

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners / Audit Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 28, 2010 in the District Courtroom of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

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

Absent: None.

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.

DRAFT

**It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2010 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.]

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioners asked that Letter of Understanding with the Sheriff's Department Union be added to the Agenda under "New Business". **It was moved** by Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

"Public Hearings": None.

"Brief Public Comment": None.

**Under "New Business":** The Board heard a presentation from Robert Luke of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan regarding experience report resulting in an increase of 35.48% for premium costs for next year.

**Further under "New Business":** Commissioners agreed to postpone opening of bids for Snow Plowing due

to the potential conflict which may occur because one of the bidders is a candidate for County Commissioner.

**Further under “New Business”:** It was moved by Commissioner LaFoille and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to appoint the following individuals to the 911 Telephone Committee; Sheriff Grant Harris, Lt. John Halpin (Michigan State Police), Commissioner Daniel J. LaFoille, and Public Safety Director Ken Golat all with no term ending dates because they are statutory appointments, and Roger Irie, David Peterson, Ed Unger, Bob Madden, Paul Wood, Amy Anderson, Craig Kelso, Lynn Norton and Marc Chevront for 3 year terms all with term ending dates of October 28, 2013. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** Marcy Spriks Juvenile Officer presented the FY 2011 Child Care Budget to the Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$396,272.00. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoille and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the FY 2011 Child Care Budget for Schoolcraft County in the amount of \$396,272.00. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** It was moved by Commissioner LaFoille and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign a Letter of Authorization for City Insurance to obtain information on Schoolcraft County’s insurance specifications. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** It was moved by Commissioner Grimm and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to authorize the Chairperson to sign a Letter of Authorization for St. Onge Insurance to obtain information on Schoolcraft County’s insurance specifications. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** Schoolcraft County Sheriff Grant Harris informed the Board that the information he had submitted regarding purchasing new mattresses for the County Jail will be revised because the Inspector who came to the jail advised that he not purchase the type of mattress proposed. **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to table the matter of purchasing mattresses for the County Jail until such time as Sheriff Harris obtains information on new mattresses. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** Commissioner LaFoilie informed the Board that he feels the Board needs to consider financial options for the future such as B-2 retirement for all new hires at the County. Commissioner LaFoilie said this is only one option to consider and the Board should encourage feedback from employees and Department Heads on these matters. Chairperson Gerald Zellar said in January there could be a new makeup of the County Board and they could see things differently. Also, Chairperson Gerald Zellar said the Board needs to seek Union approval for such matters and to look at all options such as 401K investments in lieu of Defined Benefit packages. Commissioners agreed that no action will be taken on this issue at this time.

**Further under “New Business”:** Commissioner LaFoilie informed the Board that Tax Equalization Director, Paul Wood, has submitted the 2010 Tax Request from for Schoolcraft County, but there will be a couple of changes to this document. Commissioner LaFoilie said Senior Citizens Millage and MCF MOE Millage were reduced and this is not reflected on the form. Commissioner LaFoilie said Mr. Wood will make these changes. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the submission of the 2010 Tax Request Form to the State of Michigan with the changes indicated above. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**Further under “New Business”:** Schoolcraft County Sheriff Grant Harris informed the Board that the grievance submitted by the Schoolcraft County Deputy Sheriff’s Association regarding part-time workers has culminated in a Letter of Understanding which allows the Sheriff to have eight part-time employees work up to 24 hours each week and further allows these part-time workers to be used for services beyond 24 hours in a week if certain conditions are met, such as offering the work to full-time employees first if they are qualified for the task. Commissioner LaFoilie asked if the employees must be certified to work the grant programs. Sheriff Harris said they need to be qualified, but not certified in all cases. Sheriff Harris said they must be certified to work the ORV Patrol. Sheriff Harris further indicated that this agreement will not allow part-time workers to qualify for retirement. **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Letter of Understanding with the Schoolcraft County Deputy Sheriff’s Association regarding part-time workers. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

No further “New Business”.

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

**Commissioner Allen Grimm:** Attended the Public Transit Meeting where they announced that the Automated Dispatch System is up and running and save considerable time in compiling monthly reports. Also, attended the Hiawatha Township Board Meeting where they discussed that the Carpenter Dam repair begins Monday. Attended the DHS meeting in Marquette and learned that one in four people in Michigan seek services from DHS.

**Commissioner George Ecclesine:** Met with LMAS staff in Manistique where they discussed upcoming flu vaccines.

**Commissioner Daniel J. LaFolle:** Attended the HBH Conference in Traverse City. Attended the Township Association Meeting in Germfask and praised Omer Doran for being such a gracious host, and related that they heard from Representative Lindberg who said things could get much worse for counties after the election. Also, attended the CUPPAD Meeting in Manistique where they heard about a proposal for an invasive species lab at Camp Manistique. Attended two MCF Meetings where they are talking about retirement changes and these issue will be coming to the County Board in the near future. Attended the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Board Meeting and heard that SMH was turned down for funding for the new hospital for this year.

**Commissioner John Zellar:** Attended the Township Association Meeting in Germfask and heard from Representative Lindberg.

**Chairperson Gerald Zellar:** No report.

**Announcements and Notices:** Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that the Audit Meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. Commissioners rescheduled this meeting for Wednesday November 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Further under “Announcements and Notices”: Sheriff Grant Harris read a statement to the Board regarding him and another Sheriff’s Department employee doing road patrol last weekend. Sheriff Harris said they wrote two tickets, issued several warnings and inspected local building in the wake of recent break-ins. Sheriff Harris asked the Board to support this because he has had several complaints from citizens regarding the lack of patrols. Commissioner LaFolle asked that Sheriff Harris direct the individuals who call to complain about lack

of patrols to contact the County Board of Commissioners to reinforce the Sheriff's position.

**Public Comment:** Craig Reiter of Manistique addressed the Board regarding Road Patrol and Foster Care.

**Under Communications:** Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board of an issue with the Holiday Schedule. Mr. McKinney said by contract AFSCME Union Members get Friday off when a holiday falls on Saturday, but when a holiday falls on Friday and Saturday they get the Saturday holiday off on Monday. Mr. McKinney said this is the case for the upcoming Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holiday and the New Years Eve and New Years Day holiday. Further, Mr. McKinney said policy and procedure allows for non-union members to get a Saturday Holiday off on Friday, but does not address the issue of holidays falling on Friday and Saturday consecutively. Therefore, Mr. McKinney said the County offices will all be open, with the only staff available in many offices being the Department Head. In addition, Mr. McKinney said the courts have been scheduling cases on these Mondays which may become an issue if essential staff in other offices are not available to support the court docket support needed. Commissioners also noted that DHS and LMAS District Health Department on closed on Thursday and Friday instead of Friday and Monday. This means Building and Grounds Staff will need to come in on Monday to provide services for the renters which are open on this day. Commissioners noted that this will result in overtime and imposition on staff.

**It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to have a representative from the County Board approach the union and ask if they would consider the option of changing holidays to Thursday and Friday instead of Friday and Monday to follow the DHS and LMAS schedule. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

No further "Communications".

Audit Finance Chairperson Daniel J. LaFoilie called the Audit Finance Meeting to order at 9:02 P.M.

**Purchase Requisitions: It was moved by** Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve a purchase requisition from the Airport in the amount of \$14,253.00 for fuel. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**It was moved by** Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve a

purchase requisition from the County Clerk's Office in the amount of \$152.99 for toner. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve budget adjustments numbered 497-10 through 537-10 and 1-11 through 15-11, inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

**It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Grimm to approve the claims and vouchers numbered 127 through 281, inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

**Vice-Chairperson LaFoille** adjourned the Board Meeting at 9:05 P.M.

---

Gerald L. Zellar  
Chairperson County Board

---

Daniel J. LaFoille, Sr.  
Audit Finance Chairperson County Board

---

Daniel R. McKinney, County Clerk