

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 in District Court room of the Schoolcraft County Building, City of Manistique, Michigan, commencing at 7:00 P.M. Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar called the meeting to order. The roll was called with the following members present and/or absent:

Present: Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar
Commissioner Daniel J. LaFoilie
Commissioner George Ecclesine
Commissioner John W. Zellar
Schoolcraft County Clerk Daniel R. McKinney

Absent: Commissioner Allen Grimm (Excused)

Also present: Schoolcraft County Treasurer Julie Roscioli

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar led the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners and the members of the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

It was moved by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2010 Audit/Board meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners as printed. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of all Board Members present. [Copies of minutes are available at the Office of the Schoolcraft County Clerk.]

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the printed agenda. Commissioners asked that Brownfield Contract and 2% Funding Request from the Sheriff's Department be added to the agenda under "New Business". **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the amended agenda.

"Public Hearings": Chairperson Gerald Zellar announced that the FY 2011 Budget, continued from September 9, 2010.

"Brief Public Comment": Chairperson Gerald Zellar called for "Brief Public Comment" and for any comment on the FY 2011 Budget.

Dave Anderson, MSU Extension Director, spoke in support of funding MSU in full and noted revenues available from the DTR Fund and from Medical Insurance line items.

Chris Rantanen, MSU employee, spoke in support of funding for MSU.

Lloyd Matthes, CUPPAD Director, spoke regarding the appropriation cut to CUPPAD noting an understanding of difficult financial times, asked that consideration for appropriations to CUPPAD be considered for next year and offered to help Schoolcraft County in any way.

Carrie A. from the Strategic Alliance for Health spoke in support of funding for MSU Extension.

Tom Jenerou, Hiawatha Township Clerk, spoke in support of funding for MSU.

Ann Harrington, Schoolcraft County, spoke in support of funding for MSU Extension.

Pat Rodman of Manistique spoke in support of funding for MSU Extension.

Commissioner LaFoille said this is not a death sentence for MSU. He said he would promise to reconsider funding after the six month appropriation is gone, but he feels that a millage is an absolute necessity.

Commissioner John Zellar said he wants to see MSU stay. Commissioner John Zellar said he is not generally in favor of a millage but he believes that the people of Schoolcraft County would support a millage for the kids of our community. Further, Commissioner John Zellar said he has to go along with the Finance Committee with the option for a millage for MSU Extension. Commissioner John Zellar also noted that he was not at the last meeting, not because he doesn't care, but because he had a long standing commitment as a Board Member on the Timberman's Association.

Chairperson Gerald Zellar said he grew up in 4-H and this is one of the last things for kids to do in our community. Chairperson Gerald Zellar said he believes the first dollars to come back into the fund balance should go to MSU.

Char Crosby Director of the Eva Burrell Animal Shelter spoke regarding the cut to the Humane Society noting

that the animal shelter functions as the facility that cares for abandoned animals in the county which saves the County money. Further, Ms. Crosby noted that she understands and appreciates the financial problems of the County and hopes that during the year the Board will consider appropriations to the Humane Society if the money becomes available.

Jean Anderson of Schoolcraft County asked if it was possible to impose a one cent per dollar sales tax in the County.

Commissioner LaFoille made a motion to close the “Public Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget” which died for lack of support.

“Old and Unfinished Business”: **It was moved** by Commissioner LaFoille and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to index the following nine items from the Audit Finance Meeting of August 5, 2010. Commissioner LaFoille noted that the action taken by the Board to request a refund from MERS in the amount of \$1,345.90 and use it for MSU is not possible because he found that MERS does not give a refund, but gives a credit which is taken off the next bill. Chairperson Gerald Zellar said we could then take this from another line item which would have been used to pay the bill. Schoolcraft County Treasurer Julie Roscioli noted that this was money that was taken out of the Treasurer’s budget and should go back to the Treasurer’s budget. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

1) It was moved by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve a purchase requisition from Public Transit in the amount of \$207.45 for a circuit board. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

2) It was moved by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve a purchase requisition from Public Transit in the amount of \$329.22 for repair of air conditioning units on two buses and heating and air conditioning units on another bus. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

3) It was moved by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve a purchase requisition from the Airport in the amount of \$10,600.00 for purchase of 4,000 gallons of jet “A” fuel. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

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4) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve the claims and vouchers numbered 3739 through 3950 inclusive. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

5) **It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to open the Public Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget. The motion carried by a unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

6) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to authorize the Chairperson to sign Public Transit contracts #2007-0288/Z12/R1 and #2007-0288/Z5/R1. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

7) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the District Energy Contract with Integrated Designs Inc. of Marquette. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

8) **It was moved** by Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner Gerald Zellar to move forward with a letter to MDOC stating the intentions of the County and outlining an action plan for compliance with Jail Inspection Report demands. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

9) **It was moved** by Commissioner Gerald Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to request a refund from MERS in the amount of \$1,345.90 and use it for MSU. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Committee members present.

Further under “Old and Unfinished Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the rental agreement with Great Lakes Recovery Centers for space in the Schoolcraft County Court House in the amount of \$998.25 per month. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “Old and Unfinished Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded

by Commissioner LaFoilie to establish specifications for lease of a copy machine for the second floor of the court house which are comparable to the current machine. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

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Further under “Old and Unfinished Business”: Commissioner Ecclesine noted that regarding the LMAS rental agreement, LMAS has asked for a reduction of space in the agreement which would reduce the space rented by 590 square feet. Further, Commissioner Ecclesine noted that LMAS is willing to erect a wall separating the space. Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney suggested that the Board view this space to determine if the proposed carved out portion would be rentable space. **Commissioners asked that this issue be put on the agenda for September 30, 2010.**

Further under “Old and Unfinished Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the rental agreement with Community Action Agency for space in the Schoolcraft County Court House in the amount of \$229.20 per month. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Inter-local Agreement making Houghton County the fiduciary agent for emergency management funding for FY 2011. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Work Agreement for emergency management services for FY 2011. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign the 2010 Performance Grant for emergency management funding. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

No further “Old and Unfinished Business”.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to approve the rental agreement with Conservation District for space in the Schoolcraft County

Court House in the amount of \$191.00 per month. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

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Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to set the date for second Board Meeting/Audit Finance Meeting in November as Monday, November 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of support to MISHDA for reconsideration of training requirements for the EDC Director in order to be certified to provide counseling services. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to authorize the Chairperson to sign the 2% Funding request for Medical Care Facility. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to close the Public Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner LaFoilie and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to take into consideration and adopt the FY 2011 Budget for Schoolcraft County. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney addressed the Board regarding Register of Deeds automation costs noting that the current maintenance agreement with Manatron costs the County \$15,932 per year and will cost \$16,280.00 next year. Mr. McKinney said Manatron is offering a conversion which will cost \$30,000.00 but reduce the annual fee to \$5,000.00, but there will likely be increases to the annual fee yearly. Mr. McKinney said he has been talking with Trimen Government Solutions out of Minnesota for the same services. Mr. McKinney said has proposed start up costs of \$31,000.00 with an annual fee of \$2,700.00. Mr. McKinney said Trimen has charged other counties less and he has been communicating with them to establish a fair and equal cost for Schoolcraft County, but has received no

response as of this time.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner John Zellar to approve rolling over one day of vacation time for Dianna Herlik, Deputy at the Sheriff’s Department. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: Commissioner LaFoilie addressed the Board regarding the \$500,000.00 loan from the DTR to the General Fund which occurred in 2007 and was proposed to be repaid in “short order”. Commissioner LaFoilie said the money was never paid back and now exists as a receivable to the DTR. This may become an audit issue according to Anderson Tackman Commissioner LaFoilie said. Commissioner LaFoilie said Anderson Tackman will meet with the Finance Committee to discuss options which are to pay the money back or write off the debt. Commissioner LaFoilie said if the debt is forgiven the \$500,000.00 will show up in the General Fund Balance but there will not be any actual money to back this up. Commissioner LaFoilie said this could become a problem in the future when new Commissioners come in not knowing that there is no money to be spent. Commissioner LaFoilie said any action on this issue taken by the Board is going to have to be fully documented so as to inform future Commissioners of the reality of the situation.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Cooperative Agreement for Brownfield Funding. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

Further under “New Business”: **It was moved by** Commissioner Ecclesine and was seconded by Commissioner LaFoilie to authorize the Chairperson to sign the 2% Funding Request for the Sheriff’s Department for body armor. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

No further “New Business”:

“Committee and Department Reports”:

Commissioner Daniel LaFoilie: Thanked Mr. Lucas, MSU Extension Regional Director for coming and giving words of cooperation for a millage for MSU. Thanked Jean Anderson for her letter offering to volunteer to paint in the County Jail as a means of reducing refurbishing costs. Informed the Board of a letter received

from Steve Videtich, Building and Grounds Supervisor, which outlines needed repairs on the court house which include; emergency generator repair in the amount of \$6,000.00 or replacement in the amount of \$30,000.00, boiler repair in the amount of \$5,900.00, chimney replacement in the amount of \$6,500.00, repair to walkways in the amount of \$4,000.00 and the need to remove trees at Pines Park. Also reported on the DHS Meeting where they talked about the recent bomb threat. DHS administration voiced their concern and a request for the County to establish policy to address this issue. Also, read letter from the Humane Society and DHS regarding appropriation cuts to their respective entities.

Commissioner George Ecclesine: Attended several budget meetings, Brownfield Redevelopment Meeting and the LMAS Board Meeting.

Commissioner John Zellar: Attended the LMAS Board Meeting.

Chairperson Jerry Zellar: Received several phone calls.

“Announcements and Notices”: Commissioner John Zellar noted that Norm Colburn of Germfask is requesting a letter of support from the Board for him to obtain a liquor license.

It was moved by Commissioner John Zellar and was seconded by Commissioner Ecclesine to authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of support for Norm Colburn to obtain a liquor license for an establishment he recently purchased in Germfask. The motion carried by unanimous aye vote of the Board members present.

“Public Comment”: Chris Rantanen thanked John and Jerry Zellar for their support of MSU and asked a member of the Finance Committee to sit down with her to review the budget.

Further under “Public Comment”: Grant Harris, Sheriff of Schoolcraft County, presented the Board with a copy of mandated and non-mandated service for the Office of Sheriff and said the list he received from the Board at the last meeting was inaccurate. Chairperson Gerald Zellar reviewed the document and informed the Sheriff that it is the same document he gave the Sheriff at the last meeting. Sheriff Harris also addressed the Board regarding the cuts made to the Humane society and said this is not appropriate because they handle stray animals for us and what will we do with the strays if the Humane Society cannot take them. Chairperson Gerald Zellar noted that a couple years ago during Annual Reports it was noted that the Humane Society had a fund balance of over \$90,000.00 and the County started the FY 2011 Budget process having to cut

\$400,000.00.

Further under “Public Comment”: Char Crosby from the Eva Burrell Animal Shelter noted that they have a fund balance because they have been very careful in managing their money and they have made cuts to spending.

Further under “Public Comment”: Tom Jenerou Hiawatha Township Clerk addressed the Board regarding funding for the Humane Society noting that Hiawatha give \$700.00 to the Humane Society and there is currently problems with dogs in Hiawatha Township. Mr. Jenerou noted that there was an animal control ordinance established a while back but this was never approved by the Board.

Commissioner LaFoilie noted that this was not approved because it was financially not feasible due to the fact that it would take hours to train an officer and officers would likely be called out in the middle of the night.

No further “Public Comment”.

“Communications”: Schoolcraft County Clerk Dan McKinney informed the Board that they have received a letter from UPSET requesting one dollar per capita for their services in Schoolcraft County, and noted that we received the same letter last year but sent them what was appropriated.

No further “Communications”.

Chairperson Gerald L. Zellar adjourned the meeting of the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners at 8:32 P.M.

Gerald L. Zellar, Chairperson County Board

Daniel R. McKinney, County Clerk