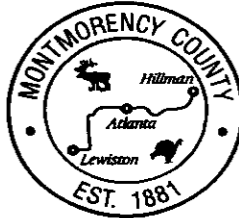


Don Edwards  
Gary Girardin  
Mary Hardies  
Lloyd Peltier  
Dell Bolser



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## County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners

### Regular Board Meeting

### Agenda

July 20, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Boardroom/Courtroom B

.....  
**CALL TO ORDER**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of minutes from: July 6, 2023
- Claims and Accounts
- Standing Committee Reports

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- DHD4 – Denise Bryan, Annual Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Hiawatha Lakes – Drain Commissioner ✓
- ~~Corrective Action Plans~~ – Removed
- ~~Policies~~ – Removed

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- Controller
- Treasurer  
**SHERIFF – Add**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURN SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN**

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, August 3, 2023

**MONTMORENCY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD JULY 20, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Gary Girardin, Dell Bolser, Don Edwards, Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** None

**PLEDGE**

**ADD/DELETIONS:**

Add: Sheriff

Delete: Corrective Action Plan, Policies

Motion by Girardin, seconded by Hardies approving the agenda with the addition and deletions. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier approving the regular meeting minutes of July 6, 2023. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:**

Motion by Girardin, seconded by Peltier approving payment of bills (Claims: \$105,801.27, EFT: \$199,481.89; Desk Checks: \$66,431.11 Total: \$371,714.27). Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Bolser, Edwards, Girardin, Hardies, Peltier) Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Comments by multiple residents on Hiawatha, Twin Dams and surrounding area as to lake levels and assessment district being proposed: Corinne ?; Ron Sigwal; Debbie S.; Dennis Styles; Laura Miller; Sue Ann West; Bill Houston; Heather F.; James Warner; Colleen Pipe; Keith Compeau; John B.; Michael P.; Attorney Joseph Quandt working with Twin Dams Association; Letter from Martin Elliott; Doug & Sandra H.; Trina Spence; Michael and William Garten; Tom Meadows; Penny W.; Robert W.; and Gary Bomer.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISTRICT HEALTH #4:** Denise Bryan present and gave District Health #4 annual report for 2022. Discussed programs offered, funding, budget, grants, fees and services, employs 54 people. Devon Spivey, Health Director, Epidemiologist spoke on Wellness Grant being utilized in Hillman Schools. Hailey, Public Health Nurse in Montmorency County spoke on clinics, WIC, immunization programs.

10:15 A.M. Break

10:24 A.M. Back in regular session.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**HIAWATHA LAKES-DRAIN COMMISSIONER:** Attorney Amanda K. and Warren Miller, Engineer with Spicer Groups appearing. Discussed the law that governs lake levels and how process works i.e. court sets level, county drain carries out day to day functions, county obligation to maintain, petition to start process along with board action to initiate and establish a lake level. Discussed boundaries of the special assessment district.

Warren Miller, Engineer went over the 3 current structures and discussed their rating and what has occurred since starting the process (temporary fix's done and emergency license process being done). The association initially managed the dams on a voluntary basis and own but now that the court process has been done the special assessment district is set and is the funding mechanism to pay for this. Discussed difference in assessment for those on the lake vs. backlot owners.

An informational meetings was held in June 2021, lake level study completed in Jan. 2022. Repairs were done in April 2022. After lake level set by the court, resolutions were passed, and grants were applied for from the "Dam Risk Reduction Grant," which was later denied by the state in Dec. 2022. Interim financing was secured in March 2023. They plan on looking at grants again in the fall when they become available.

Discussed project phases and cost (\$2 million for total project). Phase 1 will be to replace structure at Lower Hiawatha at cost of approximately \$840,000.00. This would need a board motion. They still will be looking for more affordable options and alternatives. Phase 2 would be Upper Hiathawa and Little Brush Lake structures. Permitting process is good for 5 years and would need another public hearing again for the whole process.

Discussed alternatives: (1) do nothing (2) remove dams or (3) move forward. Potential costs discussed for each including liability issues. The engineer is in favor of moving forward with Phase 1 and would need a resolution as well as the financing resolution. Discussion.

Comments by Drain Commissioner Charlie Arbour i.e. something needs done and will be at a cost no matter what, in favor of looking for something more cost affordable than the \$840,000 proposed. Discussed what if property owners fail to pay their taxes and choose to walk away. Discussed county needing an easement to maintain the structures moving forward so that there is access to work on them. Additional comments and questions allowed from some property owners. Info and a decision need to be made so that it can get placed on the December tax bills.

Briefly discussed appeal process. No action taken today. Board to hold another meeting at the August 17, 2023, meeting.

12:01 P.M. Break

12:18 P.M. Back in regular session.

#### **CONTROLLER:**

Aprille Williamson present. Topics: 207 Budget; waiting for approval of deficit elimination plan; marine grant; Microsoft licenses and website looked at for budget savings. Qualifying statement submitted; Opioid funds; Revenue sharing increase: \$14,000; there is money left over from the Pension Funding grant, waiting to see if we can apply for that.

SRO agreement sent to county attorney; several revisions suggested. Discussion. Motion by Bolser, seconded by Hardies approving the SRO agreement with Atlanta Schools as presented by the county attorney and authorizing the Controller to sign on behalf of the board as well as adding the Sheriff signature. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Edwards, Girardin, Hardies, Peltier, Bolser) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

The cleaning service will be on the next agenda for discussion.

#### **TREASURER REPORT:**

Cheri Eggett present. 2022 Treasurer report. ARPA request for money and update given. Motion by Edwards, seconded by Girardin approving ARPA expenditures in the amount of \$9000.00 for installation of the sheriff department service window. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Girardin, Hardies, Peltier, Bolser, Edwards) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Bolser, seconded by Hardies approving direct pay vouchers in the amount of \$3500.00 to current eligible Direct Pay applicants. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Hardies, Peltier, Bolser, Edwards, Girardin) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

#### **SHERIFF REPORT:**

Sheriff Brown present. Inmate count 11. Request to fill recent deputy vacancy. The academy starts Aug. 14 with the understanding that unless someone comes ready with MCOLES the next is not until January 2024. SRO's will be existing officers. An attorney will need to draft any repay agreement. Discussed budgets with controller and commissioners. The academy grant will cover some items. More discussion on where the money is to come from and how much is left in the budget after the current officer left (\$13,527.00 estimated).

12:47 P.M. Commissioner Girardin leaves meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None given.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sally Petrik citizen on budget and overspending.

1:21 P.M. Motion Bolser, seconded by Hardies to adjourn. No objections. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

  
Cheryl A. Neilsen, County Clerk