

Crawford County Board of Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting of April 15, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman, Dave Stephenson at 9:36 a.m. in the Crawford County Building, Grayling, Michigan the 15th day of April, 2009.

Invocation by Chairman Stephenson.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Hanson.

Roll Call: Stephenson, Anderson, Hanson, Lange and Rogers.

Absent – Beardslee and Pinkelman.

Sandra Moore, County Clerk-Register of Deeds - Present.

Paul Compo, County Controller - Present.

Others present at various times: Linda Cronk, Kirk Wakefield, Alice Snyder, Jack Mahank, Karen Lint, Mary Jergenson, Ilene Geiss-Wilson, John Demorest, Dan Sanderson, Suzanne Luck, Tom Kozlowski, Mark Rutter, Kevin Hunter, Troy Trudo, Richard Trudo, Beverly Ludeman, Larry Ludeman, Gailla Gilliland, Dale Ruckle, Gloria Ruckle, Dennis Fyock, Ken Riehle, Mark Blossfeld, Nancy Billinghamurst, Shawn Gabriel, Travis Gabriel, Todd Gabriel, Kary Gabriel, Nancy Niederer, Gerald Dill, Judy Dill, Tom Baker, Jack Kurtz, and other unidentified persons.

Approval of the Regular Board Minutes

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to approve the Minutes for the March 18, 2009 Regular Board Meeting with the elimination of a “e” in the Clerk’s report on page 5 and an addition of “counties are” in the 2008 audit report on page 4. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Hanson, second by Lange, to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion Amended by Hanson, second by Lange, to amend the agenda and move the presentation from MSU Extension Director, Linda Cronk up on the agenda before the ORV Public Hearing. Vote on the motion as amended: Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment

COA Director, Alice Snyder requested the county consider four (4) questions regarding the COA bond issue: 1. How will the petition signatures be verified? 2. Will the Hatchery location still be available if COA waits until 2010? 3. Will the bond for 1.5 million still be available to COA next August? 4. Will the bond to build new be offered for the east side of the river?

Open Invoice Report and Prepaid Vouchers

Motion by Lange, second by Hanson, to authorize payment of the following claims:

General Fund:

Balance from "Open Invoice Rep"	21,760.00
Prepaid Invoices	132,105.10
Gross Payroll	181,968.64
Total General Fund	<u>335,833.74</u>

Millage/Road Patrol Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	717.66
Prepaid Invoices	1,302.60
Gross Payroll	19,000.29
Total Millage Fund	<u>21,020.55</u>

Economic Development Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	150.00
Gross Payroll	
Total EDF Fund	<u>150.00</u>

Tri-County 46th Trial Court

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"

Prepaid Invoices	4,181.24
Gross Payroll	
Total Tri-County Court	<u>4,181.24</u>

Friend of the Court

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	2,072.94
Gross Payroll	11,430.37
Total Friend of the Court	<u>13,503.31</u>

Enforcement/Recycle Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	8,357.04
Prepaid Invoices	224.74
Gross Payroll	5,131.50
Total Enforcement Fund	<u>13,713.28</u>

COPS in Schools Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	392.35
Gross Payroll	4,462.50
Total COPS Fund	<u>4,854.85</u>

Building & Zoning Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	2,488.43
Prepaid Invoices	137.23
Gross Payroll	5,615.57
Total Building & Zoning Fund	<u>8,241.23</u>

D.A.R.E. Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	117.75
Prepaid Invoices	
Gross Payroll	
Total DARE Fund	<u>117.75</u>

MSU Cooperative Extension Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	170.18
Prepaid Invoices	428.69
Gross Payroll	1,018.44
Total MSU fund	<u>1,617.31</u>

County Bldg. Renovation Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	20,978.05
Gross Payroll	
Total Renovation Fund	<u>20,978.05</u>

Central Dispatch Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	222.00
Prepaid Invoices	689.50
Gross Payroll	19,386.63
Total Central Dispatch Fund	<u>20,298.13</u>

Courthouse Preservation Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	11,868.24
Gross Payroll	
Total Courthouse Preservation Fund	<u>11,868.24</u>

Law Library Fund

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	749.75
Gross Payroll	
Total Library Fund	<u>749.75</u>

Family/Probate Court

Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	
Prepaid Invoices	16,421.46
Gross Payroll	8,202.43
Total Family/Probate Court	24,623.89

<u>Fish Hatchery Fund</u>	
Balance from "Open Invoice Report"	8.96
Prepaid Invoices	40.92
Gross Payroll	
Total Fish Fund	49.88

Roll Call: Beardslee – absent, Hanson – aye, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers - aye, Stephenson - aye, Anderson – aye, Motion Carried.

Introduction of DAV Representative

John Demorest, DAV Service Officer introduced himself as the new representative for the Department of American Veterans holding office hours in Crawford County. Mr. Demorest advised he has worked for the Department Affairs for fourteen (14) years and has more then twenty (20) years in military service. Mr. Demorest circulated proposed Senate Bill 250 that was offered by Senator Garcia to dismantle the arrangement Michigan Veterans have had in place since 1921 and dictate the means by which service is delivered to veterans.

Motion by Lange, second by Hanson, to request the Board submit a letter to Senator Tony Stamas in opposition of Senate Bill 250, as it proposes the creation of a “Directorate of Veterans’ Affairs” to dismantle the arrangement to Michigan veterans that has been in place since 1921. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Approval Correspondence

Motion by Lange, second by Hanson, to accept the correspondence as submitted. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Correspondence

1. Allegan County Board – Resolution to restore state revenue sharing.
2. Antrim County Board – Resolution opposing a 50% reduction of funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.
3. Antrim County Board – Resolution in support of the use of \$15,000,000 of the economic stimulus monies for the State of Michigan Survey and Remonumentation Program for 2009 and an additional \$15,000,000 to supplement the program through fiscal year 2010.
4. Berrien County Board – Resolution opposing the 50% reduction in MSU Extension funding.
5. Hillsdale County Board – Resolution supporting \$15,000,000 of the economic stimulus monies.
6. Oceana County Board – Resolution opposing the passage of Senate Joint Resolution H.
7. Oceana County Board – Resolution opposing a 50% reduction of funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.
8. Oceana County Board – Resolution supporting of the economic stimulus monies for the State.
9. Oscoda County Board – Resolution of support for county remonumentation program.
10. Oscoda County Board – Resolution to implement a plan to improve MI roads & highways.
11. Oscoda County Board – Resolution requiring municipal courts bearing the responsibility for funding lawsuits against counties and other local units.
12. Ottawa County Board – Resolution opposing the passage of Senate Joint Resolution H.
13. Ottawa County Board – Resolution opposing 50% reduction in MSU Extension funding.

14. Department of Human Services – Planning and potential grant application process for the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Title V “Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Initiative”.
15. Michigan Association of Counties – Ask a Lawyer session offered in Traverse City and Frankenmuth. Chairman Stephenson inquired if anyone was attending, no response given.
16. Michigan Public Service Commission – MI Central Broadband evidentiary hearing on 4-7-09 @ 9:00.
17. MI DNR – Auction of Lands for Oil & Gas lease.
18. General Preservation Corporation – Exterior Preservation services offered.
19. MI Economic Development Corporation – Key Economic Development Legislation passed in 2008.
20. NEMCOG – Notice of Intent for Northern Initiatives for USDA.
21. NEMCOG – Notice of Intent for Northeast MI Community Partnership.
22. MAC – Legislative updates for March 20, 27, and April 3 & 10, 2009.
23. CRAM – Legislative updates for March 30, 2009.
24. US Department of Justice – County is eligible for JAG Recovery Funding.
25. MI Public Service Commission – April 21, 2009 hearing for MI Central Broadband Co.
26. Northern Lakes Co Mental Health – Financial Audit for 9-30-09 (placed on file.)

MSU Extension

MSU Extension Director, Linda Cronk submitted a packet of information regarding MSU Extension Funding for FY2007-08 and the facts and responses to the state proposed cuts. MSU Extension and Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station impacts: Entrepreneurship, Community, Economic Development, Nutrition, Health, Well-being, Parenting and Childcare. This funding cut will result in job losses and dramatically reduce growth for the State.

Ms. Cronk remarked on the valuable resources MSU provides and the upcoming new programs being offered through the family nutrition and project fresh programs.

Motion by Rogers, second by Anderson, to adopt resolution 041509 to oppose a 50% reduction of funding for the MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. To convey to Governor Granholm and state legislators that the 50% reduction of state funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is an unacceptable solution to the state’s budget problem. Roll Call: Beardslee – absent, Hanson – aye, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Motion Carried.

Ms. Cronk indicated she recently spoke with Senator Tony Stamas whom advised that all agencies have to take cuts, but MSU cuts are extension. Ms. Cronk advised that Crawford County MSU Extension provides services to over 1,500 residents in local programs.

Recess at 10:02 to conduct the ORV Public Hearing in the Circuit Courtroom.

Meeting resumed at 10:14 a.m. with Chairman Stephenson opening the hearing.

ORV Public Hearing

There were over thirty (30) citizens in attendance with most in favor the ordinance. Chairman Stephenson announced the county has received over sixty (60) letters of support in favor of the ORV ordinance and some in opposition. There continues to be phone calls from those that are concerned that all roads will be open for travel. Chairman Stephenson turned the meeting over to Commissioner Hanson. Commissioner Hanson identified the process the county has to followed and indicated he has included the Road Commission, DNR and Township’s in the many discussions. The road commission has the authority to close up to 30 percent of the roads.

Sheriff Wakefield explained the ORV grant guidelines and advised there are new state rules for alternative and non-traditional vehicles. The Sheriff offered to copy the rules copied and place them on display at the sheriffs department.

Many questions and inquires came from the audience, with positive discussions. Discussion followed regarding fines. The Commissioner advised that residents 12 – 15 years of age must have an ORV permit, those over 16 must have a valid Michigan ID. Discussion ensued to require operators to have insurance. Commissioner Hanson advised the Visitors Bureau has an overlay map that the county will try and put on the website and to allow a half hour public session at the May 20th board meeting. It was noted that the Townships can make changes after July 1, 2009. Senator Stamas' Representative, Mary Jergenson advised the 148 state legislators implemented a plan they could agree on, and this is what they offered to work with.

Motion by Lange, second by Anderson, to close the Public Hearing at 11:20 a.m. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Recess at 11:20 a.m. and resumed at 11:40 a.m.

Motion by Anderson, second by Hanson, to adopt the first draft of the ORV ordinance.

Motion Amended by Anderson, second by Hanson, to adopt Ordinance ORV052009 at the May 20, 2009 meeting. To allow the Road Commission to proceed and identify those roads they wish closed to ORV traffic. The ORV Ordinance to become effective and allow the Township to proceed with notice of road closure. Commissioner Hanson requested the government agencies be offered an opportunity to amend the ordinance. Roll Call: Hanson – aye, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Motion Carried.

2009 Equalization Report

Equalization Director, Kevin Hunter presented the 2009 County Equalization Report and Equalized Values.

Motion by Hanson, second by Lange, to accept the 2009 County Equalization Report in the amount of \$775,472,068. Roll Call: Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Hanson – aye, Motion Carried.

Department Reports

Clerk Report

County Clerk, Sandra Moore advised she received 168 petitions with 1,604 signatures on the Commission on Aging Referendum issue. The petitions will be submitted to the Township Clerks for verification.

Discussion began regarding whether the County will allow the Hatchery Building to be an option in 2010. County Controller, Paul Compo advised if COA does not want the Building, the county may want to look at the facility to house public health. The Building should be brought up to code before any usage though.

Commission on Aging Director, Alice Snyder voiced concern with the special election cost and what options will be available if we wait until 2010. Commission on Aging member, Bob McIntosh advised getting water and sewer to the VFW property at the end of Madsen Street would be less expensive then holding a special election.

Commissioner Lange reminded members that interest rates are at an all time low and now is the time to borrow money. If the County chooses the eastside of the river the county will be back to floating a millage. Board Chairman Stephenson advised we were trying to do this without costing the voters money.

Commission on Aging Chairman, Jack Mahank advised that the county has two (2) delinma's with the COA and Health Department. If the COA has another recommendation they will bring it back to the board.

Bob McIntosh indicated it is his opinion the senior citizens don't want the Fish Hatchery property/building as the COA site.

Commissioner Anderson advised a combination for both entities would be the best service for residents and community.

Commissioner Rogers requested the Controller view the option for the Health Department. The Controller advised he will review those costs.

Controller Report

Controller Compo advised the building off Norway Street is not for sale. The Controller indicated he must notify the State by 5/15/09 of our intentions to participate in the current funding program for 9-1-1. If we chose to change it, it must be through a special election by May 2010.

Gosling Czubak Engineering Services for Soccer Fields

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to authorize the County to enter into the contract for services between Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences and the County of Crawford for professional services to the Sports Complex Property Soccer Facility. Roll Call: Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Hanson – aye, Lange – aye, Motion Carried.

The Controller advised he is checking eligibility for stimulus grants, some grants are available for energy use. There is a Rural Development grant or loan that the county may be eligible for.

Engineers Opinion of Probably Construction Cost

The Controller advised the Building Site Improvement - Phase 1 estimated construction costs have increased.

Excavating Work on the Fish Hatchery Property

The foundation bid work increased \$200 and is now \$3,200 for the removal of stumps.

Motion by Lange, second by Hanson, to approve the contract with Millikin Excavating for the removal and disposal of two (2) 30 X 80 concrete foundations, concrete loading ramp foundation, the removal of stumps, and leveling the area upon completion at the Fish Hatchery Property. Roll Call: Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Hanson – aye, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

Sports Complex Policy Statement

Motion by Hanson, second by Lange, to adopt the Sports Complex Policy Statement as presented. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Request to Require \$90 Permit Fee in Building and Zoning

Motion by Lange, second by Anderson, to move the request to require the \$90 permit fee to the May Ways & Means Committee Meeting. Ayes (5) five, nays (0) none, absent (2) two, Motion Carried.

Commissioner Hanson excused at 12:50 p.m.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Rogers – The Commissioner advised the Department of Human Services was involved in a Children's rights lawsuit and advocating grandparents are now required to be licensed foster care parents and the county is required to pay those licensing costs. The Department of Human Services is lowering their maximum caseload for DHS workers.

Commissioner Hanson - The Commissioner was absent and he had no Personnel & Labor Committee recommendations to report.

Commissioner Pinkelman – The Commissioner was absent and she had no Law Enforcement Committee recommendations to report.

Commissioner Lange – The Commissioner reported his Ways & Means Committee recommendations.

District Health Department Resolution

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to request the Michigan Legislature add \$5 million for local Public Health Operations (LPHO) in the Department of Community Health Budget for fiscal year 2009-10 and restore the cuts proposed by the Governor. Roll Call: Stephenson – aye, Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Hanson – absent, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Motion Carried.

Courthouse Renovation Project

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to authorize the Board to solicit the Courthouse Renovation Bids on April 15th. To hold bids open for 30 days, authorize the opening of bids on May 15th with an authorization for a bond sale of May 20th. Ayes (4) four, nays (0) none, absent (3) three, Motion Carried.

Library Budget Amendments

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to approve the Library Fund, Budget Amendments up to the new amount of \$443,130.00. Roll Call: Anderson – aye, Beardslee – absent, Hanson – absent, Lange – aye, Pinkelman – absent, Rogers – aye, Stephenson – aye, Motion Carried.

Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to approve the Executive Session Minutes for April 2, 2009 as read. Ayes (4) four, nays (0) none, absent (3) three, Motion Carried.

Commissioner Anderson – The Commissioner advised he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stephenson – The Commissioner advised the Michigan Department of State is offering to do construction code fees. The Commissioner circulated the 2009 fact sheet for the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health.

Commissioner Beardslee – The Commissioner was absent.

New Business

Minutes from Otsego County Emergency Management/911 were received and placed on file.

Appointment of Housing Commission Member

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to appoint Joe Swain to the Housing Commission Board for a term ending 4-15-14.

Motion by Anderson, to appoint Karen Lint died for lack of support.

Vote on the motion to appoint Joe Swain. Ayes (4) four, nays (0) none, absent (3) three, Motion Carried.

Extended Public Comment

Commission on Aging and Housing Commission Board Member Bob McIntosh advised he is having a hard time hearing and requested a PA system be installed in the Circuit Courtroom for hearing impaired when the County makes the renovations to the County Building.

Announcements – none.

Adjournment

Motion by Lange, second by Rogers, to adjourn meeting at 1:11 p.m. Ayes (4) four, nays (0) none, absent (3) three, Motion Carried.

Dave Stephenson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Sandra Moore,
County Clerk/Register of Deeds