

**MINUTES
ISABELLA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 7, 2012**

The Isabella County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chairperson George Green in the Commission Chambers on the above date.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson George Green.

Roll was called with the following Commissioners present: George Green, John Haupt, Roger Trudell, Jim Moreno, and Frances Lichtman.

Commissioners Absent: William Dailey, David Ling

Also present were: Isabella County Administrator/Controller Timothy Dolehanty; Director of Accounting Donna Barker; Isabella County Prosecutor Larry Burdick; Isabella County Clerk Joyce A. Swan and Deputy Clerk Brenda Young.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairperson Green asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda.

Additions/Deletions:

Under Appointments to Boards and Commissions: None

Under Finance and Administration: None

Under Criminal Justice and County Affairs: None

Under Human Resources and Public Works: None

Under Intergovernmental Affairs: None

Under Unfinished Business: None

Under New Business: Add item #1, Discussion seeking legal action against Union Township East Downtown Development Authority.

It was moved by Commissioner Moreno, supported by Commissioner Haupt to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion Carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

1. Michigan State University Extension 2011-2012 Annual Report:

It was moved by Commissioner Lichtman, supported by Commissioner Trudell to approve the MSU Extension 2011-2012 Annual Report as presented.

Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Lichtman, supported by Commissioner Trudell to approve the following Consent Agenda:

July 17, 2012 Regular Board Minutes as presented.

August 7, 2012 Routine Personnel Items as presented.

Finance and Administration: August 7, 2012 Claims List in the amount of \$184,110.16.

Motion Carried.

See a copy of the August 7, 2012 Routine Personnel Items on page 50A of the Official Minutes.

See a copy of the August 7, 2012 Claims list on page 50B of the Official Minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee:

1. Semi Annual FY 2012 Tribal Budgets:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell, supported by Commissioner Lichtman to approve the Semi-Annual FY 2012 Tribal Budgets as presented.

Motion Carried.

Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee:

1. Inmate Telephone Contract:

It was moved by Commissioner Haupt, supported by Commissioner Moreno to approve the Inmate Telephone Contract as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. E911 Out of State Travel Request:

It was moved by Commissioner Haupt, supported by Commissioner Moreno to approve E911 Central Dispatch Out of State Travel Request as presented.

Motion Carried.

Human Resources and Public Works Committee: None

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Legal Action against Union Township EDDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell, supported by Commission Haupt to direct the Administrator/Controller to contact corporate counsel for the purpose of initiating legal action against the Union Township East Downtown Development Authority (EDDA) seeking declarative and injunctive relief at to surplus funds and the return of same to the respective taxing bodies; and to see abolition of the EDDA tax increment financing plan on the grounds that the purposes for which it was established have been accomplished.

The County believes this is necessary because:

- A majority of captured funds totaling \$332,762 (55.7% of all funds collected) went unspent in 2011 and was comingled with \$308,923 leftover from previous years' captures. This sum total of \$631,685 rightfully belongs to the respective taxing bodies from which it was captured.
- Within the defined borders of the EDDA, 84% of all property taxes otherwise intended to offset costs associated with a host of public purposes such as police protection, public transportation, senior services, and public education are routinely diverted to the EDDA. Neither Union Township nor its DDA provide any additional funding for these services, instead relying on services provided by public agencies from which they capture tax dollars.
- In order to establish a DDA, municipalities must first make a factual finding of deterioration in value of a significant number of parcels in the downtown district, and that deterioration must not be limited to just one or two parcels of property within the downtown district. Tax captures within EDDA boundaries increased by 88% from 2007 to 2011, a clear demonstration that DDA parcels have experienced little, if any, deterioration of property values.

General Public Comments: Bill Funnel, Farm Bureau member and Isabella Township resident expressed gratitude on behalf of the Isabella Fair Board and 4-H members for the overwhelming support of the community at the 2012 Isabella County Fair. Mr. Funnel also reminded the Board that the third annual Breakfast on the Farm event will be August 11, 2012 at the Judge Farm from 9am until noon.

Announcements:

The Council of Governments Annual Picnic will be held August 15, 2012 at 7pm at Coldwater Lake.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell, supported by Commissioner Haupt to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Carried.