

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
March 23, 2016
Eden Township Hall, Irons, MI
6:00 p.m.

Chairman Walls called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Stenger gave the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

County Clerk Williams called the roll with the following Commissioners present:

John Fairbanks, Barb Stenger, Chuck Vayda, John Brunn, Dan Sloan, Colleen Carrington-Atkins, and Karl Walls.

Commissioner Sloan moved that the agenda be approved; seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, Voice Vote, approved.

Commissioner Fairbanks moved that the minutes from the March 9, 2016 regular meeting be approved; seconded by Commissioner Sloan, with the following changes:

Commissioner Stenger: "It's on page 5, and it is where it says Lake County Parks Committee, I believe that should be Commissioner Stenger is working on getting a resolution to include the east side, should also be with the Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee. And just take off the Lake County Parks Committee on that one."

Commissioner Fairbanks: "Also on page 5, the medical examiner's **lease** has expired. That should be medical examiner's **contract** has expired." Voice Vote, approved.

Chairman Walls thanked Eden Township for holding the meeting and the people that attended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS No public comments.

COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCE

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for the approval of the Semi-Monthly Detail Analysis dated March 9, 2016, for a total of \$253,222.81, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, Roll Call Vote 7 Yes, unanimous.

Payment of Bills

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved for payment of bills by fund, as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 101 | GENERAL FUND | \$95,923.72 |
| 207 | ROAD PATROL | \$36,715.42 |
| 210 | EMERGENCY 911 | \$3,280.68 |
| 211 | RRP CENTER | \$66,678.25 |
| 215 | FRIEND OF THE COURT | \$72.36 |
| 249 | BUILDING INSPECTION DEPT | \$2,486.42 |

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| | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 256 | REG. OF DEEDS AUTOMATION | \$45.00 |
| 260 | CRIME VICTIMS REIMB | \$293.46 |
| 269 | LAW LIBRARY | \$928.35 |
| 292 | CHILD CARE-PROBATE | \$7,709.30 |
| 294 | VETERAN'S TRUST | \$1,590.00 |
| 295 | JABG GRANT | \$63.75 |
| 404 | CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS | \$26,000.00 |
| 505 | AMBULANCE | \$225.00 |
| 569 | D.H.H.S BUILDING | \$2,790.02 |
| 595 | COMMISSARY FUND | \$6,037.33 |
| 842 | LAKE LEVEL REVOLVING | \$2,383.75 |
| | TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS | \$253,222.81 |

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to approve the Departmental Purchase Requisitions in excess of \$1,000.00 dated March 23, 2016; seconded by Commissioner Stenger. Roll Call Vote 7 Yes, unanimous.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to authorize the County Administrator to reimburse hiring testing expenses for new correction officers for FY2016 up to \$1,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Stenger. Commissioner Vayda asked about parameters of this motion. Discussion followed.

Chairman Walls clarified to the Board that it involves testing only, not training of correction officer applicants. He went on to note that specific details of this reimbursement program are being worked out between the sheriff and the administrator. He emphasized that the individual would only be reimbursed if they are hired. Commissioner Vayda stated he did not feel comfortable voting for this motion without additional written information.

Commissioner Sloan stated that it was brought to the attention of the personnel committee and when a tour was done at the jail that there is a shortage of correction officers. Chief Deputy Dagen was asked if there were any barriers that could be removed here in Lake County and how this could be addressed. "If we risk a couple of thousand dollars here and there to address a \$100,000 overtime problem we are facing in the jail right now, I think it's a good investment, Commissioner Vayda."

Commissioner Stenger wanted to make it clear that it is reimbursement after all requirements are met; they must pay first and then be reimbursed. Commissioner Vayda and Commissioner Brunn thanked Commissioner Stenger for this clarification. Roll Call Vote, 6 Yes, 1 No, Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to approve Resolution #1343 to purchase certain State of Michigan DNR lands at the Wolf Lake Tower site in an amount not to exceed \$2,300.00, money to come from Central Dispatch fund balance (210,000.00-500,000), and authorize the board chairman to sign any and all necessary documents, seconded by Commissioner Sloan. Discussion followed.

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Commissioner Sloan moved to amend Resolution #1343 to add the following additional language, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks:

WHEREAS, such lands house a tower and certain apparatuses that are used for VHF communications for police, fire, and ems that are essential to the continued operations of Lake County's Central Dispatch department; Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to approve Resolution #1343, including the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to grant authorization to fill the current vacant full-time corrections officer position within the jail, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to grant authorization to fill the current vacant full-time corrections officer position within the TRV/RRP, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to grant authorization to move the Administration Office staff from 37.5 hours a week to 40 hours a week, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, Discussion followed.

Commissioner Vayda stated that he had spoken to Administrator Lake and was given his reasons for the increase. However, he personally does not see a need for this increase. He expressed that since the county is currently in a deficit, that this isn't the best time to be doing this.

Commissioner Sloan stated in response to Commissioner Vayda's concerns over this matter:

“Our County Administrator in less than six months on the job has saved the County over \$253,000.00. For him to do that requires a lot of research into previous minutes, contracts, illegal pyramiding of overtime which has cost us \$40,000.00 a year in 911 and this contract negotiations as well. Negotiating with Canteen to save us \$75,000.00 in legal costs we've already spent after being dragged into a Canteen employee lawsuit. Without him having staff to do the research, these savings might not have been effectuated. And if we want those savings to continue, which I believe there is good cause for us to expect additional savings, putting \$6,000.00 of additional staff time into his office so that they can do more in terms of research, for him to discover what happened in the past that was wrong and get it corrected, because we know there's more out there. I would encourage from that standpoint alone, and I understand the whole thing about a can of worms for opening things up. My understanding of what the hours were reduced down to was 35 hours a week and then were increased back up to 37 ½ as a cost savings measure. It wasn't across the board, the court system always stayed at 40. So there's never been, you know, an equal thing throughout the courthouse. It wasn't with the sheriff's department either or with 911 so, you know, there's never been an across the board kind of thing in the courthouse with hours like that. So just in terms of putting the County Administrator in a position to effectuate the savings that he has done which we desperately need, I'm in support of this change.”

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Commissioner Carrington-Atkins stated, “I would support this if the understanding that any of the department heads demonstrated a clear need for having the same, having their hours changed, from 37.5 to 40, would also have the same opportunity without having to look at the dollars that they are bringing in; because, I think that all departments are not responsible for bringing in dollars. Some departments are responsible for doing things that the county depends on, not necessarily tied to a number; but, could be tied to a certain service they are providing. So I think that if we are going to do this for one, we ought to be open, we don’t have to say everybody’s getting the same thing today, but I think we should be, our personnel committee, would be open to presenting to the Board at another time, the other department heads that demonstrate the same need.”

Commissioner Stenger added, “I’m on the personnel committee and that was discussed, and that is absolutely what we intend to do.”

Commissioner Brunn was concerned about the benefits with reduced hours. Administrator Lake explained the policy and assured him that no benefits are lost.

Commissioner Vayda expressed, “If I was another employee sitting in a different office and working just as hard as an employee working in his office, and I see they got basically a raise, I would be highly upset, and I think a lot of my constituents live in the township and work for the court, and I think to me it’s a slap in the face. If I were those employees I’d be extremely upset and mad because it’s not fair. I’m not saying that all employees are working the same or as hard, and if you only look at 18%, we can’t give 18%? That’s a drop in the bucket.”

Roll Call Vote, 6 Yes, 1 No, Commissioner Vayda.

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to approve the restrictive covenant for certain county-owned lands located on M-37 within the Village of Baldwin, between the Lake County Building Authority, the Village of Baldwin, and Lake County, and authorize the board of commissioners’ chairman to sign any and all necessary documents, seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Sloan reported a meeting will be held in April to seek a solution to IT issues. Other department heads have been approaching the chairman to be added to the agenda.

911 Committee - Chuck Vayda commended those involved on the tower project.

Area Agency on Aging - Commissioner Carrington- reported there is a need for patient advocates. She also passed out a Resolution to be voted on at the next meeting.

IT Committee – Commissioner Brunn reported at the last meeting they discussed phone lines, no contract in place. They are expecting assessment by Abilitia, discussed the flyovers, and filling the upcoming IT position.

FiveCap - Barb Stenger went to Washington DC and met with Debbie Stabenow and staff for the Bill 1655 to benefit FiveCap and the elderly program.

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Michigan Works - Chairman Walls reported his attendance at the MI Works orientation.

Correspondence: None

New Business:

Commissioner Carrington-Atkins has been appointed to the Area Agency on Aging as main representative.

Old Business:

Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee - Commissioner Stenger asked the Board not to rescind this committee. She believes it is important to the county. Commissioner Fairbanks stated that it has to be county wide – not just the east side. An amendment needs to be created. Commissioner Stenger said she will take charge of this committee.

Discussion was held regarding aerials maps being placed on zip drives and installed on the townships computers that have paid for it.

County Alliance Meeting – Commissioner Carrington-Atkins moved to approve mileage and per diem to any Commissioner that attends the County Alliance Meeting on April 25, 2016, Roll Call Vote, 7 Yes, unanimous.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT *Limited to 5 minutes each, please!*

Devon Barbier stood, introduced himself, and spoke to earn his Communications Badge for Troop 61. The Board and audience applauded him.

Marilyn Zdebski – questioned the Board and stated concerns about putting information, aerials, in the fire trucks. She covers three townships and questions if one township pays and others do not where this leaves the remaining townships.

Edie McCarty – stood and spoke as a long-time county employee and citizen. She takes time and care reading the minutes and stated it does not specify where the monthly bills and money are coming from and where they are going to. She would like to see more detail and specifics in this area. She also expressed her thoughts on the 40 hour week increase for the administrative office, how it affects those directly and indirectly involved.

Jan Brinkert – stated a correction to the motion that stated TRV, as there is no longer a TRV. Hiring an employee for the TRV is not accurate. It is now the RRP.

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Commissioner's Personal Privilege:

Commissioner Brunn – thanked Eden Township for having the meeting at their facility.

Commissioner Fairbanks - stressed aerals. This information needs to be in our firetrucks. He cannot stress the importance enough on this subject.

Commissioner Sloan - discussed his opinion of the reason why the aerial mapping system exists and where its need and importance lies.

Commissioner Vayda - thanked Eden Township for having the meeting at their facility. He announced that his work schedule has changed and will be spending more time at the meetings as his co-workers are willing to switch schedules.

Adjourn/Recess at the Call of the Chairman

Being no further business, meeting was recessed at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Williams, Clerk to the Board

Karl Walls, Chairman