

## SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 in the District Court Room of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 7:00 P.M. Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar called the meeting to order. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

Present:                      Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar  
                                    Commissioner Daniel J. LaFoilie  
                                    Commissioner George Ecclesine  
                                    Commissioner Allen Grimm  
                                    Commissioner John W. Zellar  
                                    Schoolcraft County Clerk Daniel R. McKinney

Absent:                        None

Also present:                Schoolcraft County Treasurer Julie Roscioli

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar 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 LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2010 Audit/Board meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners as printed. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board Members present. [Copies of minutes are available at the Office of the Schoolcraft County Clerk.]

**It was moved by** Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010 Special Board meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners as printed. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board Members present. [Copies of minutes are available at the Office of the Schoolcraft County Clerk.]

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioners asked that one item for indexing be stricken, that being to approve claims and vouchers numbered 41 through 48 inclusive. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and seconded by Commissioner Grimm to adopt the amended agenda. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

“Public Hearings”: **None.**

“Brief Public Comment”: **None.**

“Old and Unfinished Business”: **It was moved** by Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to index the following thirteen items from the Audit Finance Meeting of August 5, 2010. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

**1) It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve a purchase requisition from Friend of the Court in the amount of \$726.75 for a printer cartridge, toner and envelopes with the understanding that they will obtain a lower price if possible. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**2) It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve a purchase requisition from District Court in the amount of \$351.00 for folders, toner and a print cartridge. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**3) It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve a purchase requisition from the Sheriff’s Department in the amount of \$169.00 for a camera. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**4) It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to **deny** a purchase requisition from the Sheriff’s Department in the amount of \$4,386.00 for mattresses. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present. Commissioners noted that the Sheriff should look in his budget to see if he has money available for this request, and if not he could request a partial order at this time.

**5) It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve the claims and vouchers numbered **282** through **473** inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**6) It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to accept the bid from Evonich Snow Plowing for snow plowing services for FY 2010 in the amount of \$34.00 per push for the “New Public Transit” Building and \$3,699.00 for the year for the Courthouse and “Old Public Transit” Building. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**7) It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve a revised contract with Michelle Allsteadt for Community Corrections services in the amount of \$950.10 every two weeks, with one revision to the previously approved contract, that being an addition to article #16; “These costs may be covered through grant funds.” The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**8) It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve a

revised contract with Mike Gray for Community Corrections services in the amount of \$872.46 every two weeks, with one revision to the previously approved contract, that being an addition to article #16; “These costs may be covered through grant funds.” The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**9) It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the Holiday Schedule for this year for Department Heads and Non-union Employees in the Courthouse as; Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> , and Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and to note that the Courthouse will be closed, except for some non-county departments. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**10) It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to accept the grant from Plumb Creek for improvements at Lindsley Frenette Pines Park in the amount of \$3,000.00. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**11) It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve the new Investment Policy for the County. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**12) It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve an MDOT Contract for Public Transit in the amount of \$25,620.00 for facility improvements. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

**13) It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve using DTR money to pay for the Carpenter Dam repair bill in the amount of \$23,350.00. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

No further “Old and Unfinished Business”.

Under “New Business”: The board heard a presentation from Terry Blanchard, Larry Goldberg, Jim Ebli and John Zander regarding proposals for building a new jail in Schoolcraft County. Larry Goldberg stated that the current jail is badly outdated and in need of repairs. Mr. Goldberg added that he is not sure how the current facility would be able to be brought up to code. Mr. Goldberg said a needs assessment was conducted which shows the need for a 56 bed jail in Schoolcraft County. Mr. Goldberg presented concepts for building a new jail which included; 1) Utilizing the current jail and expanding around it with renovations to the current structure, 2) Building a completely new jail to the west of the current facility (this would involve moving the Veterans Memorial to the south-west corner of the courthouse property), 3A) Utilizing the Camp Manistique Facility and renovating it, and 3B) Utilizing the Camp Manistique Property and constructing a new wing of podular design. Mr. Goldberg then presented construction costs for the four concepts; 1) 5.5 million dollars,

2) \$4,950,000.00, 3A) 7.2 million dollars and 3B) 7 million dollars. Regarding operating costs, Mr. Goldberg said he has spoken with Sheriff Harris and they have agreed that concept #2 can be done without hiring any additional jailers. Mr. Goldberg said he believes concept #2 can be operated within the current budgeted amount. Mr. Goldberg related that they are suggesting a bond for construction with 1 mil presented to the taxpayers for a vote to cover the costs of construction. Mr. Goldberg present the Board with a spread sheet regarding financing of the project. Commissioners questioned the financial portion of the presentation specific to the estimated revenue created through renting bed space. Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney related that the proposal shows an average of 12 beds rented to other counties. Sheriff Harris related that he currently rents, on average, 8 beds and this sometimes goes up to 16. Commissioners LaFoille voiced his concern regarding ever increasing costs in the County and how this would affect the proposal. Mr. Goldberg said the proposal was designed so as to avoid asking for a bond and an operating millage because they thought this would be asking too much. Commissioner Ecclesine noted his concern over recent requests for Road Patrol and purchase of patrol vehicles and asked if this would not be the opportune time to request a millage to cover all of this. Mr. Blanchard said that the Board could ask for an operating millage in addition to the millage to cover the bond. Chairperson Gerald Zellar noted that a Commissioner from Marquette County informed him that they are having a hard time filling their new jail and they are offering to provide transportation half way for prisoners coming to their facility. Commissioner LaFoille noted the recent increase costs of operations at the County including a 41% increase in medical insurance premiums and said he believes the general consensus is to go for an operating millage so that we don't have to go back to the people in a couple years and ask for more money. Commissioner LaFoille said we do not want to build a new jail and not have money to operate it. Commissioner John Zellar said he believes we need a new jail and he thinks we could build one if it were not for the high costs of all the non-mandated services. Commissioner LaFoille said he is comfortable with the building side of the presentation but not the financial portion. He noted that the jail went over budget last year and this may have been due in large part to things beyond the Sheriff's control.

Chairperson Gerald Zellar opened up the meeting for questions to the audience.

Chris Rantanen, MSU employee, asked if the cost of outsourcing jail services has been done.

Commissioners noted that this must be done and instructed Mr. Goldberg to do so.

Doug Erickson of Manistique noted that wages in the current budget are \$350,000.00 and he said he cannot believe you could not save money by shipping prisoners out.

Sheriff Harris noted that there are currently 22 prisoners in jail and if we out-sourced he would be shipping prisoners all over and transportation costs would be extremely high.

Commissioner Ecclesine noted that we need to know what the cost of this option would be so that voters can

make an informed decision.

Chairperson Gerald Zellar said he feels trying to get this on the ballot for February 22<sup>nd</sup> is way too soon because we still have a lot to look at.

Laurie Jasmin EDC Manager said this did not happen overnight. She noted that we have been working on this issue for three years and have done much research on the building of a new jail.

Commissioners agreed that Mr. Goldberg will provide costs regarding shipping prisoners out to other counties and the Board will continue to work toward having all information ready for a February election.

Further under “New Business”: Tom Kitzman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, noted that he has purchased ham radios for the County and the proposal is to have them installed at the Airport if the Board agrees to do so. Rudy Evonich, Airport Manager, noted that they will need FAA approval to do so. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to install the Emergency Management Ham Radio System at the County Airport as long as the FAA approves. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Chairperson Gerald Zellar recess the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Chairperson Gerald Zellar reconvened the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract for Maximus Services in the amount of \$24,000.00 for three years. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve ballot language for a millage for MSU Extension Office to be placed on the February 22, 2010 ballot. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to utilize phone card revenues from the jail to purchase mattresses in the amount of \$4,414.78. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to approve the 2010 Apportionment Report for Schoolcraft County. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

No further “New Business”:

“Committee and Department Reports”:

Commissioner George Ecclesine: Has been attending insurance meetings. Also, attended the Brownfield Meeting.

Commissioner Al Grimm: Attended a Food & Shelter Emergency Program Meeting. Attended the DHS Board Meeting.

Commissioner Daniel J. LaFoilie Sr.: Has been attending medical insurance meetings and noted there is another meeting scheduled for Thursday to meet with three agents selected by the committee. Noted that the Carpenter Dam repair is complete and went well. Also, noted that the gates at the dam could not be turned around so the dam will not be able to be opened and closed in the winter.

Commissioner Gerald L. Zellar: Attended the Brownfield Meeting at which they established policies.

Commissioner John W. Zellar: No report.

“Announcements and Notices”: None.

“Public Comment”: None.

“Communications”: Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney noted that he received a call from State Representative Steve Lindberg who indicated that the State has another parcel of property which could use the Conveyance Bill which was established for Camp Manistique. Representative Lindberg noted that this bill is due to expire in two months and he asked that Schoolcraft County consider allowing the use of this bill for the other parcel of property unless we have a need for transfer in the next two months. Representative Lindberg noted that a new bill can be established next year for Camp Manistique. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to allow the state to use the current conveyance bill established for Camp Manistique for another parcel of property. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

No further “Communications”.

**Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar** adjourned the meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners at 9:25 P.M.

---

Gerald L. Zellar, Chairperson County Board

---

Daniel R. McKinney, County Clerk