

**Alpena County Board of Commissioners
Workshop
Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room**

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met in workshop session on July 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m in the Howard Male Conference Room. The workshop was called to order by Chairman Brad McRoberts

Commissioners Present: Brad McRoberts, Bob Adrian, Dave Karschnick, Brenda Fournier, Ron McDonald, Marty Thomson, John Kozlowski.

Commissioners Excused: Bill Peterson

Also in attendance: Bonnie Friedrichs, Ed Black, Tammy Bates, Kim Ludlow, Phil Seguin, Steve Schulwitz, Tony Radjenovich, Tom Jordan, Phil Heimerl, Marcia Burns, Kim Elkie.

MERS Presentation

Tony Radjenovich, Regional Manager MERS; Tom Jordan, Benefit Plan Advisor

Tony Radjenovich reviewed the Annual Actuarial Evaluation. He explained that the numbers are as of 12/31/18 with some numbers based on market values and others based on assumptions. MERS has adjusted the assumed rate of return twice in the last five years.

Tom Jordan described the option of a MERS 457 plan. He explained that there would be no charge to the county to offer a 457 plan as it would be voluntary for the employees to participate. He further expounded on the potential savings for a plan with MERS compared to the costs currently being paid to Morgan Stanley. The board would need to adopt a resolution to allow the 457 plan. If the county desires, MERS would send the language for the resolution after discussing the options to be included ahead of time. Bonnie requested he send the language to her and she will take to the personnel committee for review.

Personnel Chairman, Brad McRoberts

- 1) Upon recommendation of Commissioner Thomson, the reappointment of Fred Wegmeyer to Youth & Recreation Committee was requested.

Moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend we approve the Action Item as below. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends the board reappoint Fred Wegmeyer to the Youth and Recreation Committee for District #7.

- 2) Upon recommendation of Commissioner Thomson, the reappointment of Herb Gamage to the Older Persons Committee was requested.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner McDonald to recommend we approve the Action Item as presented below. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends the board reappoint Herb Gamage to the Older Persons Committee for District #7.

Sunken Lake Park Forest Management Plan

Executive Manager Tammy Sumerix-Bates and Commissioner McDonald presented information on Sunken Lake Park Forest Management Plan. There are trees that are dying and need to be removed for safety reasons and for better management of our forest. Commissioner McDonald added that a forester will walk through the woods and mark trees that need to be removed. Beech trees are a problem, they are tall and large but diseased and dead inside. Brooke Alloway, District Forester from Alpena and Montmorency Conservation District, and Tom Carlson, from Habitat for Wildlife, prepared this report at no cost to the county. The parks commission plans to do the same plan for the other parks. Sunken Lake is the most critical due to the health of the trees. The plan addresses the management of the land.

Moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Thomson to approve the Action Item as presented below. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends to approve the Sunken Lake Park Forest Management Plan as presented.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Van

Commissioner McDonald presented information with regards to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) providing transportation to the local veterans to their appointments at veteran facilities. They are currently \$4,000 short toward purchasing an \$18,000 van through a program with Ford Motor Company. The DAV provides the vehicle insurance, gas and maintenance; they provide anything to do with the vehicle except its purchase. The drivers are volunteers. There are no charges to the county for this program. He is requesting permission for Burt Francisco and George Stevens to write a letter to numerous veteran service organizations and other municipalities asking for donations toward the \$4,000 the DVA needs to raise. The board will have the opportunity to preview the letter before it is distributed.

Moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Karschnick to approve the request as presented below. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends we approve a letter from the Veterans Board to area counties requesting funding donations for a DAV van.

Plaza Pool Funding

Chairman McRoberts advised the Board that Norm Sommerfeld had inquired about the possibility of having a millage specifically for the Plaza Pool. Treasurer Kim Ludlow explained that this year the county transferred \$25,000 to the Plaza Pool so they could, in turn, pay their bond payment (\$24,764); we are basically paying their payment for them. However, if the pool

closes, we will still have expenses for it including the bond payment that has to be paid. They have approximately \$260,000 in annual expenses. In addition to the grants and miscellaneous funding they receive (including Youth & Recreation grant monies as well as from Older Persons Committee) they are bringing in approximately \$100,000 per year on their own. She explained that Sommerfeld's management company, Synchronizations, receives an average of \$150,000 per year to manage the pool and this amount covers, among other things, employee wages and workers' compensation.

Moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to recommend we do not hold a millage specifically for the Plaza Pool. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends we do not hold a millage for specifically funding the Plaza Pool.

BS&A Online Tax Information

Discussion was held regarding funding the \$12,500 cost for online access to BS&A tax information. This item is not budgeted for this year. Beginning August 1, 2019 individuals will be able to look at their own information online for free. Realtors, title companies, banks, CPAs and other businesses will have to pay for each file they access through the site.

Moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Fournier to table this item until budget discussion and revisit it at that time. Motion carried.

2020 Budget

According to County Treasurer Kim Ludlow we have been experiencing a gap in the budget at the beginning of the year that equals out by the end of the year. She recommends budgeting closer to the real numbers. Normally the department heads are notified to do their budget in September. The topic will be discussed again at that time. The need to impress on the department heads to provide realistic numbers was stressed by board chairman Brad McRoberts.

Other items


Commissioner Thomson explained that a meeting was held to discuss the jail site needing more fill dirt. Commissioners Thomson and McRoberts are recommending to raise the grade by 12 inches due to potential for future possibility of the parking lot being under water during wet periods. It would cost approximately \$30,000 for the fill dirt to raise the grade of the entire site and \$2,000 for the engineers to redo their drawings. Commissioner Kozlowski questioned why this was not included at the beginning and that it is the contractor's job to handle this aspect of the job.

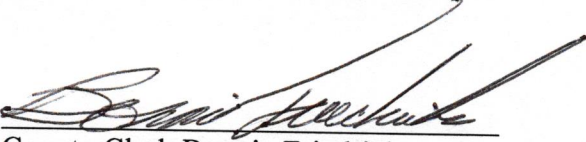
Moved by Commissioner Thomson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend we raise the construction site grade by 12 inches as described for a total cost of \$32,000 to be paid from the Construction Contingency Fund line item. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: The Committee recommends we raise the construction site grade by 12 inches as described, for a total cost of \$32,000, to be paid from the Construction Contingency Fund line item as presented.

Prosecutor Ed Black discussed advising employees of wage and benefit costs, a longer term financial plan, and other things for the Board to consider.

Moved by Commissioner Karschnick and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.


Board Chairman Brad McRoberts


County Clerk Bonnie Friedrichs

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