

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 23, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.
Courthouse - Circuit Courtroom

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wender at 6:30 P.M.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said by all.
3. Roll Call was taken by County Clerk Dolly Cook and a quorum was present.
Present: Chairman Wender and Vice Chairman Degenauer and Commissioners Kramer, Martin and Stevens (5)
Absent: None
Also Present: County Clerk Dolly Cook, Prosecutor Lisa Richards, Sheriff Scott Celello, Controller Sonya Pugh, Equalization Director Sid Bray and Admin Asst. Dianah Fayas.
4. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Kramer to accept the agenda with the following additions:
10. Petitions and New Business:
 4. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
5. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Kramer to approve the following meeting minutes with the following correction:
7. H 1 Read as follows: Commissioner Martin stated we have lost 3 Board members and the CEO is leaving and this is very regrettable. She stated they will be discussing going back to one meeting a month.....
It should have read: Commissioner Martin stated we have lost 2 Board Members and the CEO is resigning and this is very regrettable. She stated they may be discussing going back to one meeting a month.....
County Clerk Dolly Cook explained, she does listen to the tape.
Regular Meeting – 03/09/15 All Ayes, Motion Carried.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION:**
 - A. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time. Brian Smeester, Kingsford, addressed the Board. He stated Proposition 1 is misleading the people. He stated it is about bailing out the teacher's pension. He stated vote no because it is wrong and misleading and there are a lot of dirty politics going on.
 - B. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Martin
 1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve Resolution 2015-5 relative to increasing the County Operating Millage.
Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
Degenauer Jr., Aye
Kramer Aye
Martin Aye
Stevens Nay
Wender Aye Motion Carried.
Commissioner Degenauer Jr. explained the process. He stated the past two budget cycles we have had to limit or stop funding 20 agencies. He stated we have no funds for building projects, maintenance, contingency fund or funds for the normal operations. He stated we have not raised taxes since 1990. He stated the voters will decide.
Commissioner Kramer stated we lost 15 million in taxable value. She stated we also lost 1.6 million from the Home Depot suit. She stated the next step would be to cut employees in the County if we don't receive this increase.
Commissioner Martin stated we had to allocate costs to Bay College and the Library just to balance the budget. She stated if this does not get voted in we will have to cut everything.
Commissioner Stevens stated he did not think the timing is right. He stated he hopes the

Big Box fiasco will be settled. He is concerned with all the taxes. He stated if we are going to continue the services, we need this increase. He stated no one wants to see taxes go up.

The County Clerk explained the allocation procedure. She stated the County has to prove we need this amount and how we will use it. She stated if we do get the 1.5 mills, we do not have to levy it.

Commissioner Kramer stated the resolution says the 911 millage will not be levied.

County Clerk Dolly Cook stated the County Board has no say once the Allocation Board makes up their mind, then it will go on the ballot.

Commissioner Stevens wanted it to go on the ballot in 2016. He stated he has a problem with proposition 1 and the millage increase.

Commissioner Wender explained the big box losses again.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated we are not putting an uncalled for burden on the taxpayer. He stated anyone can look at the budget and we need this money. He explained the Sheriff is not replacing his cars and they have high mileage.

Commissioner Kramer stated if the air conditioning goes, it's 35 years old, we will not have the money to fix it. She explained all the problems. She stated we depend on our taxpayers to help us out.

Commissioner Wender stated we will let the people decide. He stated if they say yes, we will go forward, if they say no, we will cut services to meet the budget.

Commissioner Stevens stated the timing is not right.

DICKINSON COUNTY RESOLUTION
2015-5
March 23, 2015

WHEREAS, in 1993, Dickinson County reduced its voted operating millage from 6.1800 mills to 6.0403 mills, where it remained until 1998, when it was lowered again to 5.9403 mills; and in 2003, the amount was increased from 5.9403 to 6.1203 mills, where it has remained since, *resulting in a lower operating millage of 6.1203 in 2015, than the 6.1800 that was levied in 1990; and*

WHEREAS, the past 23 years have presented many challenges to the county budget, including unfunded mandates and steadily increasing costs associated with the provision of services such as Public Safety and Corrections (Jail), Judicial (Courts), County Parks and Airport, as well as numerous General Government Services provided to citizens; and

WHEREAS, decreasing revenues, due in large part to personal property tax elimination, blanket exemptions, and the Michigan Tax Tribunal's position on assessment practices continue to drastically erode valuations; and

WHEREAS, spending has been restricted, staffing has been reduced, and non-mandated appropriations have been eliminated, in order to achieve a balanced budget, while continuing to provide the same level of services to the public; and

WHEREAS, an additional millage was added by voters in 2013 for the 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to fund delayed infrastructure repairs, plan for mandatory airport runway improvements, and replace outdated financial software; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners requests a 1.5 mill increase in the county operating millage to increase the operating millage to 7.6403 mills and eliminate the renewal of the 9-1-1 millage in 2016, and that such a vote be put to the electorate of Dickinson County, Michigan, on November 5, 2015, in the General Election.

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Henry Wender, Chairman

I, Dolly Cook, the duly appointed, qualified and Acting Clerk of the County of Dickinson, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above extract from the minutes of a Regular meeting of the County Board of Commissioners of Dickinson County, Michigan held on 3/23/15 is a true and correct excerpt of original minutes related to the matters set forth.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Dickinson, Michigan, March 23, 2015.

Dolly Cook, Clerk

Approved by Dickinson County Board of Commissioners at its meeting of 3/23/15.

7. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

- A. **Finance Committee** – Finance Chairperson Martin
Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr.,
to approve the monthly bills for March in the amount of \$230,262.77. Roll
Call Vote: Commissioners:
Kramer Aye
Martin Aye
Stevens Aye
Wender Aye
Degenauer Jr., Aye Motion Carried.
- B. **A-95 Review** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- C. **Crystal Lake Center/YMCA** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- D. **Six County Employment Alliance** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- E. **Planning and Zoning Committee** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- F. **DHS / Community Services Agencies** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- G. **Dickinson-Iron Health Department** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- H. **Northpointe** – Commissioner Martin
1. Northpointe Healthcare Systems meeting minutes of 03/12/15.
Commissioner Martin stated Bill Adrian has been appointed the interim
CEO.
- I. **Pinecrest** – Commissioner Degenauer
1. Pinecrest meeting minutes of 01/22/15.
- J. **Equalization Committee** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- K. **Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- L. **Public Safety and Judiciary** – Commissioner Wender
1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner
Martin to appoint District Court Judge Christopher Ninomiya to the West-
Central U.P. Regional Community Corrections Advisory Board.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- M. **Parks Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
Commissioner Stevens stated spring clean-up is starting.
- N. **Airport Committee** – Commissioner Wender-None
Chairman Wender stated the T-hangars will be completed in about two weeks. He
stated the new sweeper arrived.
- O. **Fair Board** – Commissioner Degenauer
1. Fair Board meeting minutes of 03/03/15.

- P. **Library Board** – Commissioner Martin
 - 1. Library Board meeting minutes of 03/10/15.
 - Q. **Dickinson Partnership/Economic Dev.** – Commissioner Stevens-None
 - R. **Employee Relations Committee** - Commissioner Degenauer-None
 - S. **Dickinson County Hospital Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
 - T. **Dickinson County Road Commission** – Commissioner Wender-None
 - U. **Construction Code Commission** – Commissioner Degenauer
 - 1. Construction Code Commission meeting minutes of 01/20/15.
 - V. **Bay West Advisory Committee** - Commissioner Martin-None
8. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time and there was no participation.
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & OLD BUSINESS:** - Commissioner Martin-None
10. **PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:** - Commissioner Martin
- 1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve the adoption of the updated Freedom of Information policy in compliance with 2015 amendments to the Freedom of Information Act. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - 2. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Kramer to approve the appointment of Kay Pascoe to the Advisory Allocation Board. All Ayes, Motion carried
 - 3. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request from the County Clerk to advertise for upcoming appointments to the Planning Commission, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Fumee Lake Commission, Jury Board and Road Commission. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - 4. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission
Commissioner Stevens read their mission statement. He stated the rail cars that carry logs will be de-commissioned. He stated this will affect many businesses. He stated they are made in Escanaba only. He stated rail is just as important as air. He stated for the \$100.00 we get two seats and a vote.
Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Kramer, to pay the \$100.00 to Northwoods Rail Commission for the two seats and a vote. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

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| Martin | | Nay |
| Stevens | Aye | |
| Wender | | Nay |
| Degenauer Jr., | Aye | |
| Kramer | Aye | |

 Motion Carried.
- Chairman Wender stated he thought it was a waste of time and there are no other Michigan Counties that are included in this. He stated this is all in Wisconsin. Commissioner Martin stated this goes with all the budget cuts and now to re-instate this is not right
Commissioner Kramer stated maybe we will be the first and maybe more will follow. She stated this is Economic Development
Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated we made all these cuts, and this was one of them. He stated this is a serious matter..
Chairman Wender stated they have to think about the mileage and per diem to Rhinelander for the meetings.

11. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Martin to accept the Committee Reports and Correspondence and place on file. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
12. Controller's Report.
Controller Pugh stated having a tight budget does not allow for things like infrastructure planning, repairs or maintenance, things like fixing dams, runway rehabilitation, FAA demands and many things that come up that we cannot do because of a tight budget.
13. Commissioners' Personal Privilege.
Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated in the future we will put numbers for the public to see regarding the millage increase.
14. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Kramer to adjourn, subject to the Call of Chairman at 7:05 P.M.

Henry Wender, Chairman

Dolly L Cook, County Clerk