

**MONTMORENCY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Don Edwards, Gary Girardin, Robert Stacey, Geyer Balog, James Madison

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:**

**PLEDGE**

**ADD/DELETIONS:**

**Add:** Conservation District Presentation; County Clerk-Personnel Request

**Delete:** None

Motion by Balog, seconded by Edwards approving the agenda with the additions. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Edwards, seconded by Balog approving the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2022, with one correction on page one, last paragraph amount of the hoist for mechanic garage from “\$5200.00” to \$5299.00. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:**

Motion by Edwards, seconded Madison approving payment of the bills (Regular: \$217,003.03, Desk \$26,838.88 Totaling: \$243,841.91). Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Balog, Edwards, Girardin, Madison, Stacey) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Potter requesting permission for a few residents along Lake Avalon to private pay for gypsy moth spraying under the counties reduced rate. Discussion. Commissioner Balog to research further.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

Cheri Eggett, Treasurer present. Linsey Rogers present and gave update on ARPA funds. Presentation given at Senior Center.

**ARPA FUND SPENDING:**

**MECHANIC GARAGE:** Bids received and reviewed by committee, meets qualification for funds. Motion by Balog, seconded by Edwards to upgrade the Sheriff Dept. Maintenance garage HVAC system in the amount of \$12,885.00, and accept the bid proposed by Tipp of the Mitt Plumbing & Heating, fully funded by the ARPA fund. Yeas:5 Roll call: (Edwards, Girardin, Madison, Stacey, Balog) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS:** Committee met and discussed. Proposing a max allotment of \$8000.00 for small businesses and criteria. Motion by Balog, seconded by Madison to obligate \$250,000.00 of the ARPA funds for the Montmorency County Small Business Grant program. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Girardin, Madison, Stacey, Balog, Edwards) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**DIRECT PAY PROGRAM F/RESIDENTS:** Discussion on qualifications and proposed max of \$500.00. Motion by Balog, seconded by Girardin obligating \$150,000.00 of Montmorency County ARPA funds to the Direct Pay program. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Madison, Stacey, Balog, Edwards, Girardin) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Other items discussed: Collecting taxes, March 1 for new forfeitures and closures.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

Sheriff Brown present. Inmate count at 10. Snow Drift Rally next weekend. Discussed a fund raiser for a Drone Program to be used for search and rescue.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**VALLEY UNITED INSURANCE:** Deb Neilson via zoom. Discussed medical, employer paid dental and VSP eye plans and rates. Motion by Stacey, seconded by Girardin to go with the Priority Health HMO plan (Cost:

\$515,130.19) and include option B of the Standard Dental Plan (\$25,762.08) and the VSP Vision Plan (\$7783.80). Develop a letter of understanding and send to the POAM bargaining unit and get signature before providing dental insurance. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Stacey, Balog, Edwards, Girardin, Madison) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Discussed voluntary life program. Four employees currently with Sun Life. Standard also offers life but need at least 10 enrolled. Motion by Stacey, seconded by Girardin making the voluntary employee life program through Standard optional for all employees. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10:38 A.M. Break

10:45 A.M. Back in session.

**OLD BUSINESS CON'T:**

NEW ASSISTANT COUNTY CONTROLLER: Motion by Stacey, seconded by Balog to amend the motion adopted at the January 27, 2022, by deleting the word "transferring" and inserting the word "hire" to the motion for the Assistant County Controller. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTATION: Greg Corase and Alleigh Pagels appearing. Presentation/report given on programs provided and discussion on board members.

MOTION TO PRE-APPROVE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES: Motion by Stacey, seconded by Girardin to pre-approve certain expenditures including payroll, bills that have a timeline to avoid late fees or interest, re-occurring bills such as credit cards, utilities, and services under \$5000.00. Such pre-approval payments must be approved at the next finance committee meeting and the following full commission meeting. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Balog, Edwards, Girardin, Madison, Stacey) Nays: 0 Motion carried.

INVASIVE SPECIES MILLAGE: Committee meeting held and discussed another millage for invasive species (milfoil, boat spraying, gypsy moth). Discussion on a proposed millage amount and estimated dollars to raise. To discuss with county attorney.

VETERANS OFFICE ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Motion by Balog, seconded by Madison approving request to hire an Administrative Assistant for the Veterans Service Department. Money to come from the MVAA 2022 funding grant. Discussion. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

COUNTY CLERK PERSONNEL REQUEST: Clerk Neilsen present, met with personnel committee. Committee recommending filling the position vacated by Lauri Jimkoski. Discussion. Motion by Balog, seconded by Girardin to table until a further date. Discussion. Yeas: 3 Nays: 2 (Edwards, Stacey) Motion carried.

Clerk Neilsen request 2 current employees be authorized up to 40 hours per week. Motion by Balog, seconded by Girardin authorizing up to 40 hours per week for the clerks two employees (Julie & Lori). Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried. Discussed computer and e-mails.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Balog: NEMSCA, ARPA, Invasive Species, MCCOA

Stacey: Finance, Claims & Accounts, Invasive Species

Edwards: Landfill, Personnel, ARPA

Girardin: Claims & Accounts, Finance, Personnel

Motion by Madison, seconded by Balog to contract with Mi. Confidential for shredding services (cost is per pick up). Discussion. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Discussed purchase of Human Resource & Time sheet module cost \$21,910.00 (grant of \$7045.00 f/ MSP COVID Relief per District Crt to use towards cost). Motion by Balog, seconded by Edwards to send to ARPA committee for review. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Madison: Thunder Bay Transportation

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Girardin on Gypsy Moth. Phil LaMore, Briley Clerk and Sheriff Brown on Clerk staffing considerations. Clerk Personnel request to be put on the next agenda.

11:27A.M. Motion by Edwards, seconded by Girardin to adjourn. All in favor.

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Robert Stacey, Chair



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Cheryl A. Neilsen, County Clerk