

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 22, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
Courthouse - Circuit Courtroom

1. The meeting was called to Order by Chairman Wender at 6:00 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was said by all.
3. Roll Call was taken by County Clerk Dolly Cook and a quorum was present.
Present: Chairman Henry Wender, Vice Chairman Joe Stevens and Commissioners Barb Kramer, Ann Martin and John Degenauer. (5)
Absent: None
Also Present: County Clerk Dolly Cook, Sheriff Scott Rutter, Equalization Director Sid Bray and Prosecutor Lisa Richards, and Admin Asst. Christy Paul
4. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept the agenda as written.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
5. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the following meeting minutes: Regular – October 8th All Ayes, Motion Carried
6. **COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION:**
Commissioner Martin introduced the following students from Mr. Hogberg's Iron Mountain Government class: Courtney Partello, Anna Pirkola, Luke Pascoe, Giovanni Colavecchi, Tony Feira and Alex Gregg.
 - A. Presentation by Congressman Bart Stupak, Venable LLP.
Stupak stated his firm (Venable) is located in Washington DC. He stated he does legal work and lobbying. He stated he does a lot of work with hospitals. He stated the first step is a feasibility study. He stated the hospital is not in bad shape. He stated they do have a cash flow problem. He stated the feasibility study will look at the last five years and do a plan for the next five years. He stated some things are confidential. He stated BRG will be hired and the cost will be \$50,000-\$75,000 because they have people in the Midwest. He stated we have to hire an appraiser for all the Real Estate. He stated the study should be done in 4-8 weeks.
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens Time and there was no participation.
Commissioner Martin asked if the feasibility study will be made public?
Stupak stated parts will be made public.
Commissioner Martin asked if they will make recommendations?
Stupak said yes.
Commissioner Stevens asked if the Board will adjust to the time line to get things done?
Stupak stated whatever action they take the County Board should give support and approval.
Commissioner Stevens asked if the County would be liable for any loans needed.
Stupak stated he did not think so because the Hospital has a sufficient amount of assets for collateral.
Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated the Hospital has transparency issues. He stated he wants to know what is going on.
Stupak stated he will keep the Board informed but some things will be discussed in closed session.
Commissioner Stevens stated he has heard praise about the way Stupak handled the Mackinac Straight Health System.
Stupak talked about the difficult road when trying to turn Mackinac Straight Health System around and how they did it. He stated they are doing great at this time. He stated they received an offer to buy but it would not have served the employees or the community and they (Mackinac Straights) backed out.
Chairman Wender asked about the Board and CEO?
Stupak stated it would be decided after the feasibility study.
Commissioner Kramer asked how long Venable would be here?
Stupak stated it depends, he was at Mackinac Straights for 3 years. He didn't think it would take that long for DCH.
Prosecutor Richards asked if the employees would continue to be paid.
Stupak stated he is concerned about December, January and February but felt they would always be paid.
The Board thanked Stupak and he thanked the Board.

- B. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time and there was no participation.
- C. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Stevens
 - 1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve Resolution 2018-21 Dickinson County Board of Commissioners Support of DCHS Employees. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-21
Dickinson County Board of Commissioners Support of DCHS Employees

WHEREAS, The Dickinson County Healthcare System has been experiencing financial hardships;
and

WHEREAS, The Dickinson County Healthcare System is currently undergoing a restructuring process; and

WHEREAS, Dickinson County Healthcare System is an immeasurably valuable asset to the people of Dickinson County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Dickinson County Healthcare System employees are the lifeblood of the Dickinson County Hospital System;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the professionalism, dedication and devotion of the Dickinson County Healthcare System Employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners recognizes, acknowledges and supports the high level of commitment and quality of care demonstrated by Dickinson County Healthcare System employees and encourages them to remain steadfast through the DCHS Restructuring process.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Henry Wender, Chairman, Dickinson County Board of Commissioners

Dolly Cook, Dickinson County Clerk

7. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**
- A. **Finance Committee** – Finance Chairperson Martin-None
 - B. **A-95 Review** – Commissioner Kramer-None
 - C. **Upward Talent Council** – Commissioner Stevens-None
 - D. **Planning and Zoning Committee** – Commissioner Kramer-None
 - E. **DHHS / DICSA** – Commissioner Kramer-None
 - F. **Dickinson-Iron Health Department** – Commissioner Stevens-None
 - G. **Northpointe** – Commissioner Martin
 - 1. Northpointe special meeting minutes of September 27th.
 - 2. Northpointe regular meeting minutes of September 27th.

Northpointe is interviewing 3 candidates for the Directors Position.

H. **Pinecrest** – Commissioner Degenae-None

I. **Equalization Committee** – Commissioner Degenae

1. 2018 Apportionment Report.

Equalization Report was given by Sid Bray. (The report is on file in the County Clerk’s Office.) He stated all County mileages lost money.

He explained where the Dark Store issues are and they are going forward with a decision, hopefully, in March.

Motion by Commissioner Degenae Jr., supported by Commissioner Kramer to approve the Equalization Report. All Ayes, Motion Carried

J. **Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling** – Commissioner Degenae-None

K. **Public Safety and Judiciary** – Commissioner Wender-None

L. **Parks Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None

M. **Airport Committee** – Commissioner Wender-None

N. **Fair Board** – Commissioner Degenae-None

O. **Library Board** – Commissioner Martin-None

P. **Employee Relations** - Commissioner Degenae-None

Q. **Dickinson County Hospital Committee** – Commissioner Stevens

1. Board discussion with Dickinson County Healthcare System Board candidates

Mr. Dave Brisson and Ms. Margaret Minerick.

Dave Brisson explained why he is interested in being appointed to the Hospital Board. He explained what he has done in the past and future. He stated he served on the Hospital Board in the 90’s. He stated the Hospital needed an investment grade bond rating and he worked hard to get that for them. He stated they needed and did a five-year plan. He stated he can contribute to the needs of the hospital. He explained the problems at the Road Commission, of which he is a board member, and how they corrected them. He stated everybody should know what is going on.

Commissioner Stevens asked when the feasibility study is done, will the Hospital Board act on it?

Brisson stated that would be crucial.

Commissioner Martin stated many people feel the hospital was over zealous in their expansion and services, do you agree?

Brisson stated in the 90’s they went to Blue Cross/Blue Shield and received more money, but you must match revenues to expenses. He stated you also must check labor costs.

Commissioner Kramer asked how will he be different now compared to the 90’s?

Brisson stated he would probably be the same.

Commissioner Degenae Jr., asked about Schon’s extravagant salary and how and why that could happen?

Brisson Stated it is not extravagant for the size of the organization. He stated it is what the market demands.

Commissioner Degenae Jr., stated the average salary for Schon’s job in the U.P. is \$160,000.

Commissioner Stevens asked how long he will stay on the Board?

Brisson stated he will stay until the job is done.

Commissioner Kramer asked if he can resist the pressures from the CEO?

Brisson stated his track record shows he will.

Chairman Wender thanked Dave Brisson.

Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Kramer to appoint Dave Brisson to the Hospital Board for a term to expire 12/31/2020. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

Degenae Jr., Nay

Kramer Aye

Martin Aye

Stevens Aye

Wender Aye Motion Carried.

Margaret Minerick addressed the Board. She explained her past and her businesses and how long they were in business. She was on the hospital board about 25 years ago. She

stated she was also on the Board in 2014 and 2015 to fill a vacancy. She stated she then served 4 years on the County Board. She stated everyone in the County has a vested interest in the hospital. She stated she is on many industry Boards, and has no problem speaking her mind.

Commissioner Stevens stated these two people are the best choice at this time. He stated we cannot waste time.

Commissioner Martin stated there is a fear of supporting the way it is going now. She asked to what degree should administration be held accountable?

Minerick stated it depends on the information the administration receives.

Commissioner Kramer asked are you willing to be transparent with the County Board?

Minerick stated yes.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., asked do you think Schon's salary is extravagant?

Minerick explained they do not pull salaries out of the air.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., asked about the hospital Board going into closed session when their reason does not follow the Open's Meeting Act.

Minerick stated she will always follow the law.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated some people who applied were very good and they did not check them out.

Commissioner Kramer stated do you think it is fair for Schon's salary to be so high and other employees haven't had a raise in 8 years?

Minerick stated she would have to look back and see why.

Chairman Wender asked her if she had time?

Minerick stated she did.

Commissioner Stevens explained the law on how the Hospital Board members are chosen.

Motion by Commissioner Kramer, supported by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Margaret Minerick to the Hospital Board for a term to expire 12/31/2021. Roll Call Vote:

Kramer Aye

Martin Aye

Stevens Aye

Wender Aye

Degenauer Jr., Aye All Ayes, Motion Carried.

APPLICANTS:

DICKINSON COUNTY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BOARD – Applicants: Dave Brisson
One partial term to expire 12/31/2020

DICKINSON COUNTY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BOARD - Applicants: Margaret Minerick
One partial term to expire 12/31/2021

R. **Dickinson County Road Commission** – Commissioner Wender-None

S. **Construction Code Commission** – Commissioner Degenauer
1. Construction Code Commission meeting minutes of September 18th.

T. **Bay West Advisory Committee** - Commissioner Degenauer-None

U. **Veterans' Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None

8. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time
Pam Maule, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She stated she was disappointed with the first Citizens' Time because she wanted to talk about the appointments and it was limited to Venable. She asked if anyone on the hospital Board has any medical knowledge? She stated the County Board has the power to not accept the names given by the hospital. She hopes the Board will look at the other eight for the next appointment. She spoke about a campaign to support the hospital on the radio and at the end it would say use it or lose it.
Kevin Pirlot, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. He stated he was concerned 2 years ago. He stated item #5 Other Business, is not allowed on the agenda. He stated a reason has to be given. He stated he blamed all the Board. He stated change comes at the top. He stated the citizen's' do not have confidence in this Board, He stated Commissioner Degenauer has tried to help but never receives any support.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Stevens-None

10. **PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:** - Commissioner Stevens

A. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to appoint Kristine Mulder to the Department of Human Services Board for a term to expire 10/31/2018.
All Ayes, Motion Carried

11. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept the Committee Reports and Correspondence and place on file. All Ayes, Motion Carried

1. Dickinson Conservation District meeting minutes September 18th.

12. Controller's Report. - None

13. Commissioners' Personal Privilege.

Commissioner Martin stated she hopes the hospital will fill the next vacancy with someone who has a medical background.

Commissioner Stevens agreed with Commissioner Martin, He stated he heard something about the radio ads but didn't know if it will be done. He stated send prayers for Aaron Harper who is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Commissioner Kramer stated employees and previous employees cannot serve on the hospital board and maybe that should be changed.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated he had huge concerns when the hospital talked bankruptcy. He stated the lack of information was evident. He stated his concern was for the 800 employees. He stated Schon's salary was extravagant when employees' jobs were on the line.

Chairman Wender stated he understands the anxiety and we should credit the Hospital for the economic advantages it gave the County. He stated he was disappointed that 2 board members jumped ship because they did not get their way. He stated let Venable decide Schon's salary.

County Clerk Dolly Cook stated Dr. Cristanelli is not leaving, which helps the County and the Hospital.

Chairman Wender stated this Board did not use these meeting for political purposes and he wished the Hospital Board members would be as involved as the 5 County Board members.

14. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioners Stevens to adjourn, Subject to the call of the Chairman at 7:30 PM.

Henry Wender, Chairman

Dolly L. Cook, County Clerk