

submitted to the clerk for approval before ordering from vendors.

All contracts which the county board anticipates a total county obligation of \$20,000 or more shall be subject to the sealed bidding requirements as outlined in ONTONAGON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 94-08: Resolution to Comply with PA 167 and 168 of 1993, Sealed, Competitive Bids.

SECTION 5. LIMIT ON OBLIGATIONS AND PAYMENTS

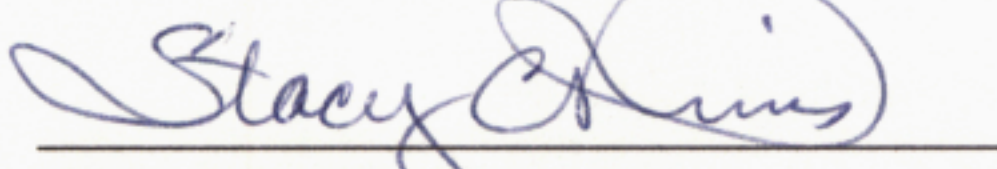
No obligation shall be incurred against, and no payment shall be made from any appropriation account unless there is sufficient unencumbered balance and sufficient funds available to meet the obligation. The county treasurer, however, is authorized to make temporary advances to debt service funds and accounts, if necessary, to avoid defaulting on bond principal and interest payments.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT TO THE APPROPRIATION ACT (BUDGET).

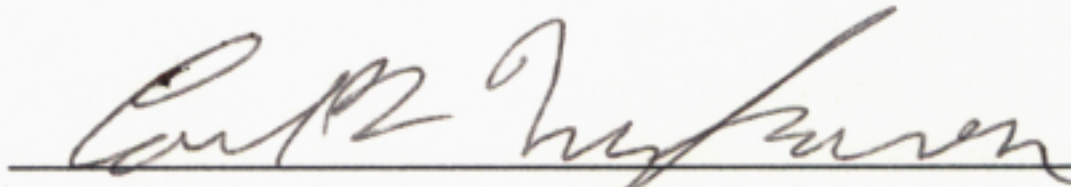
A deviation from the original General Appropriations Act shall not be made without first amending the act in accordance with state statutes.

Motion offered at a special budget hearing of the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, Tuesday, September 19, 2023 by Commissioner Bourdeau supported by Commissioner Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED



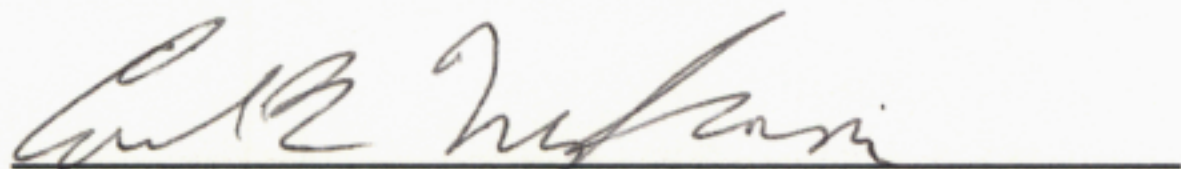
STACY C. PREISS, CLERK  
ONTONAGON COUNTY



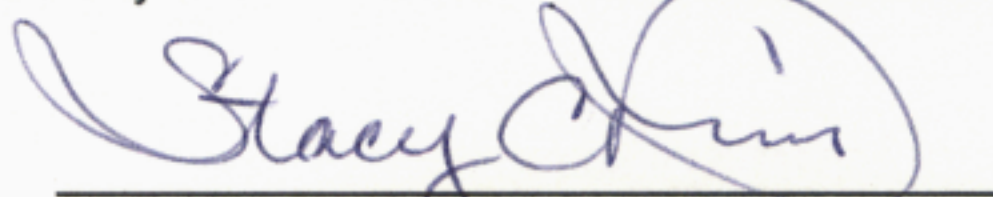
CARL R. NYKANEN, CHAIRMAN  
ONTONAGON COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

Other business: none  
Public comment: none

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 3:48 p.m.



Carl Nykanen, Chair



Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk

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Proceedings  
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
September 19, 2023

The Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Circuit courtroom. At the call to order the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call showed all Commissioners present.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried to approve the minutes of the 08/15/2023 regular and 09/07/2023 special meeting minutes with 2 typo corrections.

Public comment: none.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the agenda with the addition of 20a) payment of Sheriff Dept vehicles.



By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the \$10/hour rate increase from Nitro Consulting.

Paul Putnam gave a brief update on MSU Extension.

By motion of Store supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to adopt the following resolution:

**Ontonagon County Resolution #2023-14  
Supporting the Formation of the Snowbelt Transit Commission**

It is hereby resolved that the Commissioners of Ontonagon County authorize the formation of a new Transit Commission to be called the Snowbelt Transit Commission.

Whereas; the economy of the Western UP has been devastated by the closure of the White Pine Mine (1997) and the Paper Mill (2013) in Ontonagon County as well as the Ojibwa Prison in Gogebic County.

And whereas; the rail line from Rockland to Ontonagon has been removed.

And whereas; tourism has been our largest economic engine which was negatively impacted during COVID.

And whereas; our second largest economy, logging, is currently being negatively impacted by increasing fuel prices and a crumbling infrastructure; this further affects our tourism industry as well as our residents.

And whereas; companies and primary wage earner jobs have left the counties and many companies are discouraged from coming to the Western UP due to the lack of a sufficient logistical network.

And whereas; the two counties of Gogebic, and Ontonagon can work together to preserve a vital network for economic growth going forward.

And whereas; the abandonment of the rail line has crippled the ability to attract new industries. Therefore, the purpose of the Snowbelt Transit Commission is to acquire and to preserve the Out of Service/Abandoned rail line from the Wisconsin/Michigan border to White Pine, Michigan, while keeping intact the multi-use trails that help support tourism and to ensure the future growth of the Western Upper Peninsula.

Motion offered at a special meeting of the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, Thursday, September 19, 2023 by Commissioner Store supported by Commissioner Bourdeau

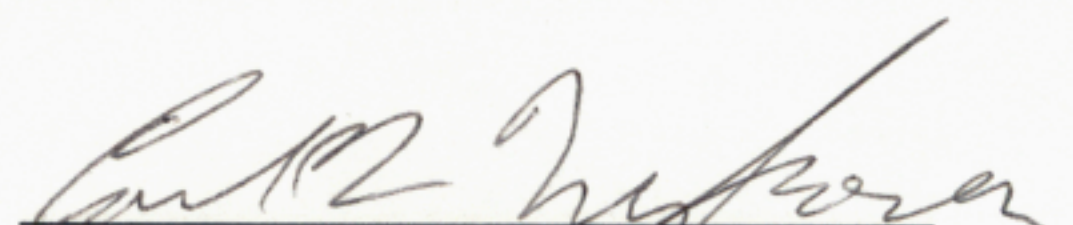
AYES: Store, Bourdeau, Cane, Nousiainen and Nykanen

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

  
Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair

By motion of Store supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION # 2023-15  
OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL  
FOR SOLAR AND WIND DEVELOPMENTS**

**Whereas** Executive Directive 2020-10 aims to achieve 100 percent carbon neutrality in Michigan by 2050; and

**Whereas** industry leaders have pledged to reduce carbon emissions to help achieve this goal; and

**Whereas** efforts to expand renewable energy projects will continue to increase in this state; and

**Whereas** the governor has proposed the Michigan Public Service Commission be the sole regulating authority for solar and wind projects to expedite these efforts; and

**Whereas** by granting the Michigan Public Service Commission this authority, local control will be preempted; and

**Whereas** should local control be preempted, a county, township, city or village would be unable to determine the location, size, setback distance, decibel level or any other criteria for a solar or wind facility; and

**Whereas** should local control be preempted, a county, township, city, or village would be unable to determine requirements for construction, operation, use, or maintenance of a solar or wind facility; and

**Whereas** if a county already has a solar or wind policy, practice, regulation, rule or ordinance on record it would be null and void; and

**Whereas** all other types of energy facilities, while regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission, must adhere to local zoning; and

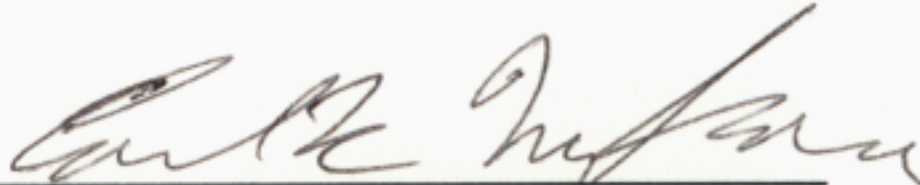
**Whereas** this proposal grants far more regulating authority to the Michigan Public Service Commission than for any other energy source; and



**Whereas** the Michigan Association of Counties opposes any legislative action that may grant the Michigan Public Service Commission this power.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners opposes the pre-emption of local control in solar and wind siting and zoning.

Adopted September 19, 2023

  
Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Nousiainen and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2023-16  
STATE DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ONTONAGON COUNTY,

WHEREAS, Ontonagon County, Michigan, is a political subdivision within the State of Michigan with an official Emergency Operations plan in compliance with Section 19 of the Emergency Management Act, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

WHEREAS, Ontonagon County, sustained severe losses of major proportions brought on by extremely warm temperatures causing rapid snow melt and runoff followed by a slow-moving, late season winter storm resulting in the following conditions: overwhelmed storm sewer and water systems, road washouts and closures, flooding, culverts failing and washing out.

WHEREAS, The Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners certifies that the county/municipal Emergency Operations Plan was implemented at the onset of the disaster at 7:44 Friday, April 14, 2023 and all applicable disaster relief forces identified therein were exhausted.

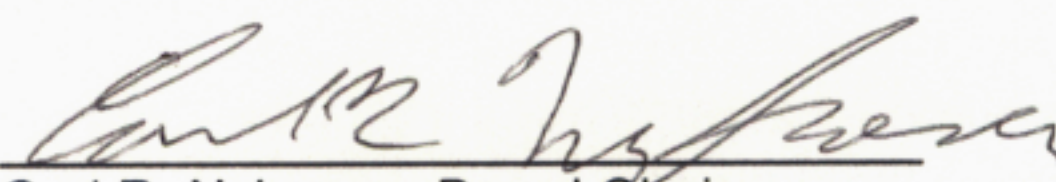
WHEREAS, as a direct result of the disaster, public damage and expenditures were extraordinary and place an unreasonably great financial burden on Ontonagon County totaling \$ 8,101,777.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners requests the Governor authorize a grant to Ontonagon County from the State Disaster Contingency Fund pursuant to Section 19, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

FUTHERMORE, Ryan DeHut is authorized to execute for and in behalf of Ontonagon County the application for financial assistance and to provide to the State any information required for that purpose.

Action taken and incorporated in the minutes of a meeting of the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners on September 19, 2023.

Resolution declared adopted

  
Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair

By motion of Cane supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to formally approve the 2024-2026 911 Dispatch contract.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the FY EMS Performance grant.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to accept the bid from John D. Construction for snow plowing at the jail/ambulance garage for the 2023-2026 winter seasons.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to authorize the Transit Director to advertise for bids on a 2013 bus.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the overnight travel of Stacy Preiss to attend the UP Clerk's quarterly meeting in Marquette.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to authorize all commissioners to attend the UPACC conference in Harris.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote approve the Veteran's Service grant agreement in the amount of \$56,370.00 and authorize signature.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Store and carried on a 4-0 roll call vote, Cane abstaining as he is a deputy death scene investigator, to authorize a \$10 call in fee per each 12-hour shift for investigators to begin September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the FY 2024 Child Care Fund budget in the amount of \$56,520.00.



By motion of Bourdeau supported by Nousiainen and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve payment of Sheriff Department cell phones to be paid from the general fund.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve payment of the 2 Chevy Tahoe for the Sheriff's Department that have been on order. The cost for both is \$83,455.62 and will be paid 55% by the USDA grant and the balance plus outfitting by the County.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve payment of the following:

(101) General Fund \$53,297.56, (210) SONCO \$0.00, (211) OCAP Fund \$0.00, (215) FOC Fund \$0.00, (256) ROD Automation Fund \$750.00, (257) Veteran's Van Fund \$0.00, (259) CAA Fund \$0.00, (260) Indigent Defense Fund \$0.00, (261) 911 Service Fund \$22,627.75, (263) CPL Fund \$584.75 (269) Law Library Fund \$2,357.74, (280) Senior Citizens Fund \$0.00 (288) Public Transit Fund \$5,250.79, (292) PCCF \$560.63 & (525) Foreclosure Fund \$168.75 totaling \$85,597.97.

Prepaid bills from 08/10/2023 – 09/23/2023 (101) General Fund \$94,826.10, (251) Land Bank Fund \$0.00, (260) MIDC Fund \$6,793.48, (261) 911 Service Fund \$659.82, (263) CPL Fund \$0.00, (264) Corrections Officer Training Fund \$0.00, (269) Law Library Fund \$0.00, (271) Library Board Fund \$8,756.46 (288) Transit Fund \$18,765.42 (292) PCCF \$3,747.13, (296) VSO Fund \$0.00, (525) Foreclosure Fund \$3,569.42. Total prepaids \$137,117.83.

Payroll periods ending 08/18/2023 & 09/01/2023 (101) General Fund \$143,321.55, (260) MIDC Fund \$388.17, (261) 911 Service Fund \$1,997.72 (288) Transit Fund \$26,91.62, (292) PCCF \$2,599.74. Total payroll \$175,248.80.

Committee reports: Commissioner Nousiainen reported that Chairman Nykanen was awarded the Oreste Chiantello award.

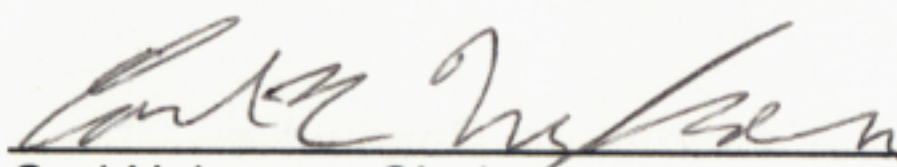
Department Head reports

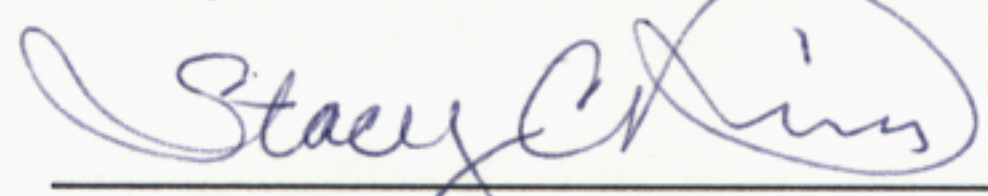
Other business: none

Agenda requests: none

Public comment: Ron Morrison commented on the speed limit on Cemetery Road in Bruce Crossin. He was directed to the Road Commission.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 4:45 p.m.

  
 Carl Nykanen, Chair

  
 Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk

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