

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 24, 2019 - 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, John Degenauer and Kevin Pirlot. (5)
Absent: None
Also, Present: County Clerk Dolly Cook, Sheriff Scott Rutter, Equalization Director Sid Bray, and Controller Brian Bousley
4. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Stevens to accept the agenda with one add on: 7. Reports of Standing Committees:
 E. DHHS/DISCA
 5. Approve/Deny: A letter supporting DISCA in their grant application efforts for the purpose of continuing aging programs they have offered for over 25 years.
And move 9.B to after Citizen's Time, and Kevin wants to discuss special meetings under new business.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
5. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the following meeting minutes with one correction under 13. Commissioners Personal Privilege, 5th line read as follows: He stated Enbridge pipeline was at a meeting and they stated how the pipeline will be built.
It should have read: "He stated Enbridge pipeline was at a meeting and they stated how the tunnel will be built."
Regular – June 10th 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 Candy Brew, Mayor of Norway addressed the Board. She stated she is concerned about traffic from and to the landfill. She asked who will fix the roads? She asked why Norway instead of Quinnesec? She asked how long will this go on? She asked the Board to postpone any vote. She asked to contact Verso to go through their land. She stated some of the roads have no curbs. She thanked the Board.
Betsy Benzie, Iron Mountain, addressed the Board. She stated she did not want the Senior Center to close. She asked someone to come and talk to the seniors that use the center on Thursday or Friday's afternoons.
Jack Peterson, Quinnesec, addressed the Board. He stated the road is getting torn up and trucks go through every hour and there are many kids around.
Lee Meneghini, Norway, addressed the Board. He stated 67% of the municipalities have to approve this. He thanked the Board for supporting Line 5.
Dan Carlson, Quinnesec, addressed the Board. He stated in 2016 they petitioned the Board with 600 signatures. He stated no one wants these trucks. He stated it is dangerous. He stated listen to the people.
Larry Lindholm, Quinnesec, addressed the Board. He stated the Solid Waste Authority has to be changed. He stated most people were against this. He stated this will open the door for something else like industrial waste. He asked the Board to stop this now!
Scott Popp, Norway, addressed the Board. He stated we can keep our waste and they can keep theirs. He stated as a Board member from Norway City he has never agreed to this.
Brett Kraemer, Norway, stated the City did not give their blessing.
Mike Bronzyk stated we should contact Verso. He stated we have done many things for them like tax abatements. He asked who would police these trucks?
Mary Beth Paul, Norway stated there are already problems with these big trucks. She stated the road is too small for these big trucks and it is very dangerous.
George Olson, Quinnesec addressed the Board. He asked about rail? He stated there are two wetlands and the trucks always go faster than 35mph.
Marty Fittante, Invest U.P. addressed the Board. He stated 110 jobs are at risk. He stated they are coming to ask for help for these 110 jobs. He stated this mill will close and may close permanently if we cannot help.

Nancy Douglas addressed the Board. She stated this mill was started in 1996. She stated this company has been a good corporate citizen. She stated they produce a 9-million-dollar payroll. She stated they are profitable. She asked to please help if we can.

Commissioner Stevens stated as the land dries out, the truck traffic should go down.

Lang stated most farmers that receive the sludge are in Delta County and Menominee County. He stated Verso would be a perfect solution but it will take time. He stated Menominee helped Grede when they needed it.

Commissioner Pirlot asked what landfills they use?

Lang replied they use Delta, Grand Tech, and Waste Management and they are reviewing their customers and are not accepting mill waste. She explained where they were and which ones they use and why they cannot use them now. She stated they also use Hiawatha Shores and the distance of that one makes it not profitable.

Commissioner Pirlot asked with these landfills not accepting mill waste, will we be seeing more people ask to dump here?

Commissioner Kramer stated this is a temporary problem and we are in a state of emergency because everything is so wet.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., wants to help but our citizens are speaking loudly. He stated he realizes this a timely request.

Commissioner Stevens stated no county wants to lose business, He stated he will support this because it comes down to jobs and economics. He stated there are trucks everywhere. He stated we need to do what's best for the U.P. and we cannot afford to lose 110 jobs.

Commissioner Wender stated he cannot support this because of all the calls he received today!

9B was moved up to here:

- B. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request from Resolute Forest Products to transport short fiber residual to the Niagara Development landfill. The transportation will be restricted to the following terms: 1) a maximum of 16 trucks daily, 2) hours of operation are restricted to 6am to 3pm, 3) short fiber residual (white paper sludge) shall be the only materials transported to the Niagara Development landfill. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:

Degenauer Jr., Nay

Kramer Aye

Pirlot Nay

Stevens Aye

Wender Nay Motion Failed

Commissioner Pirlot stated he believes this is out of order and issue a public hearing through the Solid Waste Authority.

Commissioner Stevens says there has to be a public hearing after the fact.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated if we allow this, others will want to come and his question is can we control someone's business?

Commissioner Pirlot feels this is inappropriate. He stated how would we stop other companies from dumping?

Motion by Degenauer Jr., supported by Stevens to meet with Resolute, Fittante, County Board, City of Norway, Verso, neighboring counties and municipalities and talk about this and hopefully find a solution. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

- B. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Stevens

1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve Resolution 2019-13 in Support of the DCHS Board of Trustees' Loan Application to Borrow \$25 Million dollars from USDA Rural Development Agency. All Ayes, Motion Carried

Commissioner Stevens read the resolution.

DICKINSON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2019-13

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES' LOAN APPLICATION TO BORROW \$25 MILLION DOLLARS FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

WHEREAS, The Dickinson County Healthcare System has been in operation for the past 68 years; and

WHEREAS, Dickinson County Healthcare System is critical in providing access to quality, affordable health care in the south-central Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the closest health care system and hospital providing comparable medical services to

our residents of Dickinson County and northeastern Wisconsin is located more than 90 miles away; and

WHEREAS, the DCHS Board of Trustees and the internal leadership of DCHS have aggressively addressed the financial and medical needs for the benefits of our residents; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the proposed USDA \$25 million-dollar loan will be used to stabilize and restructure DCHS' long term financial obligations; and

WHEREAS, the remaining portion of the proposed USDA \$25 million-dollar loan will be used to purchase and upgrade critically needed medical equipment, new MRI and Linac for radiation oncology therapy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the DCHS Board of Trustees USDA Rural Development loan in the amount of \$25 million dollars.

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Henry Wender, Chairman

Joe Stevens, Commissioner

John Degenaer, Jr. Commissioner

Kevin Pirlot, Commissioner

Barbara Kramer, Commissioner

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 June 24, 2019 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, this 24th day of June, 2019.

Dolly L. Cook, Clerk

Date

2. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve resolution 2019-14 to Preserve the Public Mental Health System. All Ayes, Motion Carried

**DICKINSON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2019-14
RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, Michigan's public mental health system provides one of the broadest arrays of cutting edge, community-based mental health services and supports throughout our Upper Peninsula region; and

WHEREAS, Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) were created by County Boards of Commissioners as duly authorized under 330.1205 of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, Five CMHSPs representing fifteen counties in the Upper Peninsula created a regional entity, NorthCare Network, to manage Medicaid specialty services as duly authorized under 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, County Boards of Commissioners across the Upper Peninsula region support the preservation of the current public mental health system delivery and management; and

WHEREAS, All five CMHSPs in the Upper Peninsula region (Copper Country CMH, Gogebic CMH, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, Northpointe Behavioral Health and Pathways CMH) support the preservation of the current public mental health system delivery and management; and

WHEREAS, Senate and House 298 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2020 effectively nullifies the duly authorized actions taken by Community Mental Health Service Programs to create a regional entity under section 330204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 298 of the Executive Budget recommendations for 2020 have no accountability to the Upper Peninsula's fifteen County Boards of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, County Boards of Commissioners across the Upper Peninsula oppose any involvement

in a pilot program in the Upper Peninsula region that is not supported by the regional public mental health leadership; and
WHEREAS, Section 298 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2020 will result in the elimination of public specialty mental health services that are accountable to the communities of persons residing in the fifteen counties of the Upper Peninsula.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners does hereby oppose Section 298 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2020 and encourages the Governor, State Senate, and State House of Representatives to prevent it from becoming law.

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Henry Wender, Chairman

Joe Stevens, Commissioner

John Degenauer, Jr. Commissioner

Kevin Pirlot, Commissioner

Barbara Kramer, Commissioner

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 June 24, 2019 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, this 24th day of June, 2019.

Dolly L. Cook, Clerk

Commissioner Stevens stated this is to keep Northpointe and others from becoming private.

3. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve resolution 2019-15 Support of Line "5". Degenauer, Kramer, Stevens, Wender Ayes, Pirlot did not vote. Motion Carried

**DICKINSON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2019-15
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LINE 5**

WHEREAS, Enbridge's Line 5 has been operating safely and reliably in Michigan for more than 65 years; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge's Line 5, a light crude and natural gas liquids pipeline, helps to safely meet Michigan's energy needs by fulfilling more than half of the propane needs of the state; and

WHEREAS, the products delivered to regional refineries provide jobs and ultimately fuel our lives; and

WHEREAS, multiple and extensive inspections and safety tests over the last several years have confirmed the integrity of Line 5 at the Straits of Mackinac as fit for service; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has proposed to invest \$500 million to make a safe pipeline safer by placing a tunnel with one-foot-thick concrete walls 100 feet underground and make the chances of a leak into the Straits virtually zero; and

WHEREAS, consequences to energy supply, local producers, regional airports and refineries, jobs, local economies and the pocketbook of Michiganders across the U.P. and the state are too great for Line 5 to be shut down before the tunnel replacement can be completed;

WHEREAS, Enbridge has demonstrated a willingness to work with the state to both protect the Great Lakes and ensure the continued safe delivery of energy we all rely on.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners extends its support for Enbridge's proposed tunnel replacement project and urges the State of Michigan to work with Enbridge to complete the tunnel project as quickly as possible and not disrupt Line 5 service before the tunnel can be completed.

Henry Wender, Chairman

Date

Dolly L. Cook, County Clerk

Commissioner Pirlot asked to wait to vote on this due to a meeting between the Governor and Enbridge.

7. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

- A. **Finance Committee** – Finance Chairperson Kramer
1. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Degenaer Jr., to approve budget amendment #3 for the 2019 FY. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- B. **A-95 Review** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- C. **Six County Employment Alliance** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- D. **Planning and Zoning Committee** – Commissioner Kramer-None
- E. **DHHS / DICSA** – Commissioner Kramer
1. DICSA meeting minutes of May 9th.
2. DHHS meeting agenda of June 27th.
3. DHHS meeting minutes of April 25th.
4. DHHS 2019 Board meeting schedule

5. Motion by Kramer, seconded by Stevens to approve a letter supporting DICSA in their grant application efforts for the purpose of continuing aging programs they have offered for over 25 years. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- F. **Dickinson-Iron Health Department** – Commissioner Stevens-None
Commissioner Stevens stated the Health Department is in the process of buying the building they are in now on Pyle Drive.
- G. **Northpointe** – Commissioner Pirlot
1. Motion by Commissioner Pirlot seconded by Commissioner Degenaer Jr., to approve the 3rd quarter payment request by Northpointe in the amount of \$24,907.50. Roll Call Vote:
Commissioners:
Kramer Aye
Pirlot Aye
Stevens Aye
Wender Aye
Degenaer Jr.,Aye Motion Carried.

2. Northpointe meeting minutes of May 23rd.
- H. **Pinecrest** – Commissioner Degenaer-None
- I. **Equalization Committee** – Commissioner Degenaer-None
EQ Dir. Sid Bray viewed the MTT (Michigan Tax Tribunal) website and noticed an appeal from PM Lodging LLC which is the Pine Mountain Lodge and associated Timberstone Golf operation. 21 parcels are under appeal, twelve of which are in Breitung Twp at a taxable value difference of \$527,800 and the other nine parcels within the City of Iron Mountain at \$797,800 in taxable value contention. The total taxable value difference is \$1,325,600. The Lodge and parking area and condos are in the township, while the 18-hole golf course is within the city limits. Worst case scenario based on these value contentions would be potential loss in operating revenue to County operations of roughly \$8,100, City of Iron Mountain \$16,500 and to Breitung Twp around \$2,200.
The Director thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the County as Equalization Director the past six years and twenty-two years overall. The experience has been rewarding, challenging and educational. The positives far outweigh any negatives such as reporting on the MTT appeals. The Director reminded the Board that Assist. Director Matt Baumgartner will start his Level 3 coursework next month and will complete his educational requirements in mid-January whereby he will then take the next step up as the Director.
Commissioner Stevens thanked Sid for a job well done and stated any County would have loved to have Sid in their employment because he did such a good job.
- J. **Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling** – Commissioner Degenaer-None

- K. **Public Safety and Judiciary** – Commissioner Wender
1. Sheriff's office monthly report for May.
 2. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Pirlot to approve the Sheriff to hire a Road Patrol Deputy to fill the current vacancy. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- L. **Parks Committee** – Commissioner Stevens
1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request made by the Northern Lights YMCA to host swim practice at the Lake Antoine Park on the dates noted on the submitted facility use form. All Ayes, Motion Carried
 2. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Pirlot to approve the request made by the Northern Lights YMCA to host swim lessons at the Lake Antoine Park on the July and August dates noted on the submitted facility use form. All Ayes, Motion Carried
 3. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request made by the Northern Lights YMCA to host the 2nd annual open swim at the Lake Antoine Park on August 17th. All Ayes, Motion Carried
 4. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve a ninety-nine-year lease agreement between the Kiwanis Ski Club and Dickinson County for the property identified by Property Identification Number 002-426-001.00. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- M. **Airport Committee** – Commissioner Wender-None
- N. **Fair Board** – Commissioner Degenauer
1. Fair Board meeting minutes of April 4th.
 2. Fair Board meeting minutes of May 7th.
- Commissioner Wender thanked the Fair Board for all their work on the bathrooms in the grandstands and the Fair Grounds.
- O. **Library Board** – Commissioner Pirlot
1. Library Board meeting minutes of May 14th.
- P. **Employee Relations** - Commissioner Degenauer
1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request made by the Dickinson County Treasurer, Lorna Carey to attend the 2019 Summer Treasurer's Conference in Frankenmuth on August 4-7. All Ayes, Motion Carried
 2. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the request from District Court Judge LaCost to place the Candidate of the shared Department Assistant between the District Court and Probate Court at year 3 of paygrade (T1950-6) due to the candidate being employed by Dickinson County for nearly seven years. The candidate is currently a Correctional Officer with a wage of \$20.645 per hour, the requested wage (year 3 of the Department Assistant wage scale) is \$18.027. Roll Call Vote:
Commissioners:
Pirlot Aye
Stevens Aye
Wender Aye
Degenauer Jr.,Aye
Kramer Aye Motion Carried.
- Q. **Dickinson County Hospital Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- R. **Dickinson County Road Commission** – Commissioner Wender
1. DCRC meeting minutes of May 14th.
- S. **Construction Code Commission** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- T. **Bay West Advisory Committee** - Commissioner Degenauer-None
- U. **Veterans' Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None

