

The Finance Committee of the Iron County Board was called to order by its Chairman George Brunswick on Thursday, February 11, 2010, 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: Rosalie King, Fran Wills and Brunswick. The bills had been reviewed, and King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$259,003.54.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, King, Brunswick

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Sue Clisch presented a contract with Clean Kill Pest Control, Inc., for 2010. The cost is \$73.00 per month for a total yearly cost of \$876.00. They have done very good work for the County in the past. King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the contract with Clean Kill Pest Control for 2010.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: King, Wills, Brunswick

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

County Treasurer Marcia Cornelia informed the committee that the distribution of the taxes collected from the road commission millage to the cities and village is something her office is responsible for, rather than the road commission, as was first thought. This is the State statute. What confuses the situation even more, is that the taxes are paid based on the property owners' taxable value, but when it is disbursed to the cities and village, it is based on their SEV (State Equalized Value). This will result in the cities getting less money than what they collect. Because the road commission didn't have an agreement with these units of government, the County has to go by the State statute.

King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:10 p.m.

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Finance Chairman George Brunswick

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

On Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., Iron County Chairperson Rosalie King called a Public Information Meeting to order. This meeting was to get public comment on a proposed "Amendment of the Iron County Solid Waste Plan." The hearing was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. All the County Commissioners were present: Bob Black, Fran Wills, Carl Lind, George Brunswick and King. Also present were Great American Disposal President David Brisson, and Curt Spears, its Sales Manager.

This matter had been brought up at a February 9, 2010, meeting (See Minute Book Page S-348). The reason to amend the Solid Waste Plan had been stated by GAD President Brisson: "They want to remain competitive, and now that Wisconsin has raised their dumping fee to \$13.50 a ton, they would like to bring Iron County's trash to their other site in Michigan. GAD hires local personnel to pick up the garbage. And, GAD does provides curbside trash pick-up for township residents since Waste Management got out of that service awhile back. Brisson cited Public Act 641 and Act 115 that governs waste pickup, and offered to meet with the Prosecutor to see if there was an abbreviated process to amend the plan."

Prosecutor Melissa Weston had researched the topic some more, and could not find any way out of establishing a fourteen member solid waste planning committee. This committee would be a different committee from the county's planning committee. Weston also pointed out that a "Planning Agency" would have hired, and a RFP (Request for Proposal) for a qualified agency should be advertised. WUPPDR who did the county's plan last time, will not do it this time. Last time it cost approximately \$5,000 to do an update, and it is estimated that it might cost as much as \$10,000 now. The process would take about a year to complete because of the deadlines involved.

Costs were discussed. GAD President Brisson pledged \$5,000 to the County to help defray the costs of this project. Brisson said he would put that pledge in writing. It is costing GAD more than that in the increased tipping fees. Spears stated that neither Dickinson or Schoolcraft counties paid their solid waste committee members meeting fees. Huizing asked the Board about paying mileage. But mileage would not be paid either since Black felt the committee members from the municipalities would have a vested interest in serving on the committee, and get paid from their respective units.

In advertising for the RFP, Brisson said that in order to control the compensation paid to the agency, the County should state the maximum fee it is willing to pay. GAD does this when contracting with various engineering firms. King felt at the Regular Board meeting they should take action to put the RFP in the paper and see what kind of response it generates. This would get the process moving.

King called for public comment, but none was voiced. Black made a motion, seconded by Brunswick, to close the Public Hearing. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:23 pm.

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Chairperson Rosalie King

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen

At 1:30 p.m., Chairperson Rosalie King called to order a Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners shortly after the Public Hearing. 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 Officers. Present were: Bob Black, George Brunswick, Carl Lind, Fran Wills and King. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Black, to approve the Special Committee Meeting Minutes of January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. King called for Public Comment on Agenda items, and Patricia McDonald from the Alpha Senior Center was going to speak, but was on the agenda later on.

Commissioner/Committee Reports: The commissioners and other officials gave written as well as oral reports on their recent activities and meetings, as well as upcoming events. King stated that Iron River City volunteered to be the agent for a USDA grant to purchase 25 defibrillators throughout the county. These defibrillators will replace the older ones for which no replacement parts can be purchased. The new machines will cost approximately \$1,095 each, which is considerably less than the initial price. King said that bids for running the Pentoga Park concession stand should be put in the paper, since the current agreement has expired. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to accept all reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business:

Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Finance Committee's February 4, 2010, Review of Bills in the amount of \$354,098.78; and their February 11, 2010, Review of Bills, in the amount of \$259,003.54.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Black, Lind, Brunswick, Wills, King

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Lind, that based upon GAD's commitment to subsidize the County \$5,000.00 in amending their Solid Waste Plan, to advertise a RFP (Request for Proposal) for a Planning Agency, to determine how much it will cost to amend the County's Solid Waste Plan.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Brunswick, Wills, Lind, Black, King

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Civil Counsel Steven Tinti had presented an "Intergovernmental Tax Sharing Agreement" between Iron County, the City of Iron River, and the City of Iron River Downtown Development Authority for the County Board to consider adopting. This Agreement lists the affected geographical boundaries, years that are involved, assessed values, and becomes effective with the 2009 tax roll through 2029. In essence, this spells out how the personal and real property taxes within the DDA area are to be captured and which millages are not to be captured. This issue has been discussed for many years, and Tinti said that all the participating units will be considering this document. Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Wills, to accept the "Intergovernmental Tax Sharing Agreement" with the City of Iron River and City of Iron River Downtown Development Authority.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Lind, Brunswick, Black, King

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

New Business:

Prosecuting Attorney Weston stated that since the County will now only be designating civil council on specific projects, it is falling to her office to research and make recommendations and/or documents about matters. With her current staffing level of just a part-time assistant prosecutor, she cannot respond to the commissioners' requests in a timely manner. The Audit and Budget committee met with her, and a full-time assistant prosecutor could be hired. The existing amount of \$42,000 for the Contractual Services/Assistant Prosecutor would be sufficient for a new employee hire if the standard county fringe benefit package were added. This cost is \$15,000. For this year, additional legal secretary staffing would not be sought. Brunswick said that the cost of \$15,000 could easily come from what had been paid from the past civil counsel charges. Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Lind, to authorize a full-time Assistant Prosecutor position immediately, and to change the \$42,000 to Salary, Assistant Prosecutor (Line Item 229-703.500), and to take \$15,000 from the Civil Counsel Line Item to Fringes and Benefits for this position.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Brunswick, Lind, Wills, Black, King

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Brunswick brought up eliminating the Iron County Grandstand assessment both to the Iron County Fair and the Rodeo. Currently, the balance on the Grandstand is \$76,834.00. The Rodeo has been paying \$2,200.00 yearly, the Fair has been paying \$900.00 yearly, and the County \$500.00 yearly to pay off the costs of the grandstand. There is a "Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Concerning the Payment Plan for the Grandstand Facility at the Iron County Fairgrounds" that was entered into in July 31, 2001 between the County, the Iron County Fair Association, and the U.P. Championship Rodeo. At that time there was currently owed \$105,634.00. This agreement anticipates being in effect until 2030 when the obligation will be paid off. Brunswick contended that the Rodeo and Fair are having hard times paying these costs. They do bring in money to the area with their activities. Brunswick, who is on the Fair Board, said the Fair would still need an appropriation from the County's General Fund. Administrator Huizing pointed out that if eliminated, this would, in effect, ask the tax payers to fund the \$3,100 yearly until 2030. Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Wills, to refer this to the Prosecuting Attorney to see about the legality of abolishing the fees.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Black, Brunswick, King

NAYS: Line

Motion carried, 4 to 1

Resolution: Robert Rafferty appeared with letters of support for the proposed extension of the Iron County Heritage Trail Non-Motorized Pathway, 2010 Phase: from Caspian to Pentoga Park. This pathway extension would be 7.85 miles and has tentative grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration (National Scenic Byways Program), the Michigan DNR Trust Fund, along with local matches. Brunswick made a motion, seconded by Brunswick, to support the Resolution to apply to MNRTF for Phase 1 of the project. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The next Regular Board meetings will be March 9th and 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

Public Comment: The Board heard from Patricia McDonald, Alpha Senior Center Cite Council President, asking for more money than the amount that was allocated for their center. This is the second time she had appeared. (See Minute Book Page S-345, January 26, 2010) Brunswick explained that the 2009 allocation was based on the number of meals served last year at their center, 1,600 meals or 3.5% of the total served in Iron County. McDonald argued that the allocation should not be based just on meals served alone, but rather population and other factors should be considered. The center also has other community activities, and cannot continue on this reduced revenue. King said some of the County Board will be attending the DICSA meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and will see what can be done.

There was no other public comment. Black made a motion, seconded by Wills, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 2:28 p.m.

