seconded by Patrick Carley to appoint Bonnie Garvin to the Schoolcraft Count Public Transit Board term expiring December 31, 2018. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Paul Wood brought before the board a request to advertise the job of Level II Tax Assessor and Property Appraiser and to hire a contracted person in the interim. The contract would be for two days per week and a total of \$24,000 per year. There was discussion. **It was moved** by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the advertising of the Level II Tax Assessor and Property Appraiser position for the Equalization Department. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

The Plat Books were addressed and discussion regarding who would be selling the same. Paul Wood advised that his office would not be selling the plat books because he is short staffed and there is not time. Beth Edwards stated that she would sell them out of the Clerk/Register of Deeds office. However, the contract stated that it would be handled by the Tax Equalization Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the Bid from Roy Ness Contracting and Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$49,800 to make the front entrance ADA compliant with ramp consistent with their quote. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Patrick Carley and was seconded by Commissioner Christine Rantanen to approve the transfer from the general fund to the MMRMA Courthouse Security Grant fund in the amount of \$6,663.65 on September 30, 2015 and \$6,675.00 on October 1, 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

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

Sheriff J. Norrington stated that his office will not be able to do the passports as two people would need to go to training and with his staff he can't do it.

Julie Roscioli reported that the Treasurer's office had the second auction and all property with structures sold except the two that had restrictions on them.

Darrell Dixson, Undersheriff, is continuing his talks with the township regarding Search and Rescue. He also got a donation from the State Savings Bank of \$750.00 now and \$750.00 the beginning of the year for safety equipment for the Sheriff's Department.

Tim Noble, Prosecutor, addressed that the increase of \$5,000 for himself and Darrell Dixson according to the minutes from last year was recommended and would just need to be voted on this year by this board currently in place. Commissioner Larry Mersnick stated that will be added to the next agenda.

Beth Edwards, County Clerk, advised the board that Stephanie Carlson is leaving the payroll position and she has posted internally for the union and asked to be able to advertise if she doesn't receive any applicants from within the union. **It was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Carley to allow Beth Edwards, County Clerk to advertise for the payroll position if no applicants are received from within the union. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

Beth Edwards, County Clerk, also questioned whether the charge for the new plat books would be \$35.00 plus sales tax. There was discussion. **It was moved** by Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to charge \$35 plus tax for the New Plat Books that are for sale. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

Commissioner Allan Ott: none

Commissioner Larry Mersnick: Attended LMAS and Six County.

Commissioner Christine Rantanen: Attended Public Transit meeting.

Commissioner Patrick Carley: Attended Public Transit meeting and that advisory board approved the director to look into Schoolcraft County Public Transit becoming its own authority.

Announcements and Notices: None

Public Comment: Sheriff J. Norrington stated he was at the Community Action at the 1st Baptist Church last Friday for all the community agencies and what is offered here in our community. There are a lot people in need in this community.

Tim Noble, Prosecutor, addressed the need to increase the Court Appoint Attorney reimbursement.

Kathryn Denholm, Court Appointed Attorney, addressed that the proposed amount of \$50 is better than \$40 but it still doesn't pay the bills.

Lori Erickson addressed the need to increase the Court Appointed Attorney reimbursement.

Keith Rochefort addressed the plat book and the completion date for the steps.

Communications: None

It was moved by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Allan Ott for a Budget increase for 911 Committee for an increase of \$250.00 for training. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to approve the claims and vouchers numbered **3725 through 3962**, inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

At 5:36 p.m., **it was moved** by Commissioner Christine Rantanen and was seconded by Commissioner Allan Ott to go into Closed Session to discuss the AFSCME Union negotiations. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board members present.

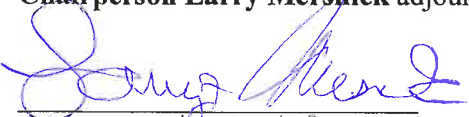
At 6:24 p.m., Chairperson Larry Mersnick reopens the meeting.

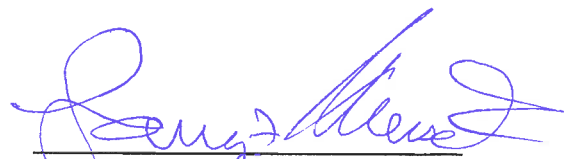
Present: Commissioner Allan Ott
Commissioner Larry Mersnick
Commissioner Christine Rantanen
Commissioner Patrick Carley
Schoolcraft County Clerk Beth A. Edwards

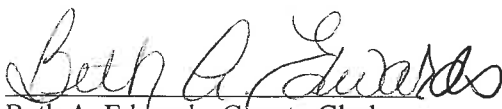
Absent: Commissioner Craig Reiter (excused)

Chairperson Larry Mersnick asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

Chairperson Larry Mersnick adjourned the Board and Audit Finance Meeting at 6:24 P.M.


~~Craig Reiter~~ Larry Mersnick
Chairperson County Board


Larry Mersnick
Audit-Finance Chairperson


Beth A. Edwards, County Clerk