

The Finance Committee meeting was held on Thursday, August 18, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Iron County Courthouse, Crystal Falls, MI. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited, the meeting called to order, and roll call was taken, with the following Committee members present: Beverly Camp, Fran Wills and Carl Lind.

The bills for the week were reviewed, and it was moved by Wills, seconded by Camp, to pay the bills in the amount of \$95,916.38. Roll Call Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Huizing informed the committee that 13 toilets were going to be replaced at the Iron County Jail. And, because our Maintenance Custodian John Lortie would be doing the work, there will be a substantial savings for the County.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, it was moved by Wills, and seconded by Camp, to adjourn. Voice Vote: Ayes 3. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Finance Chairman Carl Lind

Deputy Clerk Deborah Kubiesko

A Regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Beverly Camp. 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: Rosalie King, Carl Lind, Fran Wills and Camp. Absent was Wayne Wales. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to approve the Minutes of the Regular meetings of July 26th, and August 9th, and Special Committee Meeting Minutes of July 20th, 21st, 25th, 28th, August 4th, and 11th. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. King then made a motion to request the Prosecuting Attorney to research what wording should be used for holding an Executive Session, but it died for lack of support.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None was voiced.

Commissioner/Official Reports: Some commissioners and officials gave written and/or verbal reports on their recent activities and meetings, as well as upcoming events. Prosecuting Attorney Powell announced that the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Robert Hinojosa is resigning effective September 2nd. Wills made a motion, seconded by Lind, to send a letter of appreciation to Hinojosa for his service to Iron County. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Old Business:

Lind made a motion, seconded by King, to approve the Finance Committee's August 4, 2011, Review of Bills in the amount of \$136,419.37; and their August 11, 2011, Review of Bills in the amount of \$2,213,060.06.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wales

Motion carried.

Prosecuting Attorney Powell had researched the NACo prescription discount card program. Back in 2009, Attorney Steve Tinti had also researched the issue. In a letter, Powell explained exactly what a prescription discount card is, as well as how numerous these cards are, and how easily available to the general public. The card does provide a cost savings of between 10% to 85% when used in purchasing prescriptions. There is no fee to the County, but the contract that the County would have to sign, promises that county personnel would promote the exclusive use of this card.

Powell stated there were two issues for the commissioners. The first is should the County's name and personnel be used to endorse this prescription discount program over any other one. And, is it legally advisable to sign this particular contract. The contract cannot be modified. After discussion, Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, not to enter into an agreement with the NACo prescription discount card program. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

New Business:

VALIC plan amendments for PPA (Pension Protection Act), HEART (Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008) and WRERA (Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act) were received by the County and must be acted upon by December 31, 2011.

These amendments would ensure that our plan is in compliance with federal tax laws, as well as IRS and Department of Labor regulations. Prosecutor Powell had reviewed the documents, but these proposed amendments have tax implications that are outside her area of expertise. She also knew that Attorney Tornnga has also been working on amendments to the County's retirement plan, and advised that he be given the opportunity to review the VALIC plan amendments before the Board adopts them. King made a motion, seconded by Wills, to have Attorney Tornnga review the amendments. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

A proposed lease agreement between DICSA (Dickinson-Iron Community Services Agency) and the County had been drafted for use of the Iron River Senior Center. Prosecutor Powell pointed out that the prior agreement had been between three parties: the County, DICSA, and the Site Council. This draft is simpler, but perhaps doesn't accomplish the intended goals; for example, it covers the entire Iron River building, not just office space. If this lease was adopted, the Iron River Site Council would need a separate agreement with DICSA.

An error in 9 b. was noted, under insurance "contents" should be deleted. It should only cover premises. Lind made a motion, seconded by Wills, to revise clause 9 b. and submit this draft to DICSA for their review. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment: Crystal Falls Township Supervisor Tom Lesandrini had good news. He announced that the Heritage Trail group had received a \$500,000 MDOT grant, as well as a \$995,600 Scenic Byways grant to extend the Apple Blossom Trail from Gaastra to Pentoga Park. The Health Department may also have grant monies that would help with amenities; such as, bike racks, water fountains, etc.

Engineer Jeff Bal passed out maps showing the proposed trail. The George Young Trust wants to donate some property if they could be included in the Apple Blossom Trail extension. The route has to be finalized before construction can begin. This route will have to meet whatever requirements that the grants state; such as, ADA guidelines. The trail is for non-motorized use.

The next phase of the trail will be to link Pentoga Park to the Medicare Facility. Lesandrini stated that the future goal is to link this trail to trails in Watersmeet, Ironwood and even Wisconsin. Lesandrini invited everyone to the next Heritage Trail committee meeting on September 1st at 10:00 a.m. It is hoped that this project will provide jobs, stimulate the economy, and also link both sides of the County. A round of applause accompanied the announcement.

Announcements: The next Regular Board meetings are scheduled for September 13th and 27th, both starting at 1:30 p.m. King asked for a Personnel meeting because of some complaints that she has heard. The Personnel committee meeting was scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on September 13th.

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

Vice-Chairperson Beverly Camp

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen