

A Special Meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners was called to order by its Chairman Wayne Wales on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 9:00 a.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 Officers. Present were: Beverly Camp, Rosalie King, Carl Lind, Fran Wills and Wales. There were three issues to be discussed:

The first issue was the proposed "Intergovernmental Tax Sharing Agreement" between the County of Iron, the City of Iron River and the City of Iron River Downtown Development Authority. Civil Counsel Steve Tinti was present to explain the document. Tinti said two members of the County Board (Fran Wills and Carl Lind) had met with members of the City of Iron River, and members of their DDA, and a consensus had been reached, as outlined in the terms of the document. They are as follows:

1. The City of Iron River and its DDA will seize to capture county taxes on the "Development Area" at the end of 2030.

2. The City of Iron River and its DDA will not capture on any present or future voted special millages of the County; such as, the Health Department, Youth Camp, Senior Citizens, Medical Care Facility Maintenance of Effort, etc.

3. The County will allow the City of Iron River to capture on the Stambaugh expansion.

4. The County will supplement an annual amount of \$27,000 for the tax years 2011 through 2019 to the DDA. The supplemental payment for 2011 shall be issued with the 2011 settlement statement to the City. Future payments will be issued to the DDA with half paid on October 1st of each year, and the other half paid on March 1st of the following year. The \$27,000 will come out of the County's General Fund.

5. Also, this agreement would dismiss the litigation against the County, County Clerk, County Treasurer and the Iron County Board of Election Commissioners (Circuit Court Case No. I 10-4298-AW), with prejudice.

This is not the entire terms of the agreement, but the highlights. This agreement was not entirely satisfactory to all the commissioners. However, this agreement does stop the expenditure of local funds to address important issues which should be dealt with by the State, and/or its agencies. Lind made a motion, seconded by King, to authorize the County Board Chairman and County Clerk to execute the Intergovernmental Tax Sharing Agreement when it has been tendered with the signatures of parties from the City of Iron River and the Iron River Downtown Development Authority, and the necessary attachments are received.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Tinti said this will not resolve the similar matters with Caspian, but it is hoped that it, too, will be finalized soon and brought to the County Board.

Next, County Treasurer Marcia Cornelia brought up the matter of the millage allocation to the County's Senior Citizens' Centers. The last division of funds for the Centers' Operational Costs was only for 2011. Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to have the Administration write a letter to the Centers to get a yearly meal count, so that the percentages can be determined.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Because of the transitional stage the County is now in (without a full time County Administrator), a discussion then was held on the possibility of hiring a CPA to help get ready for the annual County audit. The auditors are expected the end of March or beginning of April. Some computer entries had been done by the administrator, and no one else. But the staff that was present expressed a desire to try to generate the necessary reports and do the required budget adjustments on their own before handing it over to a CPA, but would seek help if necessary. Camp made a motion, seconded by Lind, giving permission for the staff to hire CPA Scott Kenney if the need arises.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

There being no further business, Wills made a motion, seconded by King, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 9:37 a.m.

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., Finance Committee Chairman Carl Lind called that committee to order. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. Commissioner Carl Lind called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken. Present were: Fran Wills, Beverly Camp and Lind. The bills had been reviewed, and a motion was made by Wills, supported by Wales, to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$ 291,397.59.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Camps, Wills, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Equalization Director Joan Mussato informed the committee that GIS mapping had been completed by the following local units: Iron River Township, Stambaugh Township and the City of Iron River. She reminded the committee that the County had promised to reimburse any unit who completed the project, providing it was compatible with the County’s mapping, (which these are) one-third of the original cost. The committee was pleased that the mapping is progressing, and these bills will be submitted for payment next week.

County Treasurer Marcia Cornelia had to pay Union Pacific Railroad Company \$23,000 for bridge work they had done. The bridge will link ORV trails in our area to those in Wisconsin, and would promote tourism. This is a DNR grant project, but the County must first spend its funds, and then will get reimbursed. The exact line item for the prior expenses for this project will be researched.

It came to light that the 2012 Budget did not reflect the 3% increase in wages that was given for the union employees. There was discussion as to what line item(s) those costs will come out of. Research will again be done, and the proposed journal entries and/or budget amendments brought back to the full board.

Sheriff Mark Valesano had a \$576.00 bill from Luce County 911 which was for a 25% match of the cost of a radio cache in Region 8 (the U.P.). This radio equipment is for Emergency Services, which is very beneficial. However, there is nothing in the Sheriff’s budget department for this cost. Research will be done to see where this could be covered.

Sheriff Valesano said his office had applied for a \$ 12,000 USDA grant in 2011 for funds to be used towards purchasing a patrol car, but had not received it. He is trying to keep two main road cars with lower mileage and in good mechanical condition by rotating the age of the fleet. But now, he been notified that approval had been received for this grant and it could be used in 2012. However, in order to receive the grant, no money could be put in the Sheriff’s current budget for a car. The car would not need to be purchased until the end of the year. The County’s match would be approximately \$19,000. The Sheriff would need a letter from the County indicating they would like to pursue the grant to purchase a patrol car. If matching funds from the County are not available, the County is not obligated. Camp made a motion, seconded by Wills, to authorize the Finance Chairman to sign the USDA grant papers for purchasing a squad car in 2012.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Wills, Camp, Lind

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Wills made a motion, seconded by Camp, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 1:40 p.m.

Finance Chairman Carl Lind

County Clerk Joan Luhtanen