**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**November 8, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Rolof called the Regular Meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Circuit Courtroom, Baraga County Courthouse, 16 N. Third Street, L’Anse, MI 49946.

**ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Rolof instructed Deputy Clerk Carrie Forcia to take roll call with the following results: Present: Gale Eilola, District 1, Brad Dakota, District 2, Dan Robillard, District 3, Commissioner Olsen, District 4 and William Rolof, District 5.

Absent: None.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Chairman Rolof led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to approve the Agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on October 12, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:**

Chairman Rolof opened the meeting up for public comment. There was no public comment.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

**REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for October 2021 ($1,420.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of October 13, 2021 through November 8, 2021 in the amount of $107,600.10. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of October 13, 2021 through November 8, 2021 in the amount of $799,240.26. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Dakota made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to table the Sheriff’s Department request for security cameras. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, support by Commissioner Eilola to table the Branding Committee request for funding for Phase II of the County branding project. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to approve the contract with the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury to perform the FY21 audit. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to accept the 2021/2022 Agreement with Great Lakes Recovery Centers for the County Employee Assistance program. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

No letters of interest were received for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Robillard reported that the Western UP Health Dept. has COVID vaccines for children.

Commissioner Olsen reported that the Trails Authority needs members.

Commissioner Rolof reported that the Bayside Village received a disbursement of 2% monies from the KBIC and that the funds required a pass-through through the County. Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to approve the 2% disbursement pass-through to Bayside Village in the amount of $6,921.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

The following items were presented for information:

* BCMH Board of Trustee, Minutes
* Marquette County 2040 Master Plan

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TREASURER TO ESTABLISH FUND 286 ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT)

WHEREAS, Baraga County is expecting to receive ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars in a total of $1,594,502, which will be received in two equal installments with the first having been awarded in May 2021 and the second to arrive a year from the first, and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are restricted for the specific purposes as defined by the ARPA; and

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Treasurer recommends establishing a Special Revenue Fund 286 for the specific purpose of tracking revenues and expenditures related to the ARPA funds.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE MATCH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has faced tremendous challenges as it dealt with a deadly pandemic for nearly a year and a half and is now presented with an opportunity to strategically invest in our residents, entrepreneurs, businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, Michigan will receive more than $10 billion in fiscal recovery aid, with 83 counties slated to get $1.9 billion directly in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds; and

WHEREAS, cities and larger townships will receive a total of $1.8 billion and non-entitlement communities (smaller units) approximately $644 million, with the state of Michigan itself receiving more than $6.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, eligible expenditures include revenue reimbursements, savings and growing interest on the funds, broadband infrastructure, economic development and individual assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, county leaders are already under pressure to announce spending decisions and elected officials at all levels of government will have to make decisions on where and how they will use the dollars within federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties is working on a match program to earmark close to $4 billion in state ARP funds to leverage all levels of government to strategically invest the one-time dollars in area of greatest need for improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of counties has received positive feedback on the ideas put forth for match programs within the state; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has a chance to amplify investments with the influx of federal funding and a collaborative effort by all levels of government that will allow the dollars to be stretched to invest in common goals; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive approach to leverage ARP dollars will provide Michigan the ability to amplify investment for our future by focusing resources in five key areas - water infrastructure and broadband, local capacity and fiscal stability, housing and community development, comprehensive economic development and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, our future success is inextricably linked, and strategic investment of our available resources need to support and strengthen these connections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners supports American Rescue Plan State Match Programs and authorizes the Baraga County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution directly to all County Boards and the State legislative officials of the State of Michigan.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF the State of Michigan

to fulfill its STATUTORY obligations WITH REGARD TO STATE REVENUE SHARING PAYMENT AMOUNTS

WHEREAS, in 2005 State Revenue Sharing payments were discontinued to counties, relieving the State Budget of $183 million in annual State Revenue Sharing payments to counties, with the promise and agreement that these payments would be restored when each of the individual counties Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund were exhausted

WHEREAS, Baraga County’s Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund was exhausted in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has identified 60 Michigan counties that have received less than the statutorily required amount of State Revenue Sharing since Revenue Sharing Reserve Funds were exhausted; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Association of Counties has identified a $37,829 cumulative shortfall in State Revenue Sharing payments to Baraga County since 2013; and

WHEREAS, with the influx of American Rescue Plan funds to the State of Michigan, there are sufficient funds available to make counties whole with regard to State Revenue Sharing payment shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, unlike Baraga County’s allocation from the American Rescue Plan, the payment of the State Revenue Sharing shortfall will not be restricted to COVID-19 related expenses thereby making it eligible for critical infrastructure projects, pension fund or OPEB contributions and other expenditures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners does hereby support and urge the State of Michigan to fulfill its statutory obligations with regard to State Revenue Sharing payments for all 60 Michigan counties identified by the Michigan Association of Counties that received less than their statutorily required amounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,that the County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader for the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and Baraga County’s State Legislative delegation for their consideration and action.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen made a motion, supported by Commissioner Rolof to adopt a resolution supporting amendments to the Open Meetings Act. There was discussion that followed regarding confusing wording. Commissioner Robillard made a motion to rescind the motion to adopt the resolution to get further clarity from Prosecuting Attorney Joseph O’Leary, supported by Commissioner Dakota. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Eilola made a motion, supported by Commissioner Robillard to adopt the following resolution:

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Support for HB 5026

WHEREAS the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act, Michigan Public Act 21 of 1986, MCL §484.1101 et seq., as amended (“Act”), sunsets on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS without an extension of the Act, Baraga County has no authority to provide 9-1-1 service or to determine the technical, operational, managerial, or fiscal aspects of 9-1-1 service within the Baraga County 9-1-1 Service District; and

WHEREAS the cost of the 9-1-1 Emergency Service IP Network has been historically funded by a user fee on communication devices; and

WHEREAS user fee revenue has fallen short of expectations, which will result in a deficit in the State fund that pays for 9-1-1 network costs by 2023; and

WHEREAS the Michigan State budget for fiscal year 2022 includes a one-time appropriation of $16 million dollars to eliminate the deficit in the 9-1-1 network fund; and

WHEREAS HB 5026 serves as a vehicle to allow the appropriation to be deposited in the appropriate portion of the fund; and

WHEREAS HB 5026 increase State user fees as follows: Contractual devices remain at $.25 per device and prepaid devices from 5% of the sale to 6% of the sale.

WHEREAS this small increase in user fees is only the amount necessary to fund the Emergency Services IP Network going forward; and

WHEREAS the Department of Information Technology recommends the Baraga County Board of Commissioners support enactment of HB 5026 to ensure continued operation and funding of 9-1-1 service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Baraga County Board of Commissioners supports enactment of HB 5026 to ensure continued operation and funding of 9-1-1 service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be forwarded to all members of the Michigan legislature representing Baraga County.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

No Commissioner comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Robillard made a motion, supported by Commissioner Eilola to adjourn the meeting until Monday, December 13, 2021. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodreau

County Clerk