

**Arenac County Commissioners
Committee of the Whole
December 20th, 2011
Minutes**

Chair Michael Snyder called the Committee of the Whole meeting into session at 10:10 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following Commissioners in attendance:

Michael Snyder, Virginia Zygiel, Robert Luce, & Jeffrey Trombley.

Absent: Joseph Sancimino

Mr. William P. Borushko, Employment Relations Advisors, appeared and reported that the County of Arenac has reached a contract settlement with the Governmental Employees Labor Council (911) and it amounts to a 16 cent per hour pay increase with a shift premium increase of 5 cents per hour in each category on January 1, and an additional increase of 5 cents per hour for shift premium on July 1, 2012 and some minor contract cleanup in language. He recommends that the Board approve this proposal in their regular meeting this afternoon.

Public Comments:

A Group representing the Sunrise Side Heritage Route Authority was in attendance at the meeting and presented information to the County Commissioners pertaining to their activity.

Sue Stein from the Group passed out a handout regarding the Authority activity and a brochure and noted that there are 300 plus Arenac County Attributes listed on line and further that most hits on the web site are through the Pure Michigan Program. She further noted that the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has 2 seats on the Board.

She highlighted the weekly concert series in the Summer months on each Thursday and the fact that a wide variety of visitors visit the center and have come from at least 6 different nations. She further noted that local school children visit regularly and that exhibits are changed every couple of months so that all visits have a new twist to them.

Joann T. Swartz, Treasurer of the Authority reported that the Committee is visiting with local units of government and that several youth organizations have assisted at the site on a regular basis.

Commissioner Sancimino arrived at 10:24 AM.

Mrs. Swartz continued, noting that 75% of the Depots annual revenues come from local governmental units and that there is never any large carryover of funds.

She further reported that one of the items on the agenda currently is Trail and/or Rail Trail type development in the area and/or connecting trails to existing trails.

Mrs. Stein further reported that the cost per click on the web site has decreased from \$3.81 per click to about \$1.81 per click in the past year.

Public Comments:

Mr. Glen Rice, Arenac Township Resident, appeared and noted that many groups utilize the Standish Depot Center and others use it for a staging area for departure for special trips.

Gerald Willett, Au Gres Township, questioned any possibility that a bike trail could be developed in the Au Gres Township area.

JoEllyn Pedota, Standish Township Resident, noted that there is a need to report back to local units of government on their use of local funds.

Ricky Rockwell, County Clerk, reported that there is a hearing on amendments to the Au Gres City TIFA scheduled for January and that Commissioners and other area residents should consider attendance at the hearing and offer their input regarding proposed plans for use of the approximately \$330,000 per year available from the Tax Capture.

Gerald Willett, Au Gres Township, noted that Au Gres Township has the opportunity to acquire the land across the road from the Current Au Gres Arenac County Park, and feels that the Township and County should attempt to work together at the site to further develop the site/area.

Larry Davis, Arenac County Drain Commissioner and Parks Board Member, commented regarding the Au Gres, Arenac County Park, and that there should be cooperation regarding the operation with the local unit.

There were no further public comments.

The Chair ordered a recess at 11:05 AM

The Chair reconvened the Committee at 11:15 AM

Commissioner Reports:

Mr. Luce reported that regarding the Boiler Replacement Project, we are down to the nitty gritty and that the project engineer noted to him that she is done. We are still withholding the final 10% from the contractor until Alex clears the project.

Mark Thompson is the proposed new County Electrical Inspector and he will be approved this afternoon in the Board Meeting by motion.

Mr. Snyder reported that *Lochnivar*, the Boiler Manufacturer has made recommendations regarding the boilers and installation. These will hopefully be done without additional cost to the County.

Mr. Sancimino further reported that there is a punch list and it should be whittled down.

Mr. Sancimino (County Affairs): No further report given.

Finance: Mrs. Zygiel reported that the Book of Bills after removal of 2012 Bills has been approved for submission to the whole board. The Board Members discussed certain billings. All questions seemed to have been answered to the satisfaction of the Commissioners.

Mr. Snyder reported that the Board has scheduled a Budget Hearing and Special Meeting on the Budget for Wednesday, December 28th, 2011 at 10 AM and that said has been advertized in the Arenac County Independent for two weeks.

Public Comments: None

Health and Public Safety: No report.

Public Health: Mr. Snyder reported that the wife of Doctor Graham, Medical Director of the Central Michigan District Health Department recently died on the operating table during surgery.

Judicial/Legal: Mr. Trombley reported on the District Court area renovation project. Also discussed was the status of the remodeling and noting that District Court is currently using Circuit Court.

Mrs. Zygiel reported on proposed Budget Adjustments # 2011-47 & 2011-48.

The Board and Clerk reviewed proposed budget adjustments as presented. Clerk will correct them.

Telephone System update and report on the installation:

Mr. Snyder reported that most of the telephones have been successfully installed by the vendor and that there have been minor snafus regarding; including the need to order longer cords for the 911 telephones that will have to await parts. He further reported that there will be an AT & T Buyout amount but the exact amount of the said will not be known until after the switchover is accomplished by the first of January 2012. He estimates the contract payout between \$19K and \$20K with exact amount being in the unknown region until later in the spring of 2012.

Adjournment:

There being no further business on the agenda, the Chair declared the Committee of the Whole was adjourned and noted that the regular meeting will occur at 1:30 PM later today.

Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Ricky R. Rockwell, Arenac County Clerk