

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: David Heeres, Bob Wilson, Karen Barga, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Laura Stanek, Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus.

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Moment of Silence

The Chairman requested Public Comment. There was none.

Commissioner Wilson left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Marcus that the meeting minutes of June 9, 2016 be approved. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Marcus that the Special Meeting minutes of June 28, 2016 be approved. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Johnson the Claims and Accounts totaling \$410,900.33 be approved and paid. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Barga, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Johnson that the 2015 Networks Northwest Annual Report presented by Elaine Wood at the Finance of a Whole Committee meeting be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Johnson that the forty hour (40) work week be reinstated for the inspectors (building and electrical) in the Building Department Fund #371 and that the Financial Fiscal Officer, Deb Haydell be authorized to make the necessary budget amendments to the wages and benefits of the inspectors effective Monday, July 18, 2016 be approved. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Barga, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Marcus that the boardwalk and dock be removed from the Brown parcel #05-04-006-039-10 at Grass River Natural Area and to authorize the removal of invasive species at Grass River Natural Area, with the work to be completed by the SEEDS Youth Corps, at the cost of \$5,000.00 to be paid from the Grass River Natural Area Fund #223 be approved. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Barga, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Marcus that the Financial Fiscal Officer, Deb Haydell be authorized to apply for a 2016 Workers Compensation Loss Prevention Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Michigan Counties Workers' Compensation Fund to reimburse the County for the purchase of Ergonomic furniture and equipment to protect employee safety in the workplace. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bary, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

Peter Garwood, County Administrator spoke on the recent resignation of the Equalization Technician, Casey Guthrie and requested that the Board authorize the Funds be restored and the hiring process begin for a Clerk II position in the Equalization Department.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Smith that the funds be released and authorize the hiring process begin to fill the position of a full-time Clerk II for the Equalization Department. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bary, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

Sarah Lucas, Regional Planning Department Manager of Networks Northwest, presented to the Board the US 131-Economic Development Strategy, Mancelona – Framework for Growth and Investment; and requested the Boards support for the US-131 Mancelona Development Strategy.

RESOLUTION #15-2016 By Christian Marcus, seconded by Chuck Johnson

A FRAMEWORK FOR GROWTH AND INVESTMENT IN MANCELONA

WHEREAS, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners has partnered with Networks Northwest, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, and others to enhance the economy of Antrim County; and

WHEREAS, the US-131 Economic Development Initiative, with support from the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative, explores the economic issues at play along the US-131 corridor, from Cadillac to Petoskey, and identifies key actions needed to address some of the challenges impacting the corridor's economic competitiveness, and

WHEREAS, the US-131 Economic Development Initiative includes the development of an economic development strategy for the Mancelona community; and

WHEREAS, the Mancelona Economic development strategy in May 2015, that addresses opportunities for economic growth and prosperity, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has reviewed and analyzed community data, local trends, market analyses, property assessments, and community and stakeholder input, including surveys and committee discussion; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has identified high-impact strategies that will contribute to the economic prosperity and increased quality of life for the Village of Mancelona; and

RESOLUTION #15-2016 continued.

WHEREAS, the Mancelona Economic Development Committee has developed A Framework for Growth and Investment in Mancelona as a guideline for improving business, industry, and other economic development opportunities in the Village of Mancelona in order to improve the quality of life for all residents, and

WHEREAS, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners has reviewed said *Framework for Growth and Investment in Mancelona* as the economic development plan for the Village of Mancelona; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Antrim County Board of Commissioners hereby supports *A Framework for Growth and Investment in Mancelona*.

Yes – David Heeres, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Laura Stanek, Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus;

No – None;

Absent – Bob Wilson.

RESOLUTION #15-2016 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Lee Kurt, Trail Manager for Friends of the Glacial Hills presented the 2015 Glacial Hills Progress and Annual Report.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Marcus that the 2015 Glacial Hills Progress and Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Christine Crissman, representative for the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay presented the 2015 Annual Report of the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Johnson that the 2015 Annual Report for the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Herbert Reiley spoke to the Board requesting permission to donate and place a large stone on the left side of the driveway entrance into Mohrmann Park, with stone size being similar to the existing stone on the right side of the entrance naming the Mohrmann Family. The stone will have a similar brass plate stating "Reileyville", representing the Reiley Family logging camp once located and operated by Harry Reiley Sr. at the park site dated back to 1908.

It was moved by Heeres, seconded by Boettcher that Herbert Reiley be granted permission to place a large stone at the entrance of the Mohrmann Park on the left side of the entrance being of similar size and containing a similar brass plate stating "Reileyville" to represent the family's logging camp once located at this site and operated by Harry Reiley Sr. in 1908. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Burt Thompson, Antrim County Road Commission Manager presented the 2015 Annual Report of the Antrim County Road Commission.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Marcus that the Antrim County Road Commissioner 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Jill Porter, representative for the Traverse Area District Library presented the 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Smith that the Traverse Area District Library 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Bill Broadwick, representative for the Antrim County Community Collaborative presented the 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Johnson that the Antrim County Community Collaborative 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Sherry Comben, County Treasurer presented the Antrim County Treasurer 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Smith that the Antrim County Treasurer 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Kenneth Talsma, Anderson Tackman & Company PLC Certified Public Accountants presented the 2015 Antrim County Audit Report.

It was moved by Marcus, seconded by Johnson that the 2015 Antrim County Audit Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Deb Haydell, County Accountant presented the Antrim County Accountant 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Stanek that the Antrim County Accountant 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Kira Davis, Representative of the Conservation Resource Alliance presented the 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Heeres that the Conservation Resource Alliance 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

Patty Niepoth, Register of Deeds presented the Antrim County Register of Deeds 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Smith that the Antrim County Register of Deeds 2015 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Sheryl Guy, County Clerk presented the Antrim County Clerk 2015 Annual Report.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Smith that the 2015 Antrim County Clerk Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Commissioner Johnson requested that the Prince Property easement agreement be **TABLED** until the August 11, 2016 Board meeting to allow the County Forester, Mike Meriwether additional time to gather information.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Smith that the County Forester, Mike Meriwether be authorized to secure the best price for the timber on the County property received from the Prince Family through sole source negotiations, and that he bring recommendations back to the Buildings, Lands and Infrastructure Committee for a company with whom the County should contract with and a sale price. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Stanek that Grass River Natural Area be granted permission to design and install new signs for wayfinding and directional signs at Grass River Natural Area at no cost to the County. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Smith that Grass River Natural Area Inc. be authorized to serve alcoholic beverages at the Grass River Natural Area Inc. Annual Meeting and that Grass River Natural Area Inc. provide the County with proof of liability insurance to cover the event. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Johnson, Marcus; No – Stanek; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Smith that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) having been approached by a private individual proposing a land transaction in which they are offering their parcel located in Jordan Township ID # 05-09-031-008-00, known as the Boss property containing 62 acres to the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) in exchange for 2.38 acres of state-owned land located in Livingston County, near the Brighton Recreation Area and that the Board support the land exchange. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Bargy, seconded by Stanek that the Chairman be authorized to sign a letter of support for continued funding of the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP) for the benefit of the elderly population in Antrim County, the State of Michigan and the United States of America. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

RESOLUTION #16-2016 By Karen Bargy, seconded by Christian Marcus

**FISCAL YEAR PLAN 2017-2019
AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN**

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the Fiscal Year 2017-2019 Multi Year Plan of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan and believe that the plan addresses the needs of the aging population in Region 10.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners approves the Fiscal Year 2017-2019 Multi Year Plan of the Area Agency of Northwest Michigan,”

Yes - David Heeres, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Laura Stanek,
Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus;
No - None;
Absent - Bob Wilson.

RESOLUTION #16-2016 DECLARED ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION #17-2016 By Karen Bargy, seconded by Christian Marcus

ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, emergency response to critical incidents, whether natural or manmade, requires integrated professional management; and

WHEREAS, unified command of such incidents is recognized as the management model to maximize the public safety response; and

WHEREAS, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) has been identified by the federal government as being the requisite emergency management system for all political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, failure to adopt NIMS as the requisite emergency management system may preclude reimbursement to the political subdivision for costs expended during and after a declared emergency or disaster and for training and preparation for such disasters or emergencies; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners, County of Antrim, Michigan:

SECTION 1. The County adopts the NIMS concept of emergency planning and incident command.

SECTION 2. In furtherance of NIMS, it is the policy of this County to train public officials and employees responsible for emergency management.

SECTION 3. Directs that incident managers and response organizations in our jurisdiction train and exercise the Incident Command Systems (ICS) and use it in their response operations.

RESOLUTION #17-2016 continued.

Yes – David Heeres, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Laura Stanek, Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus;
No - None;
Absent –Bob Wilson

RESOLUTION #17-2016 DECLARED ADOPTED.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Heeres that the Prosecuting Attorney employee Debra Ho'on be reclassified from the position of Legal Secretary to the new position of Executive Assistant and that the position title be inserted into the pay scale of the General Union Contract at the classification level of the Appraiser and at the start rate of pay being \$18.30 per hour, when Ms. Ho'on vacates this position the position will not be filled, it will be eliminated from the contract and that the Finance Fiscal Officer, Deb Haydell be authorized to transfer funds from item 101-267-705.009 in the amount of \$1,863.00 to line item 101-267-704 for wages and the appropriate benefit line items be increased to reflect the new pay scale. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Stanek that the Chairman appoint Donald Miles, Jr. to the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission. Motion carried – all presenting voting yes.

The Chairman appointed Donald Miles, Jr. to the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Stanek that the appointment of Donald Miles, Jr. to the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission, term to expire 01/01/2018 be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Stanek that the Chairman appoint Andy LaPointe to the Economic Development Corporation. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

The Chairman appointed Andy LaPointe to the Economic Development Corporation.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Stanek that the appointment of Andy LaPointe to the Economic Development Corporation, term to expire 12/31/2020 be accepted.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Smith that the Chairman appoint Scott Beal to the Glacial Hills Recreation Board. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Abstained – Stanek; Absent – Wilson.

The Chairman appointed Scott Beal to the Glacial Hills Recreation Board.

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Smith that the appointment of Scott Beal to the Glacial Hill Recreation Board, term to expire 12/31/2017 be accepted. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Abstain – Stanek; Absent – Wilson.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Johnson that the Chairman appoint Ed Boettcher to the Glacial Hills Recreation Board. Motion carried all present voting yes.

The Chairman appointed Ed Boettcher to the Glacial Hills Recreation Board.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Smith that the appointment of Ed Boettcher to the Glacial Hills Recreation Board, term to expire 12/31/2017 be accepted. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bary, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

RESOLUTION #18-2016 By Ed Boettcher, seconded by David Heeres

DARK STORES/MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL

WHEREAS, the Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) has ,in recent years, used a faulty interpretation of the tax assessment law which dramatically reduces the property tax liabilities of fully functioning major "big box" retail stores; and

WHEREAS, under the "dark store" theory, big box stores are appealing their property tax assessments to the MTT, arguing that the basis of the fair market value of their fully operating store should include comparisons to sales of similar properties that are vacant and abandoned, or are now used for a different-less valuable use; and

WHEREAS, the MTT has upheld this theory and cut property tax assessments significantly and, as a result, counties, townships, schools and local units are losing millions of dollars, impacting services to their residents and students; and

WHEREAS, additionally, big box stores are putting deed restrictions on their properties that severely limit how the building can be used once it's vacant resulting in buildings remaining empty and adding to the blight problem in Michigan communities; and

WHEREAS, the issue is already having a growing impact as other businesses such as; restaurants, national chain pharmacies, auto part stores, are now seeking the same treatment and without action, the problem will only get worse; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of property tax liabilities creates huge cuts in the funding to state and local units of government like cities, counties, townships, and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of the MTT are a catastrophic departure from the tax assessment process required by law and all precedents in the matter, all at the expense of local governments, their residents and other businesses in the communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the passage of House Bill 4909, House Bill 5578 and Senate Bill 524 that include measures to address the following three (3) issues:

1. All properties, including big box stores, must be assessed at their highest and best use;

RESOLUTION #18-2016 continued.

2. The legislation will limit the use of deed restrictions to prevent the “dark store” theory of using vacant, deed restricted properties for the purpose of lowering value and eliminating competition;
3. The Michigan Tax Tribunal will be required to consider all three (3) methods of assessing – 'cost minus depreciation', 'sales comparison', and 'income' – when determining a property's true cash value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to all Michigan Counties, Representative Triston Cole, Senator Wayne Schmidt, Governor Snyder, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Yes - David Heeres, Karen Bargy, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Laura Stanek, Chuck Johnson;

No- None;

Absent - Wilson;

RESOLUTION #18-2016 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Commissioner Smith requested that the proposed Resolution to Oppose Hydrologic Fracturing (Fracking) in Antrim County and the State of Michigan be **TABLED** until the September 8, 2016 Board meeting.

RESOLUTION #19-2016 By Christian Marcus, seconded by David Heeres

**TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 5275
OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORVs) OPERATING IN THE JORDAN VALLEY**

WHEREAS, House Bill 5275 has been introduced which indicates, “...forest roads shall be open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise...” by the Department of Natural Resources, and

WHEREAS, Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) are included in the definition of a motorized vehicle, and

WHEREAS, county roads are excluded from the definition of a “forest road”, and

WHEREAS, in the Jordan River Valley there exist county roads, but no forest roads, which means that HB 5275 will not open the Jordan River Valley to use by ORV, consistent with the Antrim County ORV Ordinance, Ordinance #02 of 2009, and

WHEREAS, opening state forest roads on other state public lands to motorized use would improve access for ORV riders to ORV trails and local businesses, and

WHEREAS, opening state forest roads on other state public lands to motorized use will potentially increase tourism in Antrim County and other surrounding counties.

RESOLUTION #19-2016 continued.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Antrim County Board of Commissioners support HB 5275 for the above stated reasons and encourage the State legislators to vote yes on HB 5275.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Representative Triston Cole, Senator Wayne Schmidt, all Committee Members of the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee, all sponsors of the House Bill 5275 and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Yes - David Heeres, Ed Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford, Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus;

No - Karen Bargy, Laura Stanek;

Absent - Bob Wilson.

RESOLUTION #19-2016 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Commissioner Smith left meeting at 2:47 p.m. and returned to meeting at 2:50 p.m.

The Chairman appointed two (2) Commissioners, two (2) Elected Officials and two (2) Department Heads to the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

Commissioners: Laura Stanek and Bryan Smith
Elected Officials: Sherry Comben and Sheryl Guy
Department Heads: Judy Parliament and Bill Hefferan

It was moved by Boettcher, seconded by Heeres that the appointments of Laura Stanek, Bryan Smith, Sherry Comben, Sheryl Guy, Judy Parliament and Bill Hefferan to the Antrim County Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee be accepted. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

The Chairman requested that the proposed Resolution for the Community Corrections Plan and Grant Application Fiscal Year 2017 Antrim County Circuit Court be referred to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

The Chairman appointed Peter Garwood as Officer Delegate representing administration and Sheryl Guy as Officer Alternate representing administration to the Municipal Employees Retirement System 70th Annual Conference to be held September 28-29, 2016 at the Grand Traverse Resort, in Acme Michigan.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Johnson that the appointment of Peter Garwood as the Officer Delegate representing administration and Sheryl Guy as Officer Alternate representing administration to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) 70th Annual Conference to be held September 28-29, 2016 at the Grand Traverse Resort, in Acme, Michigan be approved. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Heeres, Bargy, Boettcher, Smith, Crawford, Stanek, Johnson, Marcus; No – None; Absent – Wilson.

Correspondence from Bellaire resident Karl Couyoumjian regarding his complaint and photo dated July 3, 2016 of the Bellaire Recycling drop off site showing the bins over packed and overflowing.

Janet Koch reported that she has been in contact with service provider and will also contact other counties to gather information on how they are handling similar situations.

It was moved by Stanek, seconded by Boettcher that the minutes of the closed session dated June 9, 2016 be approved. Motion carried – All present voting yes.

The Chairman appointed Christian Marcus to attend the Passenger Rail Future Use and Study Program session to be held in Traverse City, MI.

Mark Stone spoke to the Board of the 100th Anniversary of the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Dam and that the Stockhausen family (Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Power LLC) is planning a celebration to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Hydroelectric Dam in October by invitation.

Peter Garwood spoke on the situation of the Equalization Department being short staffed which has caused a huge burden on employee Julie Weston and that the Directors have suggested that Julie Weston be released from her Tuition Contract with the County and be granted permission to drop out of the Level II certification program.

The Chairman referred the Equalization issue to the County Administration and County Services Committee.

The Chairman requested Public Comment. There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Michael Crawford, Chairman

Sheryl Guy, County Clerk