

February 24, 2011

A Special Meeting of the Board of Delta County Road Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Main Office, 3000 32nd Avenue North, Escanaba, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 by the Chairman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Pete Stropich, Vice Chairman Randy Bjork, Commissioner Dennis Stanek, Commissioner Mike Larrabee, and Commissioner Rory Mattson. Also present were Commissioner Elegeert, Commissioner Schultz, Commissioner Rivard, and Commissioner Holm of the Board of Delta County Commissioners – as well as County Clerk Nancy Kolich and County Administrator Nora Viau. Other guests present were Bill Worth from D.A.T.A. and Connie Ness from the Delta County Airport.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Stropich moved to approve the Agenda as printed with one addition – Item 3 Public Comment, moving Adjournment to Item No. 4.

Managing Director Rob VanEffen stated that he requested tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing possible areas of intergovernmental cooperation and shared services. With continuing declining revenues for all areas of local government it seems to be the way of the future, and Governor Snyder has recommended doing this and may be offering incentives for doing so. Mr. VanEffen explained that he has met with County Administrator Nora Viau to briefly discuss some of these items and tonight's purpose is to discuss it with both boards to see if there is support to continue looking into these areas.

Mr. VanEffen outlined the following items which he would like to explore as areas of intergovernmental cooperation and/or shared services:

1. Health Care
2. Building Maintenance
3. Grounds Maintenance
4. Human Resources
5. Computer Support/I.T. Services
6. Purchasing
7. Retirement (MERS)
8. Vehicle Maintenance

Discussion ensued regarding the various items. It was agreed that some items would be quick and easy to implement where others will take quite some time and effort. It was suggested that Mr. VanEffen and County Administrator Nora Viau continue to meet - and possibly try to meet with other county & city entities if they are interested – to tackle one area at a time and bring to their respective Boards for approval. It was also suggested that both boards keep employees informed to keep the rumor mill from running.

County Commissioner Rivard asked if there was any Public Comment.

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Road Commission employee Dennis Mattonen stated that these discussions are good and are long overdue. He then asked a couple of questions regarding an issue that he said has been somewhat of a "political football" for the last ten years. He asked if the County Board still sets salary, per diem, mileage reimbursement, and benefits for the road commissioners. He was told that yes they do. Mr. Mattonen then asked if the County Board approved the road commissioners to participate in the MERS Defined Benefit Retirement Program.

Managing Director Rob VanEffen explained that a meeting was held last May with the Road Commission Board and the County Board where representatives from MERS explained that MERS legislation clearly states that a County Road Commission has full authority to be an independent participating municipality in MERS, and its governing body- the Board of County Road Commissioners- is fully authorized to determine all retirement benefit programs applicable to employees and Commissioners. The MERS legislation supersedes the legislation that states the County Board must authorize the Road Commissioners' participation in a County Retirement Program - which is a separate program from MERS. The County Commissioners agreed that they understood it the same way as Mr. VanEffen. This legislation however does not affect the authority that the Board of County Commissioners has to set all other levels of compensation for Road Commission Board Members.

Further discussion ensued regarding funding levels and other MERS issues.

Chairman Stropich asked if there was any other public comment or discussion, and there being none, it was moved by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Commissioner Larrabee to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

Pete Stropich, Chairman

Amy J. Reinhardt, Deputy County Clerk

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