

DICKINSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 22, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.
Courthouse - Circuit Courtroom
Tape 383

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 Degenauer Jr. seconded by Commissioner Stevens to accept the agenda with the following addition:
7. M. 1. Airport Committee
Amend existing motion to read:
The Controller to utilize Coleman Engineering Company to design and engineer the sewer and water for the Ford Airport hangar development project.
All Ayes, Motion carried.
5. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Pirlot to approve the following meeting minutes as written:
Regular – April 8th All Ayes, Motion Carried.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION:**
Commissioner Kramer introduced the following students from Mr. Hogberg's Iron Mountain Government Class: Adrian Vecenzi, Max Fornetti, Lexi Hagan, and Dan Anderson.
 - A. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)
Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time and there was no participation.
 - B. Ms. Jennifer Cescolini – CEO Northpointe
Cescolini handed out the strategic Plan FY19 & FY20. (It is on file in the County Clerk's Office.) She explained the strategic plan. She introduced her staff and Board members present. She stated she has to do work with their Community Partners. Commissioner Stevens stated mental health at the federal and state levels are not progressing. She stated we have to cut out the waste and use the Medicaid dollars in many ways to maximize our funding. Commissioner Kramer stated the facility in Northern Lower Michigan has been put on hold for the time being. She asked is there anything we can do to put pressure on the law makers? Commissioner Pirlot stated Jennifer is doing a wonderful job and she is well informed. She (Cescolini) stated she believes in transparency. She stated she will be looking forward to working with law enforcement.
 - C. Mr. Paul Putnam – MSUE
Putman handed out some handouts that are on file in the County Clerk's Office. He explained the many workshops they are going to have and that they have had. He stated they are having the first ever connecting tourism on June 25, 2019. He stated they will not be getting involved with marihuana at this time. He stated they are partnering with Bay college in their agricultural operations. He talked about future businesses in our area and he said we have a lot to be proud of. He again asked for the funding request of \$20,000.
 - D. Resolutions and Legislation – Commissioner Stevens
 1. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve resolution 2019-6 Honoring Aaron Harper. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Dickinson County Resolution 2019-6
Honoring Aaron Harper

Whereas Mr. Aaron Harper has been a stalwart champion for the betterment of Dickinson County for more than 45 years through his various affiliations with local organizations.

Whereas Aaron Harper has honorably served his County in the United States Airforce and has been a staunch supporter for the local veteran's organizations and the Dickinson County Veterans Affairs Office.

Whereas Aaron Harper was the first voice heard on WJNR when it went on the air in 1972, and his voice carried the messages of community issues, presenting both sides of the argument and allowing the listeners to decide. Aaron's tireless effort to keep the public informed and aware has been paramount for public awareness in Dickinson County.

Whereas Aaron Harper has always been mindful of the interest of community awareness and has been tirelessly working to promote area events and the organizations of Dickinson County.

Whereas Aaron Harper's civic mindfulness, community engagement, and tireless dedication for the betterment of Dickinson County are beyond reproach.

Now therefore be it resolved, the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners formally acknowledges and extends its profound appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Aaron Harper for his many years of dedicated service and unwavering service to the people of Dickinson County.

Be it further resolved, this testimony of our earnest appreciation be made a part of the public record and that a copy be presented to Mr. Aaron Harper.

Henry Wender

Joe Stevens

John Degenauer, Jr.

Barbara Kramer

Kevin Pirlot

Commissioner Stevens stated it will be Sunday April 28, 1-4 p.m.

7. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

A. **Finance Committee** – Finance Chairperson Kramer

1. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Amendment # 2. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve the payment of \$13,345 to LAFORCE for the keyless entry project, funds to be taken from account number 259-421- 945-000 Capital Outlay from the E911 Fund. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

Degenauer Jr., Aye

Kramer Aye

Pirlot Aye

Stevens Aye

Wender Aye

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-None

Motion by Commissioner Pirlot, seconded by commissioner Degenauer Jr., to authorize the County Controller to engage a contractor to construct a new sewerlift station and new sewer line for the Iron Mountain Senior Center and the expense of constructing this new system be paid out of the Personal Property Tax Reimbursement received for the Senior Center Millage and that the remaining funds of said account be earmarked for the Norway, Breen, Felch, and Sagola centers. The motion was amended after the approval of the prosecutor's office. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioners:

Kramer Nay

Pirlot Aye

Stevens Nay

Wender Nay

Degenauer Jr., Aye

Motion Failed.

Motion by Commissioner Pirlot, seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to approve the original motion to authorize the County Controller to engage a contractor to construct a new sewerlift station and new sewer line for the Iron Mountain Senior Center and the expense of constructing this new system be paid out of the Personal Property Tax Reimbursement received for the Senior Center Millage and that the remaining funds of said account be earmarked for the Norway, Breen, Felch, and Sagola centers. Roll Call Vote": Commissioners:

Pirlot Aye

Stevens	Nay	
Wender	Nay	
Degenauer Jr.,	Aye	
Kramer	Nay	Motion Failed.

Commissioner Pirlot read the following statement: The Iron Mountain Senior Center is a County owned property that is leased to the Iron Mountain senior center, The Center has also entered into a lease with DICSA for the use of the Kitchen to cook meals for home bound seniors. The ongoing sewer problems have led to the Health Department to order the Kitchen closed until further notice.

The Iron Mountain Senior Center hired a plumbing contractor to make repairs to the sewer. In the course of making repairs the contractor discovered a number of deficiencies that would not be allowed in constructing said sewer today. The Center has paid the contractor an excess of \$43,000 for the repairs to the current sewer.

The Dickinson Iron Community Action Agency (DICSA) has not been able to gain permission from the Health Department to open the kitchen for commercial use, despite the repairs and addition of a backflow device. DICSA has used the Breen Center in Kingsford to cook meals, a site that is too small to continue to do so. There have not been any other kitchens found for the cooking of these meals.

There is growing concern that the meals on wheels will come to an end if this is not solved soon. The DICSA board has even discussed building their own kitchen in their building.

I agree this has gone on too long and it's the time to take action. The State of Michigan has implemented the Local community stabilization disbursements. This action is to replace a portion of property taxes lost to the recent changes in business Personal Property tax. The County wide Senior Center millage has received approximately \$80,000 of this funding. This revenue was not budgeted for.

Commissioner Stevens asked if we had a quote yet?

Commissioner Wender stated this is not a County problem and the County should not pay anything for this lift station.

Controller Bousley stated the cost is between \$62,000-\$64,000 and we have approximately \$80,000 in the senior millage account. He stated the prosecutor is checking the wording of the ballot to see if we can use it.

Commissioner Pirlot stated this must be done now.

Commissioner Stevens stated this is a crisis and we should wait until the Senior Center and DICSA meet and wait for the Prosecutor's opinion.

Commissioner Kramer stated we should wait until after the meeting and then we can call a special meeting.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated he agrees with Pirlot but thinks we should wait until the Prosecutor gives her opinion.

F. **Dickinson-Iron Health Department** – Commissioner Stevens
 1. Board of Health meeting minutes of February 27th.

G. **Northpointe** – Commissioner Pirlot-None

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

I. **Equalization Committee** – Commissioner Degenauer
 1. Motion by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the 2019 Equalization Report. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 Sid Bray, Equalization Director began by explaining the need for Equalization. It's required by the State Constitution that properties are assessed at 50% of market value and to that end the EQ Dept. conducts an annual sales study to set the market in each of the five classes of real and personal property for the local assessor to bring into compliance any classes that are either over or under assessed from the 50% ratio. State

Tax Commission then oversees each of the 83 county equalization departments to provide a system of checks and balances. Overall real and personal property increased \$12,464,865 or 1.23% increase over the prior year. 2018 construction season produced building permits that outpaced recent prior years and some of that pushed the number higher along with market value changes particularly in the residential class. Only one settled case in the MTT (former K-Mart Plaza) would be reflected in the 2019 EQ Report, the other five outstanding cases will affect the 2020 Report.

Sid briefly described the revised format for the EQ Report displaying prior year values on each page and the resulting value changes to the current year with overall % change.

He discussed the loss or gain in the respective real or personal property classes for 2019 vs 2018 and the changes in value in the four school districts. All four districts showed an increase with the largest percentage in the Norway-Vulcan district at 1.9%

Question from commissioner Degenauer about why if every assessor brings their classes into required 50% compliance do we have MTT appeals? EQ Dir. explained those isolated cases appear statewide where the Tribunal has favored the petitioner in recent years and is part of what's being addressed in the pending Menards vs city of Escanaba "dark store" case.

- J. **Building & Supply/Real Estate-Remodeling** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- K. **Public Safety and Judiciary** – Commissioner Wender
 - 1. Sheriff's office monthly report of March.
- L. **Parks Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- M. **Airport Committee** – Commissioner Wender
 - 1. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Stevens to approve the County Controller to utilize Coleman Engineering Company to design and engineer the sewer/water project for the Ford Airport hangar development project. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
- N. **Fair Board** – Commissioner Degenauer
 - 1. Fair Board meeting minutes of March 5th.
- O. **Library Board** – Commissioner Pirlot-None
- P. **Employee Relations** - Commissioner Degenauer-None
- Q. **Dickinson County Hospital Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
Commissioner Stevens stated things are going well.
- R. **Dickinson County Road Commission** – Commissioner Wender
 - 1. DCRC meeting minutes of January 8th.
 - 2. DCRC meeting minutes of February 12th.
 - 3. DCRC meeting minutes of March 12th.
- S. **Construction Code Commission** – Commissioner Degenauer-None
- T. **Bay West Advisory Committee** - Commissioner Degenauer-None
- U. **Veterans' Affairs Committee** – Commissioner Stevens-None
- 8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Stevens-None
- 9. **PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:** - Commissioner Stevens
 - A. Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the 1st and 2nd quarter payment request from Felch Township Senior Center in the amount of \$3,383.50. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners:
 - Stevens Aye
 - Wender Aye
 - Degenauer Jr., Aye
 - Kramer Aye
 - Pirlot AyeMotion Carried.
 - B. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Kramer to approve the date change of the County Board of Commissioners Meeting from May 27th to May 28th due to the observation of Memorial Day.
All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - C. Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Pirlot to appoint Jim Carey and Allan Bilski to the Road Commission for three-year terms to expire 4/30/22. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stevens seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to appoint Mike Miller to the Veteran's Affairs Board for a partial term to expire 12/31/22. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Kramer to appoint Wally Townsend to the Economic Development Board for a partial term to expire 2/27/25.

10. Motion by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr. to accept the Committee reports and Correspondence and place on file. All Ayes, Motion Carried.
 - A. Annual Drain Commissioner report for 2018.
11. Controller's Report.

Controller Bousley stated he is changing the bids for the Courthouse roof. He stated VanOss is working on the tree cutting at Pine Mountain. He stated this is the last equalization report Sid will give. He stated Sid is here all the time and he is very dedicated. He stated he will be missed very much. He stated the auditors will be done next week. He stated we may have to change the structure of the Veteran's Affairs. He stated he will meet with the Senior Center and DICSA on Tuesday.
12. Citizens' Time: (Limited to five minutes per person)

Chairman Wender opened the floor to Citizens' Time. Equalization Director Sid Bray stated that the municipalities settled with O'Reily Auto and Thomas Theaters and the County will lose \$1,200 from O'Reily's and \$1,800 from Thomas Theaters. He stated there are more coming. There was no other participation.
13. Commissioners' Personal Privilege.

Commissioner Degenauer Jr., stated the progress on the bathrooms is coming along. He asked if the failure of Kevin's motion means we do nothing?
Commissioner Stevens stated we are waiting to make sure we are doing it right.
Commissioner Kramer stated we will not let the Senior Center and DICSA die. She stated the Lake Antoine Partners are at 50% of their goal.
Commissioner Stevens stated the big picture for seniors are the 200 meals. He stated Everette Anderson from Iron Mountain won the Welding competition out of 11 students. He stated we need more of this. He stated kudos to Everett. He stated there is a good article on the dark stores issue in the paper. He stated the cost has been extreme.
Commissioner Pirlot asked if the Health Department is looking at buying a building? Commissioner Stevens stated yes, the building they are in.
Commissioner Pirlot asked if the Foster City Bridge is being done? Commissioner Wender stated he hoped it would be in the Road Commission Budget next year.
Commissioner Pirlot asked why the hospital meeting was changed?
Commissioner Stevens stated he did not know why.
Commissioner Pirlot stated the Senior Center is meeting its lease requirements.
14. Motion by Commissioner Kramer seconded by Commissioner Degenauer Jr., to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chairman at 7:15 PM.

Henry Wender, Chairman

Dolly L. Cook, County Clerk