

FINANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Emmet County Finance Committee was held on February 8, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Thomas Foltz, Chairman
Thomas Shier, Vice-chairman
Daniel Plasencia

Excused absence: None

Staff present: Cynthia Van Allen, Finance Director
Lyn Johnson, Controller
Karen Cosens, Chief Deputy, Register of Deeds
Al Enciso, Deputy Equalization Director
Brentt Michalek, Planning & Zoning Director
Laurie Gaetano-Mier, Parks & Recreation Director
Gary Appold, Information Technology Director
Kelley Atkins, Airport Director

Guests: Michele Stine, Register of Deeds

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved for payment all committee and travel vouchers presented.

Commissioner Shier made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend approval for payment of the February finance claims in the amount of \$2,017,654.35. Commissioner Plasencia seconded the motion. By voice vote the February finance claims were unanimously approved for recommendation to the full Board.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Springvale Township requesting financial assistance to complete a project that includes a ramp, already installed, and a dock at the Ellsworth Road boat launch site on Pickerel Lake which is used by Camp Petosega campers. Commissioner Plasencia moved to appropriate \$3,000.00 out of the General Fund contingency towards this project. Commissioner Shier seconded the motion. By unanimous voice vote the Committee will recommend a \$3,000.00 appropriation to Springvale Township for purposes of installing a dock at the designated site.

Mr. Johnson discussed Allied and Mackinaw Ambulances' goal to establish an ambulance authority with Emmet County and the Village of Mackinaw as the partners. The authority would own any buildings and ambulances and contract with the existing providers for staff and services. The ambulance providers do not currently have any reserves for capital expenditures. Mr. George Korthauer has been acting as a consultant to the ambulance services. It is estimated that an increase in the current millage is necessary to continue services.

Mr. Johnson let the Committee know that Bear Creek Township has sent a second request for financial assistance for legal services to pay for a challenge to a property assessment. The Committee declined to recommend said assistance.

Commissioner Foltz made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,000.00 by the Equalization Department for BS&A online assessing software provided subscriptions for its use and/or the Department's 2010 budget can support the cost. Mr. Shier seconded the motion. By unanimous voice vote the proposal was approved for recommendation to the Board.

The Committee reviewed, with input from Mr. Appold, the 2010 general capital requests from the departments. Ms. Van Allen was instructed to make some changes so the schedule can be reviewed and recommendations made at the March meeting.

The Committee reviewed, with input from various staff present, the long term capital schedule. Various Committee recommendations will be incorporated into the report which will be presented to the Board.

Mr. Enciso let the Committee know that the GIS plotter is on the fritz. The machine is old enough that parts are being scavenged from retired equipment, new ones not being available. A new plotter would cost approximately \$5,800.00

Ms. Stine let the Committee know that she was going to ask the Board to authorize charging a three percent credit card transaction fee to cover the cost from the provider. This is consistent with existing County practice and was approved by the Committee.

Mr. Michalek let the Committee know that the City of Petoskey has indicated an interest in having the Construction Resources Department enforce the City's fire codes and perform rental property inspections. The Committee determined that at this time they do not believe it would be a good use of staff resources.

Commissioner Plasencia made a motion to approve spending \$4,675.00 to assist Littlefield Township with two corridor studies, one the US 31 corridor near Ponshevaing and the other on M68 east of Alanson. Planning and Zoning will fund this study from their 2010 operating budget. The County had already agreed to fund one half of a study on US 31 in Oden. Commissioner Shier seconded the motions. The motion was approved for recommendation to the Board by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Appold let the Committee know that Merit Network, Inc. has received a \$33,289,221.00 federal stimulus grant to expand broadband via a 955 mile advanced fiber optic network through the under served counties in Michigan's lower peninsula including the length of the Lake Michigan shore line. Commissioner Plasencia will be coordinating with the broadband organization the County joined in 2009.

Mr. Appold and Mr. Atkins presented a request to the Committee for replacing the current stationary interior signage at the Pellston Regional Airport terminal building with digital signage at a cost of \$7,981.00 plus shipping.

Mr. Appold and Mr. Atkins requested authorization to spend \$2,200.00 from the airport's operating budget to update the terminal building's wireless technology. The technology has changed enough since the initial software was installed that there are currently laptops that won't work without land line connections.

Mr. Johnson asked for authorization to prepare a resolution for approval by the Board requesting the State of Michigan to release the County's Revenue Sharing Reserve funds for use by the County at its discretion.

Ms. Gaetano-Mier was instructed to obtain additional bids for projects for which initial bids are as follows:

Camp Petosega campground:

One ton dump truck and box	\$38,363.00
Pavilion:	
Water & sewer hook-up for a sink	3,000.00
Pavers for a walk way	2,500.00
Sound and video set-up	5,415.75
Jones' cabins-plumbing, heating, kitchen appliances, beds, etc.	50,000.00
Fairgrounds, community center, handicapped door	2,200.00 plus wiring