

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 26, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.
Courthouse - Circuit Courtroom

Tape 319

1. The meeting was called to Order by Chairman Wender at 5:00 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, John Degenauer and Ann Martin. (5)
Absent: None
Also Present: County Clerk Dolly Cook, Prosecutor Lisa Richards, Sheriff Scott Rutter, Administrative Assistant Christy Mattson, Equalization Director Sid Bray and Controller Brian Bousley
4. Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Kramer 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 with the following corrections to the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2018: 10.B. Petitions and New Business: The last sentence read " James Carollo, Benjamin Wood and Lynda Zanon were appointed to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a partial term to expire 2/27/2018. ***It should have read: James Carollo, Benjamin Wood and Lynda Zanon were appointed to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a partial term to expire 2/27/2019.***
13. Commissioners' Personal Privilege, second sentence read as follows:" Commissioner Stevens talked about NATO". ***It should have read: "Commissioner Stevens talked about NACO."***
It was the consensus of the Board to add the following to the minutes: Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated we have evaluated our Controller Brian Bousley in 5 areas. He stated his performance met all expectations and he was above the standard in all areas. He stated the Board is happy to have Brian here.
Commissioner Stevens stated he had a great evaluation and he is the professional we need in that seat and that is what we have needed all along. Commissioner Martin stated that is how everyone feels.

Special-Joint – March 9th
Special – March 9th
Regular – March 12th
Finance Meeting – March 15th 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.

Beverly Gaudette, Dickinson County, addressed the Board. She stated she has been an employee of Dickinson County Hospital for 30+ years. She stated their pension plan was dissolved and she will get a payout of less than 2 years of salary. She stated this will be a hardship for many employees. She asked the Board to talk to the hospital to increase the pensions or possibly share the money from the sale of the land.

Judi Schwalbach, Constituent Relations Representative for Attorney General Bill Shuette, addressed the Board. She stated the Attorney General is not the attorney for the people, he is the attorney for the State. She explained what the Attorney General office does and the programs they have.

B. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Degenauer-None

7. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

A. **Finance Committee** – Finance Chairperson Martin

1. Motion by Commissioner Martin seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the monthly bills for February in the amount of \$1,232,499.03. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

Degenauer Jr.,	Aye
Kramer	Aye
Martin	Aye
Stevens	Aye

Wender Aye Motion Carried.

- 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
 - 1. DICSA special meeting minutes of February 8th.
 - 2. DICSA meeting minutes of February 15th.
- F. **Dickinson-Iron Health Department** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- G. **Northpointe** – Commissioner Martin
 - 1. Northpointe meeting minutes of February 22nd.
- H. **Pinecrest** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- I. **Equalization Committee** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- J. **Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- K. **Public Safety and Judiciary** – Commissioner Wender-None
- L. **Parks Committee** – Commissioner Stevens
 - 1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the submittal of the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance Tree Planting Grant by the Lake Antoine Park Partners in the amount of \$2,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
 - Kramer Aye
 - Martin Aye
 - Stevens Aye
 - Wender Aye
 - Degenauer Jr.,Aye Motion Carried.
 - 2. (This was postponed until next year) Public discussion of DNR Trust Fund Grant to be submitted by Kiwanis Ski Club
 - 3. (This was postponed until next year.) Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to deny the submittal of the DNR Trust Fund Grant by the Kiwanis Ski Club. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- M. **Airport Committee** – Commissioner Wender
 - 1. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the 2018 -19 Aviation General Liability Policy. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - 2. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the purchase of a 2012 Dodge HD 2500 Crew Cab Truck with 7'6" Boss V-Plow in the amount of \$25,000.00 with the money coming from the Fontana Trust Fund.
 - Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
 - Martin Aye
 - Stevens Aye
 - Wender Aye
 - Degenauer Jr.,Aye
 - Kramer Aye Motion Carried.
- N. **Fair Board** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- O. **Library Board** – Commissioner Martin
 - 1. Library meeting minutes of February 13th.
- P. **Employee Relations** - Commissioner Degenauer
 - 1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the hiring of a 20 hour per week part-time Department Assistant for District Court.
 - Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
 - Stevens Aye

Wender	Aye	
Degenauer Jr.,		Nay
Kramer	Aye	
Martin	Aye	Motion Carried.

Q. **Dickinson County Hospital Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None

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

S. **Construction Code Commission** – Commissioner Degenauer
 1. Construction Code meeting minutes of January 16th.

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 addressed the Board. She asked how the meeting was going to be run if we have to leave Bay College at 9:00P.M. and everyone has not spoken?
 Dale Alessandrini asked why the two local dealers in trees were not asked to give their prices on the trees in the grant?
 Kevin Pirlot asked why the Commissioners have not reported on the special meetings held at the hospital on March 9th, 2018?

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

10. **PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:** - Commissioner Degenauer
 1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the issuance of five First National Bank of Iron Mountain credit cards to the Dickinson County Sheriff’s Department. Two cards to remain in the office, one card to be issued to Sheriff Rutter, one card to be issued to Under Sheriff Metras, and one card to be issued to Detective Derek Dixon with a total limit not to exceed \$5,000.00. Roll Call Vote; Commissioners:

Wender	Aye	
Stevens	Aye	
Martin	Aye	
Kramer	Aye	
Degenauer Jr.,	Aye	Motion Carried.

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

12. Controller’s Report.
 Controller Bousley thanked the Board for the positive evaluation. He stated he is glad to be here. He stated his job is easier because of the support of the Board and the Department Heads.
 Bousley stated the security grant is available for a metal detector. He stated the goal is to have someone at the door at all times. He stated the audit will begin the second week of April. He stated we will have to get bids for the following years. He stated the Airport will be open when the runway is closed from April 30th through May 14th.
 He stated he is writing a grant for the DNR for the Boat Launch. He states one person is interested in the concession stand and one person is interested in the camp host position. He stated the Courthouse will be closed on Friday at noon because of Good Friday.

13. Commissioners’ Personal Privilege.
 Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated our young people are waking us up about gun violence and the March for Life. He stated he is disappointed that our County is not doing anything for our youth since the removal of the 4-H program.
 Commissioner Kramer stated they will be getting more prices on the trees once the grant is approved. She stated they were on a very tight time frame at the time the grant was submitted.
 Commissioner Stevens stated the two meetings on March 9th were in closed session and they could not do a report about them. He stated the County does in general wonderful things for the youth in our County.
 Chairman Wender stated all people that talk at the Public hearing will have 3 minutes to speak.
 County Clerk Dolly Cook stated we can stay longer than 9:00P.M. if we have to. She warned the people not to leave after 9:00P.M. because the doors lock automatically and you will not get back in.

14. Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to recess the regular meeting at 5:30P.M. and later have a Public hearing located at Bay West, Fornetti Hall at 7:00P.M.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

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

Motion Carried.

1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to go into the Public Hearing on the Asset Purchase Agreement by and among Dickinson County Healthcare System and Bellin Healthcare Systems, Inc at 7:00P.M. All Ayes, Motion Carried. (Tape 320)

Chairman Wender thanked Bay West. He introduced County Clerk Dolly Cook, Prosecutor Lisa Richards, Controller Brian Bousley, and Commissioners Stevens, Kramer, Degenauer Jr., and Martin.

Bill Edberg, DCH thanked everyone for coming. He introduced Jeff Campbell, Dave Holmes, Dick Berlinski, Sally Blom, Steve Zurcher and Dr. Kube.

John Schon introduced some of his key staff, Peg Freeman, Eileen Sparpani, Sue Hadley, Mike Celello and the hospital employees and doctors.

George Kerwin introduced his people from Bellin, Sue Finco, Board member, CEO Chris Meleski, Jim Dietsch, Tom Arnt, Ms. Dettman and welcomed many employees and doctors from the Bellin Clinic.

Brian Bousley explained the position of the County Board and what has been done so far. He read the rules for public comment.

Dr. Loewen, Dickinson County, addressed the Board. He stated he has been here since 1977. He thanked his patients for coming. He stated he spoke with George Kerwin from Bellin and he will be able to continue to practice and admit people to the hospital. He stated you should thank Schon for keeping the hospital open for so long.

Dick Whaley, Dickinson County, addressed the Board. He stated he has been here for years and has had many doctors. He stated you must listen to your doctors. He stated he supports Dr. Loewen.

Becky Dessllier, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She stated she has been an employee of the hospital since 1987. She stated many employees are not working now. She stated they are looking forward to Bellin taking over.

Suzanne Berquist, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She stated she is an employee of the Hospital for 30 years. She hopes this acquisition will strengthen the community. She stated the employees will stand strong and expect the utmost transparency and will not except anything less.

Dr. Steve Leonard, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. He stated he has been here for 42 years. He stated he is employed by Bellin and they treat people well and fair and quality is high on their list and this is a good move.

Lola Johnson, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She asked questions about the pensions. She stated this has been in the works for three years and they just received paperwork a week ago? She asked if her pension will still be exempt from Michigan State Income Tax?

Bill Edberg stated there should be no effect if you continue the annuity.

Pam Maule, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She stated she is the DCH Staff Council President. She stated the DCH RN Staff Council is in full support of the Bellin acquisition.

Gerald McCole, Sagola, addressed the Board. He asked if Governor Snyder, the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House are in favor of this acquisition?

Mike Celello, Hospital Attorney, addressed Mr. McCole's comments. He stated the Attorney General has already signed off.

Roger Newhouse, Niagara, addressed the Board. He stated during the transition, Bellin should

poll the community about what we need instead of only considering the bottom line. (Money). He stated he is all for better healthcare.

Sue Bjorkman, Kingsford, addressed the Board. She stated she is an employee of the Hospital. She is excited with the changes coming from Bellin. She stated their diagnostic areas and their online billing will be such an improvement. She encouraged the Board to let Bellin follow through with this acquisition.

Wally Townsend, Sagola, addressed the Board. He stated his son is a type 1 diabetic and has to go to Marshfield to see an endocrinologist. He stated that ended and he had to go to Marquette every three months. He stated we need an endocrinologist here and hopes Bellin will send one to Iron Mountain.

Kevin Pirlot, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. He stated he was present 2 years ago when this started. He is impressed with Bellin Healthcare. His issue is how we got here. He stated this is only about the land. He stated they said we are not selling the hospital. He stated the County Board is responsible except for Commissioner Degenauer Jr., He welcomed Bellin.

Mike Celello stated his assumptions are incorrect. He stated the legislature changed the law for non-profits. He explained what a municipal nonprofit corporation was. He stated the County is the sole owner of the corporation.

Lori Senatori, Quinnesec, addressed the Board. She stated she did not understand why the retirement was not 100% funded. She stated she has to retire now instead of working longer. She stated the money has been mishandled, where did it go? She stated she has heard good things about Bellin.

Bill Edberg stated the financials are public. He stated they couldn't afford the retirement. He stated it is a frustrating position to be in.

John Schon stated the challenge is to sustain your position. He stated it has been difficult.

Dale Alessandrini, addressed the Board. He stated in 2016 the Hospital made money. He stated the revenues were \$100,000,000 and Blue Cross said you should have broken even. He stated Bousley stated the County is deeding the property back to the hospital. He stated the property is in escrow right now. He is glad Bellin is coming also.

Chad Niemi, Iron Mountain addressed the Board. He asked why are we under water now, how is Bellin going to fix that?

George Kerwin stated the employees are the assets and they are critical for this community. He stated DCH doesn't have the resources needed to run a modern health system. He stated they will put in a state of the art billing software. He stated the doctors are not organized. He stated the volume of patients who come here and how important they are to the community. He stated Bellin will ask what is needed here to be the best hospital.

Dick Whaley addressed the Board again. He stated it is very important to have trained nurses.

Dr. John Loewen addressed the Board. He stated that Federal, State and insurances started pulling back funding. He stated Schon has to buy doctors. He stated Michigan is 6th from the bottom in payments. He stated 20% are private pay. He stated this is not Schon's fault and he (Loewen) is not in Schon's pocket.

Dr. Shaker, Dickinson County, addressed the Board. He stated how did we have this hospital for so long? He stated it is great to find a partner who focuses on people. He stated we are so lucky.

Kevin Pirlot addressed the Board. He welcomed Bellin. He stated the County Board wanted a quality hospital. He asked what are our assurances that our wishes of 1994 will continue?

John Schon stated they paid off the bonds in 1974. He stated they never got funds from the taxpayer, it was a general obligation bonds.

LeAnn Gingrass, Iron Mountain, Michigan addressed the Board. She is supporting our hospital and Bellin. She asked why there was no choice on where to put the payout? She asked who will be handling the pension funds? She stated no one could answer her question. She stated when retirees signed the statement they were releasing the hospital and Bellin from all liability.

Bill Edberg stated those remaining with the annuity will be with an A-1 Company.

Rick Gingrass, Breitung Township addressed the Board. He stated he knows how a collaborative effort works and he thanked the hospital.

Bruce St. Arnauld, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for keeping the hospital here. He stated everyone needs Dr. Loewen. He thanked Bellin and asked them to take care of the employees and doctors.

George Kerwin stated Dr. Loewen will continue to practice.

Jim Fornetti, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board and stated he agreed with Mr. St. Arnold.

Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Stevens to close the Public hearing and enter back into the regular meeting at 8:20 P.M. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated the ultimate goal was to keep the Hospital. He stated we need this hospital in this community.

Commissioner Kramer read a statement that is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Martin thanked everyone for coming. She stated this has been a long process and she is impressed with Bellin.

Commissioner Stevens thanked everyone for coming. He stated it's all about the big picture and what is best for the community.

2. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the Asset Purchase Agreement by and among Dickinson County Healthcare Systems and Bellin Healthcare Systems, Inc. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
Degenauer Jr., Aye
Kramer Aye
Martin Aye
Stevens Aye
Wender Aye Motion Carried.

Commissioner Wender heard criticism about the Hospital. He mentioned many other failed hospitals. He stated the hospital has been in good hands.

Commissioner Stevens read a report that is on file in the County Clerk's Office. He thanked all employees and the doctors for a job well done.

Commissioner Wender stated people resist change, but sometimes it is necessary. He thanked Brian, the Board, DCH, Bellin and those in attendance.

15. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn, subject to the Call of Chairman at 8:35 PM.

Henry Wender, Chairman

Dolly L. Cook, County Clerk