

**DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012-6:30pm**  
**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, Vice Chairman Smith and Commissioners Degenauer Jr., Martin and Stevens. (5)

Absent: (0)

Also Present: County Clerk Dolly Cook, Prosecutor Stephanie Brule, Sheriff Scott Celeslo, Equalization Director Larry Swartout and Controller Kay Pascoe.

4. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Stevens to accept the agenda with the following addition:

**7.A.9 Finance**

9. Approve the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to set the starting salary for the Mine Inspector at \$27.08 per hour, with a limit of 150 hours per year, and require quarterly reports stipulating hours, mileage and activity subject to legal review. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

5. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Smith to approve the following meeting minutes as written:

Finance Committee – 4/19/12  
Regular Meetings – 4/23/12  
Committee of the Whole – 4/30/12

All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION:**

A. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)

Commissioner Martin introduced the following students from Mr. Hogbergs' Iron Mountain Government Class: Anthony Cazzola, Nick Ceconi and Camille Cory.

Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time. Lenny Reed, Representative of Congressman Benishek addressed the Board. He explained the new law regarding Timber Sales. He handed out a Sheet on the Timber Laws, which is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

B. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Martin

1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Stevens to approve Resolution a strongly opposing the proposal from the Michigan DHS to increase rates for private agencies providing foster care within the State of Michigan, as requested by the Probate Judge. All Ayes, Motion Carried. Commissioner Martin stated Probate Judge Tom Slagle wrote a letter strongly opposing this increase. She stated the increase would be 26% with no analysis done. She stated this is not the Foster Care that we think of. She stated these are Private Agencies.

**7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**A. Finance Committee – Finance Chairman John Degenauer, Jr**

1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Martin to approve the monthly bills for April in the amount of \$227,893.55. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|               |     |                 |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Degenauer Jr. | Aye |                 |
| Martin        | Aye |                 |
| Smith         | Aye |                 |
| Stevens       | Aye |                 |
| Wender        | Aye | Motion Carried. |

2. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Stevens to release the 50% share of the Convention & Tourism Tax to Western U.P. Substance Abuse in the amount of \$19,602.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|                |     |                 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Martin         | Aye |                 |
| Smith          | Aye |                 |
| Stevens        | Aye |                 |
| Wender         | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr., | Aye | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Martin asked if this was mandated by law? Pascoe stated it was. She asked if this was a motel tax? Pascoe explained how the tax is figured and who gets what.

3. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Martin to release the 2012 Senior Millage Funds to the Felch Senior Center in the amount of \$5,000. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

|               |     |                 |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Smith         | Aye |                 |
| Stevens       | Aye |                 |
| Wender        | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr. | Aye |                 |
| Martin        | Aye | Motion Carried. |

4. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Smith to approve the request of the Probate Court Judge to replace a copier in the Probate Court office at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. (Note: The used copier for \$2,280 approved on 4/30 is no longer available) Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

|                |     |                 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Stevens        | Aye |                 |
| Wender         | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr., | Aye |                 |
| Martin         | Aye |                 |
| Smith          | Aye | Motion Carried. |

5. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Stevens to approve the request from the MSU Extension for up to \$758 for the purchase of battery recycling boxes. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

|               |     |                 |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Wender        | Aye |                 |
| Stevens       | Aye |                 |
| Smith         | Aye |                 |
| Martin        | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr. | Aye | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Smith asked if they were lined with lead because they were so expensive. Pascoe explained they are heavier and that does include postage to return them.

6. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Martin to approve a request from the District Court Judge to attend the 2012 Annual District Judge's Judicial Conference on Aug. 8-10 in Thompsonville, MI at an approximate cost not to exceed \$825. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|                |     |                 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Degenauer Jr., | Aye |                 |
| Martin         | Aye |                 |
| Smith          |     | Nay             |
| Stevens        | Aye |                 |
| Wender         | Aye | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Smith stated this is more than appropriate for a two day conference.

7. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Martin to approve a request from the Probate Court Judge to attend the 2012 Probate Judge's Annual Conference on June 25-27 in Bay City, MI at an approximate cost of \$870. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|               |     |                 |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Martin        | Aye |                 |
| Smith         |     | Nay             |
| Stevens       | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr. | Aye |                 |
| Wender        | Aye | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Martin stated it is so expensive to go to conferences in lower Michigan.

8. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Stevens to approve a request from the Probate Court Judge to send two Probate Court Staff members to Michigan Probate and

Juvenile Registers Association 2012 Annual Conference on June 13-15 in Thompsonville, MI at an approximate cost of \$730. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|                |     |                 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Smith          | Nay |                 |
| Stevens        | Aye |                 |
| Wender         | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr., | Aye |                 |
| Martin         | Nay | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Stevens asked why they couldn't combine the conferences to save money?

9. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Martin to approve the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to set the starting salary for the Mine Inspector at \$27.08 per hour, with a limit of 150 hours per year, and require quarterly reports stipulating hours, mileage and activity and subject to legal review. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|                |     |                 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| Wender         | Aye |                 |
| Stevens        | Nay |                 |
| Smith          | Aye |                 |
| Martin         | Aye |                 |
| Degenauer Jr., | Nay | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Stevens said he would vote no because of the amount of liability with the mines we have this is not enough time allowed to do the job right. He stated he is not against lowering the wage, but not this much. He stated it basically comes down to liability.

Commissioner Smith stated the county spends \$78,000 for liability insurance now. He stated that is not a valid reason to save \$6,000 a year. Commissioner Stevens stated he did not agree with that. Commissioner Martin stated this brings us in line with adjoining Counties. Commissioner Martin stated she agrees with Commissioner Smith and the savings of \$6,000 a year. Commissioner Stevens stated Iron County has a mine inspector at \$6,000 a year so that is not right Commissioner Degenauer stated Delta and Menominee do not have mine inspectors because they have no mines. Commissioner Stevens stated fences come down and they have to be checked often and they are dangerous and \$4,000 is not enough. Commissioner Wender stated he thought they were grossly overpaid the past several years and he agrees with the cut. He stated there is not an active mine in the County. Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated he did not want it reduced at all because of the liability and he stated if you don't have the mine inspector check it, all the insurance policies in the world will mean nothing. Commissioner Smith stated the past Mine inspector stated it took 150 hours to 250 hours to do a good job.

**B. A-95 Review – Commissioner Joe Stevens**

1. Planning Commission meeting minutes of 3/22/12.

**C. Crystal Lake Center/YMCA – Commissioner Frank Smith – No report**

**D. Six County Employment Alliance – Commissioner Frank Smith –No Report**

**E. Planning and Zoning Committee – Commissioner Joe Stevens – No Report**

**F. DHS/Community Services Agency – Commissioner Frank Smith**

1. DHS meeting minutes of 2/27/12, 3/26/12.

**G. Dickinson-Iron Health Department – Commissioner Frank Smith –No Report**

**H. Northpointe – Commissioner Ann Martin**

1. Northpointe Board meeting minutes of 4/19/12.

**I. Pinecrest – Commissioner John Degenauer, Jr. – No Report**

**J. Equalization Committee – Commissioner John Degenauer, Jr. – No Report**

**K. Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling – Commissioner Frank Smith –No Report**

**L. Public Safety and Judiciary – Commissioner Henry Wender- No Report**

**M. Parks Committee – Commissioner Joe Stevens**

1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to authorize the Hamilton Lake Association to use Lake Mary Park on Saturday , July 21st for their annual picnic, subject to the execution of an indemnification agreement and the provision of proof of insurance. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve a request from the Hamilton Lakes Association to waive the fee to use the Lake Mary Park pavilion for their annual picnic. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Martin to authorize the Chairman to sign a lease renewal with the City of Iron Mountain for the East Lake Antoine Boat Landing. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**N. Airport Committee – Commissioner Henry Wender**

1. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Martin to approve a request from Brooks/Janousek, LLC to lease a parcel of land at Ford Airport for the construction of a 54' x 48' hangar. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Pascoe stated they will start negotiation for a lease that will come to the Full Board for approval.

**O. Fair Board – Commissioner John Degenauer, Jr.**

1. Fair Board meeting minutes of 4/3/12.

**P. Library Board – Commissioner Ann Martin**

1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Stevens to approve the request of the Library Board to include the millage request for .9 mills for 2015-2019 on the August 7, 2012 primary election. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**Q. Dickinson Partnership/Economic Dev. – Commissioner Joe Stevens – No Report**

**R. Employee Relations Committee – Commissioner Frank Smith –No Report**

**S. Dickinson County Hospital Committee – Commissioner Joe Stevens**

1. Hospital Board meeting minutes of 3/15/12.

**T. Dickinson County Road Commission – Commissioner Henry Wender**

1. Road Commission meeting minutes of 4/11/12.

**U. Construction Code Commission – Commissioner John Degenauer, Jr. – No Report**

**V. Bay West Advisory Committee – Commissioner Ann Martin – No Report**

**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 John Degenauer, Jr.**

1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to authorize advertising for applicants for an appointment to the Northpointe Board and any other openings available through July. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**10. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner John Degenauer, Jr.**

1. Motion by Commissioner Martin, supported by Commissioner Smith to cancel the May 28th meeting due to Memorial Day. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**11.** Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Martin, to accept Committee Reports and Correspondence and Place on File. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

**12.** Controller's Report –

Pascoe stated there will be an administrators meeting at the Island Resort and Casino on Friday.

**13.** Commissioners' Personal Privilege.

Commissioner Martin stated there is no business on Saturday and she will not be attending. She stated they have the Mine Inspectors report for Fumee Lake and asked that it be given to the Fumee Lake Commission. Commissioner Stevens stated he received a letter from Casperson about the Personal Property Tax and he said he will not support it unless the State reimburses 100%. He stated the sons of the American Legion have the Memorial on top of Pine Mountain and they want to expand the memorial. He explained what they want to do.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to allow them to do what was explained subject to insurance for those doing it, at no cost to the County. All Ayes, Motion Carried. He stated we need signage at Norway Lake. Norway Lake County Park Ahead, Slow Down and the total cost is \$454.00 for both signs.

Motion by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to pay \$454.00 for two signs to be placed prior to Norway Lake Park. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

|               |     |                 |
|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| Degenauer Jr. | Aye |                 |
| Martin        | Aye |                 |
| Smith         | Aye |                 |
| Stevens       | Aye |                 |
| Wender        | Aye | Motion Carried. |

Commissioner Smith stated the Health Department has a fund balance of \$712,000.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated the Norway Vulcan School was recognized as the top school in the U.P. and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the State.

Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Stevens to do a resolution recognizing Norway Vulcan School as the top school in the U.P. and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the State. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Commissioner Stevens thanked Benishek and Levin for helping keep the Post Office open in Kingsford.

Commissioner Wender stated the Township Association meeting will be held Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Norway Township Hall in Vulcan at 6:30 P.M.

Commissioner Wender stated he was at a meeting at the airport discussing a company that may come into our area as an air ambulance transport.

**14.** Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., supported by Commissioner Smith to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chairman at 7:13 P.M.

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Henry Wender, Chairman

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Dolly L. Cook, County Clerk