

MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, May 13, 2021

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2021 in the Circuit Courtroom, 100 S, Marley St., St. Ignace, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hill at 4:30 pm.

Roll Call: Jim Hill, Paul Krause, Craig Lehrke, Bucky McPhee, Mike Patrick.
Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Agenda Approval – It was moved by Commissioner McPhee second by Commissioner Krause to accept the agenda. VVMC

Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Commissioner Lehrke second by Commissioner Krause to approve the board minutes of April 22, 2021. VVMC

Public Comment: Bill Peek and Erin Hicks from the Michilimackinac Historical Society discussed the Straits Cultural Center and requested to be considered for funding from the American Rescue Plan.

Elected Officials/Staff Reports:

Equalization Director Chipman informed the board that fieldwork has begun to obtain taxable values and discussed the Deputy Director interviews and the need to look statewide to fill the position.

Sheriff Wilk discussed the board actions regarding the vehicle bids and other issues and informed the board that he will be contacting the Attorney General regarding public trust violations.

Commissioner Patrick discussed the county attorney and the purchasing policy.

911 Coordinator Tracy gave a COVID update.

Commissioner Krause discussed the vehicle purchase and informed the board that he is not happy with the insinuation of dishonesty from Sheriff Wilk. Commissioner Krause has pulled his vehicle bid off the table and stated that there was no conflict of interest or impropriety.

New Business:

Tax Foreclosed Properties – The board reviewed the 2021 Foreclosed Parcels Scheduled for Auction. It was moved by Commissioner Lehrke second by Commissioner Patrick to reject purchase of any tax reverted parcels. Roll Call:

Yes: Hill, Krause, Lehrke, McPhee, Patrick; NO: None; Absent: None (Schedule attached)

1st Quarter Financial Report – Treasurer Goudreau reviewed the 1st Quarter Financial Reports with the board. (Reports attached)

Courthouse Stairway Door Lock – The board reviewed a quote from Allen Supply in the amount of \$2,545.80 for a lock on the west basement door. No action was taken. (Quote attached)

American Rescue Plan Fund Application – The board discussed the American Rescue Plan and a possible application process for those requesting funding. The board requested the Treasurer to submit the plan application and move forward.

Old Business:

Furnace Repair Bids/Circulating Pump – The board reviewed three bids to repair the furnace circulating pump. The bids are as follows: Straits Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$4,471.03, Belonga Plumbing in the amount of \$4,286.42, and Mark and Sons Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$3,933.80. It was moved by Chair Hill second by Commissioner McPhee to accept the bid from Belonga Plumbing for the furnace repair. Roll Call: Yes: Hill, Krause, Lehrke, McPhee, Patrick; NO: None; Absent: None (Bids attached)

Vehicle Bids – A motion to reconsider the purchase of police vehicles was received from Chair Hill on May 5, 2021 for the meeting of May 13, 2021. The board discussed the vehicle purchase and the need to keep county money locally to strengthen our community, and discussed the need to step away from the purchase at this time.

Chair Hill commented as follows: “Regarding Vehicle Purchase, there has been a surprising new development: As of this morning, Mackinac Sales has pulled their bid. To those of us who want to keep this money in Mackinac County this is a disappointment, but we understand the concerns of Commissioner Krause and respect his decision. There is an upside to this, though, and that is that we now have the chance to address some of the key concerns:

- Cost of outfitting these cars
- Who will be awarded the outfitting contract
- Do we need to replace all of the cars at once
- Where will these cars be serviced
- Should we draw up a service agreement
- There is now \$330,000 in the budget, but are we looking at over \$400,000 just for the initial purchase

Because of these reasons, and the ongoing toxic relationship between the Sheriff’s office and the Board, it is my recommendation that we table this issue for six months.”

It was moved by Commissioner McPhee second by Commissioner Lehrke to step away from the purchase of vehicles for six months. Roll Call: Yes: Hill, Lehrke, McPhee; NO: Patrick; Absent: None; Abstain: Krause.

Approval of Bills/Budget Amendments: The board reviewed the bills for approval in the amount of \$80,859.28. The board discussed the Veteran's invoice to the St. Ignace News and requested it be held until reviewed. The board also questioned the bill from Fernelius Ford in the amount of \$2,555.77 and questioned why no bids were requested. It was moved by Commissioner Lehrke second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the bills. Roll Call: Yes: Hill, Lehrke, McPhee, Patrick; NO: Krause; Absent: None (Bills attached)

The board reviewed the manual bills in the amount of \$396,836.00. It was moved by Commissioner Patrick second by Commissioner McPhee to approve the bills. Roll Call: Yes: Hill, Krause, Lehrke, McPhee, Patrick; NO: None; Absent: None (Bills attached)

The board reviewed the additional bills in the amount of \$379.76. It was moved by Commissioner McPhee second by Commissioner Patrick to approve the bills. Roll Call: Yes: Hill, Krause, Lehrke, McPhee, Patrick; NO: None; Absent: None (Bills attached)

Communications: The board reviewed the American Transmission Company Letter, MI Association of Counties Letter, Alger County Resolution, Bay County Resolution, Berrien County Resolution, Delta County Resolution, Grand Traverse County Resolution, Iron County Resolution(s), Wexford County Resolution, Paul Hitchens Letter, MSU Youth Programming Update. (Communications attached)

Adjournment – Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Lori Johnston
County Clerk