

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 in District Court Room of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 7:00 P.M. Chairperson Allen Grimm called the meeting to order. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

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

Absent: None

Chairperson Allen Grimm 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 Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2012 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.]

Chairperson Allen Grimm asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioners asked that Tom Lang Cobra be added to the Agenda under "Old Business", 11th Circuit Court Advisory Board Bylaw Changes be deleted from the Agenda and that Executive Session be moved to after Item #13. **It was moved by** Commissioner Reiter and seconded by Commissioner Zellar 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 Zellar to index the following eight items from the Audit Finance Meeting of November 8, 2012. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

1) It was moved by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Zellar to approve a purchase requisition from the County Clerk/Register of Deeds in the amount of \$300.00 for a death records binder and an elections records binder. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

2 It was moved by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to address the issue of a purchase requisition from the Building Department in the amount of \$1836.36 for a laptop computer, printer and accessories after the first of the year. The motion carried by a majority aye vote of the Committee members present, with the voting as follows;

Commissioner Grimm-yes, Commissioner Ecclesine-yes, Commissioner Zellar-no, Commissioner Reiter-yes, Chairperson LaFoilie-yes.

3) **It was moved** by Commissioner Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve a purchase requisition from the Treasurer's Office in the amount of \$4,910.50 for four computers and monitors with the money coming from the DTR Fund, with the money paid back from the Airport Fund. The motion carried by a majority aye vote of the Committee members present, with the voting as follows; Commissioner Reiter -yes, Commissioner Ecclesine-yes, Commissioner Zellar-no, Commissioner Grimm-yes, Chairperson LaFoilie-yes.

4) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve a purchase requisition from the Airport in the amount of \$14,000.00 (approximately) for purchase of jet fuel. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

5) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Zellar to approve the claims and vouchers numbered 3519 through 3674 inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

6) **It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to allow Public Transit to advertise for bids for the sale of two buses. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

7) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to pay back \$5,000.00 from the Airport Fund to the DTR Fund. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

8) **It was moved** by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to take the "County Van" off the road and advertise for bids for the sale of this vehicle with a minimum bid of \$800.00. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

Further under "Old and Unfinished Business": Commissioner Ecclesine noted that after further discussion with MDOT it was noted that Scott Warner's request to build a taxiway from his business to the County Airport is possible. Commissioner Ecclesine noted that the fact that this is a business that is making the request weighed on the change of opinion by MDOT.

Commissioner Ecclesine said there should be some discussion between Mr. Warner and the Airport Consultant regarding the requirements for this taxiway. **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to have Airport Manager Jim Hursey contact C2ae and have them get in contact with Scott Warner to discuss the requirements for building a taxiway from his business to the Airport so Mr. Warner can determine if this project is financially feasible. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

Further under "Old and Unfinished Business": Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that Michigan Association of Counties has agreed to pay the remaining balance for the unpaid COBRA costs associated with former employee Tom Lang. Mr.

McKinney said, MAC would then deduct this amount from our Workmen's Compensation dividends, which would mean the County is still paying the bill. **It was moved** by Commissioner Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Zellar to not accept the offer from Michigan Association of Counties to pay the remaining balance for COBRA costs associated with Tom Lang and then deduct this amount from our Workmen's Compensation dividends. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

No further "Old and Unfinished Business".

Under "New Business: **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Contract for Professional Services and the Professional Service Agreement for the Airport Project in the amount of \$99,900.00. 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 Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Certifying Officer Designation and the Program Determination for MISHDA Environmental Review. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under "New Business": **It was moved** by Commissioner Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to reappoint Dan LaFoilie as the alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending date of 12-31-15. 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 Reiter to reappoint Wilbur LaBar and Jack Hoag to the Veterans Affairs Board with term ending dates of 12-31-16. 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 reappoint Vonciel LeDuc and Marilyn Fischer as Co-Historians for Schoolcraft County with term ending dates of 12-31-16. 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 Reiter to accept the RFP for a \$30,000.00 grant for Emergency Preparedness so

Bob Berbohn can move forward with this. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that he has received notification from Bonnie Toskey by phone and by email on two separate occasions confirming that retirement is included in Public Act 54, which means that the union employees at the Sheriff’s Department are responsible for paying the increased percentage on retirement beginning October 1, 2012 since the contract ended September 30, 2012. Mr. McKinney said he does not believe that the Board needs to act on this.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to pay \$150.00 for the New Commissioner Workshop for Sue Cameron. 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 Reiter to appoint Joan Brown to the Brownfield Authority Board to replace Cindy King with a term ending date of 4-1-15. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: Regarding wireless internet request for EDC, County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that IT Consultant Dan Edwards said there is really no action needed by the Board on this matter. Mr. Edwards had indicated that a router would be used and this would not cost the County anything nor would it interfere with the County network in anyway. Mr. Edwards had said this was just a courtesy for EDC as a renter to inform the Board that they are installing wireless internet access in the building. No action was taken.

No further “New Business”:

“Committee and Department Reports”:

Commissioner George Ecclesine: Reported on discussions he has had with Linda Smith at the Health Department regarding Merwin Creek. Linda has indicated that the wells at Merwin Creek Campground will need to be worked on prior to the campground opening next spring. Commissioner Ecclesine has informed Mike Cournaya and Sue Cameron of this. Mr. Cournaya is to contact Linda Smith about this issue.

Commissioner Daniel J. LaFoilie Sr.: Attended the Emergency Management Meeting where they discussed the \$30,000.00 grant. Attended the Senior Center Meeting and believes they are better understanding each other regarding the issue there.

Commissioner Gerald L. Zellar: Attended Michigan Works Meeting where they talked about the “funding cliff” which will really affect Michigan Works if it happens.

Commissioner Craig Reiter: Been involved in union negotiations with both unions and attended the Aging Committee Meeting which Connie will address.

Commissioner Al Grimm: Attended the Housing Commission Meeting and received a letter from HUD stating that it is a conflict for him to be on the Board. Chairperson Grimm said he is backing out of this committee for now and will address this issue in January.

“Announcements and Notices”: Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney said the Board has a letter from Judge Luoma stating that he would like the \$5.00 taken from the drug court fund and placed in the general fund to be placed back into the drug court fund. Commissioner LaFoilie said he will get with Judge Luoma on this matter.

No further “Announcements and Notices”.

“Public Comment”: Connie Frenette Senior Citizens Center Director informed the Board that the Commission on Aging Board today approved hiring of a part-time employee and she would like the County Board to approve this as well. **It was moved by** Commissioner Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to approve the hiring of a part-time employee at the Senior Citizens Center. Commissioners noted that they felt that given the current discussions it was unclear as to whether they have the authority to approve this hiring or not. Commissioner LaFoilie said he feels that it certainly should not be a full-time position at any time in the future. Commissioner Reiter withdrew his motion and Commissioner LaFoilie withdrew his support.

Further under “Public Comment”: Angela Pierce employee at the Sheriff’s Department stated that they are filing a grievance regarding the decision to charge employees the increased cost for retirement benefits. She presented this grievance to Chairperson Grimm. Commissioner Ecclesine said he interprets the language of Public Act 54 to say that the employees are responsible to pay this increased cost for retirement. Commissioner LaFoilie said we have no choice but to follow the recommendation of our attorney in this matter, and noted that he does not think we can go against our legal advice, but we can check and see what is going on in other counties with this issue.

No further "Public Comment".

"Communications": Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that the Snow Plow Bids are in. Mr. McKinney said Building and Grounds Supervisor Steve Videtich is getting bids for a plow truck. Mr. McKinney said not only is this costed out to rent, but we would also save on the cost of snow plowing each year.

Further under "Communications": Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that tomorrow is Jan Varoni's last day of work, but she has vacation days which will take her to December 31st as her last official day of employment. Mr. McKinney said he has hired Melissa Hawthorn to assume this position starting January 1, 2013, but he would like to have Mrs. Hawthorn come in occasionally, a half day or day a week for training until January 1st. The Board concurred with this.

Communications": Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that we still need to address the issue of replacing the surveyor.

Communications": Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that the medical insurance renewal rates are in and there is a 13.9% increase for two groups and a 13.8% increase for the other group. Mr. McKinney said Jennifer Michelin from Mazzali's would like to come down to discuss options. Board Members said they would like this to occur with the "Insurance Committee". Mr. McKinney said he will arrange this.

No further "Communications".

It was moved by Commissioner Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Reiter to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

The regular meeting was recessed at 8:05 P.M.

It was moved by Commissioner Reiter and was seconded by Commissioner Zellar to come back into regular session. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Regular Session was reconvened at 9:10 P.M.

Chairperson Allen Grimm adjourned the meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners at 9:11 P.M.

Allen Grimm, Chairperson County Board

Daniel R. McKinney, County Clerk