

A Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Wayne Wales on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. 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, Carl Lind, Rosalie King, Fran Wills and Wales. King made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings of March 22nd and April 12th. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Minutes of the Special Committee meetings of March 10th, 17th, 18th, 24th, 31st, April 7th, 14th, and 21st. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. King made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the Agenda. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Wales called for Public Comment on Agenda Items, but none was voiced.

Commissioner Reports: Some commissioners gave verbal reports on their recent activities and meetings, as well as upcoming events. Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to approve the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

New Business (This item is out of the usual order in order to accommodate the Housing Director's need to attend another meeting scheduled at 2:00 p.m.) Steve Gagne, Executive Director for the Iron County Housing Commission, had submitted a request to HUD for replacing 33 foundations in existing low-income housing units. The original HUD design was not done properly. Gagne had been working on this matter for many years.

Gagne explained that his original application had been for \$5.5 million. Approval for \$2,887,700 had been granted because the original construction of the footings had been above the frost line and will need to be replaced. These funds are from the Capital Fund Reserve for Emergencies. Gagne explained that the renters will be moved out of the unit that needs work done and then will be moved back. The goal is to keep the children in the same school district. The new foundation will be one foot short of a basement, and there will be room to put the furnace, washer and dryer in this area. Gagne said the County will not be financially obligated in any way. Camp said Gagne had been very diligent in procuring the necessary funds. King made a motion, seconded by Camp, to accept the HUD grant.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Officer Reports: Some officers gave verbal reports of their recent activities and upcoming events. Lind made a motion, seconded by Camp, to accept the reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business:

Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Finance Committee's April 7, 2011, Review of Bills in the amount of \$162,516.95 and their April 14, 2011, Review of Bills in the amount of \$287,587.98.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

The matter of an easement request for the City of Iron River had been approved at the County Board's April 12th meeting. Lind made a motion, seconded by King, to authorize the County Board Chairman and County Clerk to sign said easement. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. Whether or not the Iron River Senior Citizen Site Council will decide to buy the Iron River Senior Center is unknown at this time. The Council is reviewing the matter.

New Business:

On March 31, 2011, Michigan State University's District 1 Coordinator Mike Erdman had presented a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between MSU and the County. (See Minute Book Page S-452) Erdman was again present today, along with Julie Melchiori. Erdman again explained the terms of the contract. All the counties in Michigan are going to have a base assessment of \$31,000, plus \$.30 per capita. In this case, Iron County has a 2010 population of 11,817, so our base assessment will be \$34,545. This would be divided into four payments and paid to MSU quarterly. With additional costs, the proposed total cost to the County would be

\$64,100. Secretary Masanova, who is now half-time in both MSU and the Construction Code offices, and changes work stations, could remain in one location and do work for both entities. This arrangement has worked well in other counties.

With the revamping of the MSU Extension program, there will no longer be Extension Directors in each county. Melchiori explained that with her job description changing from Extension Director to an "Economic Educator," only 30% of her time would be spent in Iron County. The remaining 70% of her time would be in other counties in District 1 (the western part of the Upper Peninsula). Melchiori stated that the County Board still has a responsibility to have an EDC Board because of the loans to businesses. Erdman said that MSU would be willing to let Melchiori help in transitioning another person, if necessary. Erdman stated that there was no rush to sign the agreement, but to have our prosecutor review the terms.

Letters of County Officials. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to accept the letters and reports. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Announcements: The County Board will be meeting on May 10th and 24th (both Tuesdays) starting at 1:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Ben Smith said that now that Iron County has a population below 12,000, according to the Drain Code, the County could abolish that office and assign the duties to the Road Commission.

King made a motion, seconded by Lind, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 2:27 p.m.

Chairperson Wayne Wales

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen