

March 26, 2013

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Delta County Road Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Main Office, 3000 32nd Avenue North, Escanaba, Michigan.

Present at the workshop were Chairman Randy Bjork, Vice Chairman Dennis Stanek, Commissioner Pete Stropich, and Commissioner Bob Aschbacher. Also in attendance were Managing Director Rob VanEffen, Assistant Manager Jody Norman, Construction Superintendent Van Marenger, Finance Director Amy Reinhardt, and County Board Liaison Dave Rivard.

The Administrative Update and Regular Meeting agenda items were reviewed and/or discussed.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Delta County Road Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 5:15 p.m. at the Main Office, 3000 32nd Avenue North, Escanaba, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by the Chairman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Randy Bjork, Vice Chairman Dennis Stanek, Commissioner Pete Stropich, and Commissioner Bob Aschbacher.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mike Larrabee

Chairman Bjork asked if there was anyone wishing to be added to the Agenda and then moved to approve the Agenda as printed with one addition under Public Concerns – item 2A – Joseph Potvin, Jim Potvin, Gregg Johnson – Traffic Hazard at intersection in Bark River.

There being no corrections, it was moved by Chairman Bjork to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2013 Workshop & Regular Meetings as proposed.

Joe Potvin, Jim Potvin, and Gregg Johnson, Bark River Township Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding a concern with a vehicle being parked in the right of way at the intersection of C.R. 535 & Hwy. M-69 which blocks vision for vehicles pulling out onto the highway. The state police were contacted and talked to the residents but couldn't force it to be moved so suggested they come to the road commission. Managing Director Rob VanEffen said that he will contact MDOT's safety division to see if there is something that can be done about it but that the road commission can't enforce any parking issues and police agencies can't either unless there is a traffic control order in place for that area. Jim Potvin also expressed concern with the condition of C.R. B-54.

The Board received copies of the report from the Loss Control Visit of March 11, 2013. Managing Director Rob VanEffen explained that only minor issues were reported and were being addressed and gave credit to the employees for housekeeping and safety.

It was moved by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Commissioner Aschbacher to approve Bills Payable Voucher No. 2365 of 3/26/13 in the amount of \$96,079.56 and Payroll Voucher No. 68918 of 3/14/13 in the amount of \$58,446.35 as presented and reviewed. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Stropich - Yes

Commissioner Aschbacher – Yes

Vice Chairman Stanek - Yes

Chairman Bjork - Yes

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It was moved by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Commissioner Stropich to approve out of county travel for Commissioners Bjork, Stanek, Stropich, and Larrabee to attend the CRAM Commissioners' Conference in Manistee on April 14-16, 2013.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

It was moved by Commissioner Aschbacher, seconded by Commissioner Stanek to approve out of county travel for Finance Director Amy Reinhardt and Office Clerk Pam Gustafson to attend the CRAM Finance & Human Resources Seminar in Frankenmuth on May 14-16, 2013.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

It was moved by Commissioner Stropich, seconded by Commissioner Stanek to reschedule the Tuesday, May 14th, 2013 Workshop & Regular Meetings to Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. due to a conflict with another meeting.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

It was moved by Commissioner Aschbacher, seconded by Commissioner Stropich to approve out of county travel for Jody Norman and Karl Soderman to travel to Davenport, IA to tour the John Deere manufacturing plant, with all expenses being covered by Nortrax, Inc.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Commissioner Aschbacher:

Resolution of Support

Preamble: The local units of government in the Delta and Marquette County Central Upper Peninsula encourage the creation of a Next Michigan Development District for the purpose of bringing one of the State's most powerful economic development incentives to the Upper Peninsula region by requiring the Michigan Strategic Fund to designate at least one (1) Next Michigan Development District above the 43rd parallel that consists of two (2) contiguous counties with a combined population of between 100,000 to 110,000.

Whereas, the units of government in Delta and Marquette Counties are promoting a regional collaboration and partnership in the course of exploring the tremendous opportunities available by the creation of a Central Upper Peninsula economic development engine as defined in the Next Michigan Development Act No. 275 of 2010 which will promote economic growth focused on multi-modal transportation.

Whereas, a micropolitan economic development strategy is a vital regional approach in growing and attracting business to the Upper Peninsula.

Whereas, the Central Upper Peninsula needs a micropolitan type regional economic development policy and Next Michigan Development District which supports a diverse set of stakeholder community & business leaders, and support from local elected officials, and from the Executive Branch, to realize this significant and unique opportunity.

Whereas, the Upper Peninsula is a geographically and economically diverse portion of the State of Michigan. In general terms, the area is too urban to be called rural, but too rural to be called urban.

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Whereas, As individual units of government in the Upper Peninsula, our area does not have the economic or political presence of larger cities in the Lower Peninsula but nevertheless our region has an opportunity to increase the Central Upper Peninsula's presence in our ability to increase activity in manufacturing, distribution and transporting products and raw material supplies.

Whereas, the Central Upper Peninsula is a prime candidate for regional economic development zone in that the region has:

- A total combined population of 110,000 +/-
- Approximately 33 key manufacturers and major employers who employ 15,175 +/- people
- A diverse multi-modal transportation system in place

Whereas, the units of government in Delta and Marquette Counties understand that further collaboration and partnering is needed in identifying:

- "Best Practices" in other parts of the State and throughout the country must be identified for potential use within the Central Upper Peninsula
- State and regional economic development planning and policy must be aligned to provide a framework for organizing effective policies and investment
- Elected officials, communities and economic development stakeholders must come together in a collaborative model to bring these powerful economic development resources to the Upper Peninsula

Whereas, these opportunities include the potential to create unprecedented economic development by way of locating tomorrow's economic powerhouses in this region today; creating high paying jobs to ensure the attraction and retention of a highly trained and skilled workforce, to ensure our citizens can receive an education in Michigan and put their talents to use in this great state, and to achieve a unique investment that reflects the impact felt by manufacturers with a long-term perspective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Delta County Road Commissioners does hereby endorse and support bi-partisan legislation to amend the Next Michigan Development Act, Public Act 275 of 2010, MCL 125.2951. for the purpose of bringing one of the state's most powerful economic development incentives to the Upper Peninsula region by requiring the Michigan Strategic Fund to designate at least one Next Michigan Development District above the 43rd parallel that consists of two (2) contiguous counties that has a combined population of between 100,000 to 110,000.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Under Public Comment, employee Brian Kleiman asked about the budget and cost of winter maintenance to date. Managing Director Rob VanEffen indicated that by the end of the season winter maintenance costs for the county system could be over \$1,000,000.

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Under Road Commissioners' Comments, Commissioner Aschbacher shared an email he received from a resident who travels to Negaunee on a daily basis and complimented the maintenance of the roads in Delta County over the winter.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, Chairman Bjork moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Randolph Bjork, Chairman

Amy J. Reinhardt, Deputy County Clerk