

The **regular meeting** of the Alcona County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Building in the City of Harrisville, Michigan on Wednesday, **July 17, 2019** at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Craig Johnston, Chairman.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Wnuk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Commissioners present: Craig Johnston, Chairman, Adam Brege, Vice Chairman, Carolyn Brummund, Gary Wnuk and Dan Gauthier. Also present: Stephany Eller, County Clerk and Cheryl Franks, County Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Wnuk, seconded by Brummund, to approve the July 3, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Lukaszewicz, Alcona County Conservation Board Representative, requested the Board adopt a resolution opposing the proposed budget reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

PRESENTATIONS:

Jerome Raynak, Haynes Township resident, addressed the Board in regard to poor cell phone service near Sturgeon Point.

At this time numerous Haynes Township residents spoke of their concern of the lack of cell phone service in their area.

Nicholas Townsend, Huron Community Bank, presented to the Board fraud protection software that could be provided to the County through "Positive Pay".

Andrew Sundin, TBTA General Manager, provided the Board with amended Articles of Incorporation and informed the Board of what the amendments were.

Doug Welton, Anderson, Tackman & Co. Auditor, reviewed with the Board the 2018 audit.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:39 a.m. with all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Board discussed future possibilities with Munetrix. It was determined that the Board would remain with MGT for 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to approve pre-authorized claims and open claims presented for payment between 7/03/19 to 7/16/19 for check numbers 137874 to 137992 and E-check numbers 1072 to 1085 for a grand total of \$389,947.84.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Wnuk, Brege, Johnston and Gauthier

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brege, seconded by Wnuk, to approve raises of 2% for non-union employees and department heads and 1% for elected officials and their deputies, excluding Commissioners, with a \$2,500.00 bonus to the department heads of IT and Building and Grounds.

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to amend the motion to approve raises of 2% for non-union employees and department heads and 1% for elected officials and their deputies, excluding Commissioners, and table the \$2,500.00 bonuses for the department heads of IT and Building and Grounds at this time.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to approve the amended motion to approve raises of 2% for non-union employees and department heads and 1% for elected officials and their deputies, excluding Commissioners, and table the \$2,500.00 bonuses for the department heads of IT and building and grounds at this time.

Roll Call: Yes – Johnston, Gauthier, Brummund and Brege

No- Wnuk

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Gauthier, to approve the Thunder Bay Transportation Authority's Articles of Incorporation amendments.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brege, seconded by Gauthier, to approve the Resolution #2019-11 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2019-11

**RESOLUTION AGAINST PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS
TO THE QUALIFIED FOREST PROGRAM**

Whereas, Alcona County recognizes the importance of the Qualified Forest Program and the positive effects of the Forestry Assistance Program Foresters to the local economy and positive response of the public to the services offered by Forestry Assistance Program Foresters.

Whereas, the County of Alcona has been positively augmented by the presence of a Michigan Department of Agriculture funded Qualified Forest Program Forestry Assistance Program Forester.

Whereas, the State of Michigan has proposed budget reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

Whereas, the County of Alcona is firmly opposed to any funding reduction that effects the quantity of Forestry Assistance Program Foresters.

Whereas, the County of Alcona is firmly opposed to any funding reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Alcona County Board of Commissioners is against the passage or enactment of budget reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Michigan State Senate, the Michigan State House of Representatives and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

Roll Call: Yes – Brummund, Gauthier, Brege and Johnston

No - Wnuk

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Wnuk, to receive the 2018 Audit as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Wnuk, to approve the buy-out for the Veteran’s Affairs Counselor in September.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gauthier, seconded by Brummund, to approve Resolution #2019-10 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2019-10

VETERANS SERVICES GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(a), as amended, establishes a “base amount” of \$50,000.00 per County for “veterans service operations;” and

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(b) provides for a “per capita amount” for the “number of veterans residing in each county;” and

WHEREAS, the plain language of MCL 35.623a(5) provides that disbursements to counties are to be determined by “combining” these amounts; and

WHEREAS, distinction between a “base amount” of \$50,000.00 per year and a variable “per capita amount” strongly suggests that the base amount may be interpreted as being fixed; and

WHEREAS, the statute can reasonably be interpreted to mean that the \$50,000.00 base amount would be ongoing, and would thus sustain County initiatives, provided the County complied with the provisions of MCL 35.623a; and

WHEREAS, the Alcona County Department of Veterans Affairs has taken all steps prescribed by MVAA to achieve the eligibility requirements established in MCL 35.623a and thus to qualify for continued funding into the new fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Alcona County has, in fact, relied on this “fixed” base amount in implementing plans for services to veterans, to wit, hiring one highly qualified full time Veterans Service Officer, with further plans to fund that individuals VA Accreditation Training; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has a long history of promoting an increase in the number of Veterans Administration Accredited Representatives to serve Michigan Veterans; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to disbursing the statutorily mandated funds for 2019, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency briefed the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors that the grant funding is programmed to be reduced to \$25,000.00 “base amount” for Fiscal Year 2020 due to funding constraints; and

WHEREAS, this reduction contravenes the plain language of the statute and will undermine steps taken by Alcona County to provide services to our veterans, and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Alcona County Board of Commissioners urges compliance with the plain language of MCL 35.623a, and calls upon the State Legislature and the Governor to fully fund the County Veterans Service Fund Grant in FY 2020 and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Whitmer, Senator Stamas, Representative Allor and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Roll Call: Yes – Johnston, Brummund, Brege, Gauthier and Wnuk

No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Brummund, seconded by Wnuk, to approve the grade level change for the Teamsters Equalization Assistant from a level 201 to a level 301.

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Cheryl Franks questioned the Board regarding the Cedar Lake Project and if this would be done in time for winter taxes.

CLERK’S REPORT:

Stephany Eller presented communications and informed the Board that effective July 8, 2019 Kimberly Fenner completed her 90 days and was deputized as the Payroll Assistant.

The Finance Committee submitted an invoice for legal services that will need to be addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Menominee County Resolution 2019-14 & 2019-15
Hillsdale County Resolution 19-083
Michigan Township Par Plan News
Michigan Municipal League ballot

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board gave brief reports on the committee meetings they recently attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMISSIONER'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m. until the next **regular meeting** to be held on **August 7, 2019** at 10:00 a.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

DRAFT