

Barry County Board of Commissioners
July 13, 2010; 9:00 a.m.; Commission Chambers

1. The regular session of the Barry County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Houtman in the Barry County Commission Chamber. Roll was taken. The following members were present: Bremer, Gibson, Houtman, Lyons, Nevins, Stolsonburg, and VanNortwick. Absent: Callton.

2. All those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

3. Invocation

4. APPROVAL OF WRITTEN AGENDA:

Chair Houtman requested the agenda be amended to reflect a presentation by Valerie Brynes, Barry County Economic Development Alliance. Commissioner Nevins requested Item “d” be removed from the Consent Agenda. Moved by VanNortwick, seconded by Gibson to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes; no nays; motion carried by voice vote.

5. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Keith Ferris, Charlton Park, thanked members of the Board for their participation in the breakfast for the Gas and Steam Club. He also thanked Liz Nevins and Phyllis Fuller. This weekend is the Civil War Reenactment at Charlton Park. Keith Murphy thanked everyone for their participation on behalf of the Gas and Steam Club.

Kathy Walters Surratt, 4-H Michigan State University Extension presented the annual 4-H report and invited everyone to the Barry County Fair. Eli Evans and Emily Luther gave presentations on their involvement with 4-H.

Gary White commented on the Animal Control Advisory Board and recommended that everyone walk in “my” shoes first before establishing a board. He also requested the board stay on task with the agenda in Committee meetings.

6. VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCES: None

7. CONSENT ITEMS:

Moved by Stolsonburg, seconded by VanNortwick to approve the following consent items:

- a. The June 22, 2010 meeting minutes
- b. The contract #CSPA10-08002, Agreement between State of Michigan Department of Human Services and the County of Barry, Amendment #1
- c. The Amendment #1, Contract CSFOC 10-08001 Agreement between State of Michigan Department of Human Services and the County of Barry

- e. The bid from Fox Building Service in the amount of \$15,840 for home repairs to 305 Russell St., Middleville, MI to be paid for from the HOME fund
- f. The Request For Proposals to conduct a Feasibility Study for the Relocation of County Offices to the Former City Library Building

Roll taken. All ayes; no nays, motion carried.

- d. Moved by Lyons, seconded by Stolsonburg to approve the grant application to the Department of Natural Resources & Environment for Marine Equipment of \$14,963 to be used to purchase a new patrol boat package. Discussion occurred. All ayes; motion carried by voice vote.

8. PRESENTATIONS:

Valerie Brynes, Barry County Economic Develop Alliance presented the quarterly report, highlighting some of the events. Discussion occurred.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. Moved by Bremer seconded by Stolsonburg to approve Resolution # 10-20 , Resolution To Authorize Issuance of Michigan Transportation Bonds for Finkbeiner/Crane Road Bridge Project. Attorney James White provided an overview on the process and progress. No bids were received, the request for proposal was modified and it is expected bids will be received today. The Resolution was modified to allow the County Administrator and County Treasurer to make a decision on what proposal to accept. Discussion occurred. Roll taken. All ayes; no nays; motion carried.

(Recess at 10:02 a.m.; resume at 10:15 a.m.; all members present except Callton who is absent today).

- b. Moved by VanNortwick seconded by Gibson to approve Resolution #10-21, Resolution of Support and Endorsement of the Creating Entrepreneurial Communities project for the 2010-2013 cohort, including a pledge of in-kind support in the form of promotion of the program through County networks, office and meeting space, and work station technical support. Roll taken. All ayes; no nays; motion carried.

- c. Moved by Gibson seconded by Stolsonburg to approve Resolution #10-17, Honor James M. Westra Upon His Retirement From Barry County. Judge Fisher read the resolution:

WHEREAS: Mr. James M. Westra began his career in Barry County as a Probation Officer with the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1969 – being the first full-time State Probation Officer in Barry County; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Westra came back to work for Barry County in July of 2000 as the Office of Community Corrections Manager and Program Director for the Adult Drug Court; and

WHEREAS: During his years of service to Barry County Mr. Westra was instrumental in establishing the Barry County Adult Drug Court and several successful Community Corrections programs; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Westra has dedicated many years of service, lending sound wisdom and insight, offering a standard of fairness for all court clients with whom he came in contact; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Westra has always shown compassion for the citizens of Barry County and the clients of the court system; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Westra has acted as a leader, mentor, role model and servant to those he worked with, clearly living his stated goal of mirroring his Creator.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Barry County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens, extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. James M. Westra for his leadership, service and dedication to the people of Barry County and wish him much happiness, health, and an abundance of family joy.

Comments by Judge Fisher and Mr. Westra were received. Roll taken. All ayes; no nays; motion carried.

d. Moved by Stolsonburg seconded by VanNortwick to approve Resolution #10-22, Resolution to Change Compensation and Method of Compensation for Barry County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Stolsonburg read the resolution:

WHEREAS, the Barry County Board of Commissioners is authorized pursuant to MCL 46.415 to establish compensation and mileage reimbursement for members of the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Barry County Board of Commissioners desires to change its current compensation system to reduce the budget and to more closely reflect the average compensation of comparable counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the compensation for members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners shall be changed beginning January 1, 2011, as follows:

- 1). The current salary and per diem package for County Commissioners will be eliminated.

- 2) A flat salary system will be implemented to compensate County Commissioners for regular, special, and liaison assignment meetings, as stated below.
- 3) Compensation levels will be set at an annual salary of \$10,500 for the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and an annual salary of \$9,500 for all other members of the Board of Commissioners.
- 4) Mileage reimbursement and fringe benefits for County Commissioners will remain unchanged.

Discussion occurred. Roll taken. All ayes; no nays; motion carried.

e. Moved by Nevins seconded by Lyons of transfers and disbursements: claims in the amount of \$89,084.94; pre-paid invoices in the amount of \$4,662,174.88; and Commissioners payroll in the amount of \$8,397.86. All ayes; no nays; motion carried by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS: None

12. NEW BUSINESS: None

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Michael Brown provided an overview on the construction occurring around the Courthouse. On Thursday, Mr. Brown will be attending the Michigan State University local government program on the revenue and expenditure program project. The move of the offices in the Annex to the Courts and Law Building is progressing. Mr. Brown further reported that he has been reviewing the Umbrella Tax Fund with the County Treasurer. Discussion occurred regarding debt reduction of the Courts and Law Building and Friend of the Court Building.

14. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Houtman reported that he has moved the discussion per diems and the Road Commissioner pay study to the August 3, 2010 Committee of the Whole. He is devoting a significant amount of time for the public to comment on the Animal Control Advisory Board on July 20, 2010.

15. VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: None

16. MEMBER'S TIME:

Commissioner VanNortwick indicated that the Charlton Park experience this past weekend was fun and the Civil War Reenactment is a great experience. Commissioner Gibson reminded everyone that the next County-wide Yard Sale at Charlton Park is July 22, 2010. Commissioner Bremer reminded everyone to attend the Barry County Fair. Commissioner Nevins indicated

that he had several contacts from people regarding next Committee of the Whole regarding the Animal Control Advisory Board.

17. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Keith Murphy reported that the Gas and Steam Club and Charlton Park donate left over food to the Commission on Aging, keeping the goods in the community.

18. OTHER BUSINESS: None

19. ADJOURNMENT (10:52 a.m.)

Moved by Lyons seconded by Bremer to adjourn. All ayes; no nays; motion carried by voice vote.

Robert Houtman, Chair
Barry County Board of Commissioners

Pamela A. Jarvis
Barry County Clerk