

Iron County Finance Acting Chairman Wayne Wales called that committee to order on Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. County Clerk Joan Luhtanen called the Roll of Members. Present were: Beverly Camp, Fran Wills and Wales. The bills had been reviewed, and Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$ 469,425.79.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Camp, Wills, Wales

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Interim Administrator Sue Clisch reported that the preliminary work has begun in getting the financial information ready for the auditors. Also, notification has been sent to the county departments about the major expenses being paid to 906 Technologies for computer support. There is also a need for taking an additional percentage of the cost from each office.

Wales talked about the need to act on accepting the grants for the Heritage Trail project. The way the project application was written, if the bids come over project cost by 11%, then the County Board can reject them. However, if the bids come in over cost, but by less than 11% over, then the County would have to accept them and be responsible for the costs of the overrun. Wales said the risk is there. The worse case scenario is \$120,000. However, Wales said Road Commission Superintendent Doug Tomasoski will try to survey the project and get some realistic estimates of costs. Wales felt that if the Heritage Trail followed the "old" trail route, then the cost should come in close to the estimate. The County Board will have to make a decision about this project soon, otherwise we might not be taken seriously for future grants.

Wills was concerned since in the past, for example, the State backed out of the grant for the Pentoga Park boat wash project. Local costs were spent, and there still is no boat wash at the Park. He did not know how we could accept the project if we do not know what the County's portion of the cost will be.

Camp asked when the time frame would be for the payment, and Wales said the project would start this year, but the additional costs probably wouldn't be due until 2013. Informational only. This matter will be brought to the full board for consideration soon.

Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:20 p.m.

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Acting Finance Chairman Wayne Wales

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County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

Chairman Wayne Wales called a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners to order at 1:30 p.m. on February 28, 2012. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. County Clerk Joan Luhtanen called the Roll of Officers. Present were: Beverly Camp, Fran Wills, Carl Lind and Wales. Absent was Rosalie King. Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of January 24 and February 14, 2012, and to approve the Special Committee Meetings of January 19, 26, February 2, 7, 9 and 16, 2012. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Agenda as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wales called for Public Comment, but none was voiced.

County Commissioner/Officials/Committee Reports: Some commissioners and officials gave written and/or verbal reports on their recent activities and meetings, as well as upcoming events. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to accept the reports of the County Commissioners. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to accept the remainder of the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business: Lind made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the Finance Committee's February 9, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$219,397.59; and their February 16, 2012, Review of Bills in the amount of \$74,348.63.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, Lind, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: King

Motion carried.

Chairman Wales then brought up the matter of the Heritage Trail. (See Finance Meeting on February 23 on Minute Book Page T-43). Wales had been in contact with Iron County Road

Commission Superintendent Doug Tomasoski. The idea of using the “old road bed” and taking materials from said bed should lessen the costs, and the MDOT is in favor of the idea. Once Mr. Tomasoski has the estimates, it should be able to be determined if the extension of the Heritage Trail can be built for less money than what funds are available from the grants. Wales reiterated that this will be a tough decision. At this time, contractors are bidding fairly low on projects, but things could change from the time we accept the grants and the time it is bid. There has been a lot of preliminary engineering work done, but we can’t hire engineers until the grant(s) are signed. A special meeting will need to be held soon to make a decision.

New Business:

Interim Administrator Sue Clisch reported that making budget amendments is being investigated, but is not yet complete. They will be brought to the board as soon as possible.

The Menominee River Habitat for Humanity will be utilizing \$14,000 Federal HUD Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) funds for the purchase of materials related to the construction of a home within the City of Crystal Falls. Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to authorize Chairman Wales to sign the “Determination of Categorical Exclusion/Exemption” environmental clearance checklist, as required by the Department of Environmental Quality for construction permits. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

County Clerk Luhtanen informed the Board that the Allocation Board will be meeting starting April 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Board would need to make an appointment. Luhtanen said Stuart Creel had been the County’s representative last year and did a good job. Judge Schwedler, who also has responsibility to make an appointment, has selected Geoffrey Lawrence. Lawrence also was on the Allocation Board last year and was a conscientious member. Lind made a motion, seconded by Camp, to authorize the running of an ad seeking candidates for the Allocation Board. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

A “Management Agreement” between the County and the Iron County Fair Board was thought to have been reached, but it was not signed by the Fair Board last week. There was a discussion about the insurance coverage that the County pays for, since the Fairgrounds are county property, and it is more economical for us to do so. Civil Counsel Steve Tinti cautioned the County Board to let the Fair Board work on whatever internal issues they have, and then, hopefully, the Agreement can go forward.

The Iron County Board of Road Commissioners are requesting to proceed with refunding of prior bonds for the Oss Road building, since the current lower interest rates make refunding all or a portion of the prior bonds in the best interest of the County. A proposal has been received from Robert W. Baird & Co. (Underwriter) to purchase the Bonds pursuant to a negotiated sale. Lind made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the “Resolution Authorizing Issuance and Sale of Michigan Transportation Fund Refunding Bonds, Series 2012” and also authorizing the appropriate county officials sign said document.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, Lind, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: King

Motion carried.

A resolution had been received from Oakland County about MDOC’s criteria used to determine parole eligibility of violent and repeat offenders. Sheriff Valesano had not seen this, and wanted an opportunity to review it. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to table. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The Regular Board meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, will be held at 6:00 p.m., at the Iron River City Hall, and the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Public Comment: Camp stated she hoped Wales was successful in retaining his seat on the Board. Camp then made a motion, seconded by Lind, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Camp, Wills, Lind, Wales

NAYS: None ABSENT: King Motion carried. The time was 2:10 p.m.

At 2:20 p.m., the Board came back into Regular Session. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 2:21 p.m.

