

**MINUTES
ISABELLA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 16, 2014**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was led by Vice Chairperson Frances Lichtman.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Also present were: Isabella County Administrator/Controller Margaret McAvoy; Isabella County Prosecutor Risa Scully, Isabella County Clerk Minde` B. Lux, Deputy Clerk Brenda M. Young

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Horton requested additions to Presentations and Special Reports. Item #1, Resolution #14-12-02, and Item #2 Resolution #14-12-03.

It was moved by Commissioner Haupt and seconded by Commissioner Trudell to accept the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gerald Stryeski, Wise Township resident has applied for one of the openings on the ICTC board.

PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

Commissioner Recognition for Frances Lichtman: The following Resolution was presented by Commissioner Ling:

WHEREAS, France Lichtman has served as an Isabella County Commissioner since 2003, and

WHEREAS, she has chosen to retire at the end of her term, December 31, 2014, and

WHEREAS, during her tenure she has served as Vice-Chair of the County Commission since 2005, as Chair of the County Finance Committee since 2004, and as a representative on numerous local and state committees, and

WHEREAS, as a county commissioner Frances has always provided needed focus, insight, and critical assessment for all issues coming to the Commission, and

WHEREAS, in her role on the Finance Committee, Frances' understanding of budgeting and her commitment to assuring the responsible use of public funds have been invaluable, and

WHEREAS, in all her public service, Frances Lichtman has displayed a deep and caring commitment to the people of her district and to the well-being of the citizens of Isabella County, and

WHEREAS, this Board will miss the comradery, friendship and support she has provided to all of us, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Isabella County Board of Commissioners extends to Frances Lichtman deep appreciation for her laudatory service to the community, and extends its sincere best wishes in all her future endeavors.

It was moved by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve and place on file Resolution #14-12-02 Resolution of Appreciation to Frances Lichtman. The Resolution was read by Commissioner Ling. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None. Commissioner Lichtman thanked the community for allowing her to serve as a commissioner for the past 12 years. She has appreciated the collegiality and the work ethic of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Recognition for Roger Trudell: The following resolution was presented by Commissioner Haupt.

WHEREAS, Roger Trudell has served as an Isabella County Commissioner since 2005, and

WHEREAS, Roger has chosen to retire at the end of his term, December 31, 2014, and

WHEREAS, he has served continuously on the County Finance Committee since his election to the Board and on numerous Board Committees, most significantly as a member of the County Parks and Recreation Board since 2009, and

WHEREAS, in his role on the Finance Committee, Roger knowledge of finance and budgeting and his commitment to assuring the responsible use of public funds have been invaluable. He has served as a true guardian of the public coffers, and

WHEREAS, he has been a champion for the development of the county park system which has become a hallmark of Isabella County, and

WHEREAS, in all his public service, Roger Trudell has shown a deep and caring commitment to the people of his district, to the Village of Shepherd and to the well-being of the citizens of Isabella County, and

WHEREAS, this Board will miss the tenacity, humor and the support he has shown to all of us, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Isabella County Board of Commissioners extends to Roger Trudell deep appreciation for his laudatory service to the community, and extends its sincere best wishes in all his future endeavors.

It was moved by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Ling to approve and place on file Resolution #14-12-03 Resolution of Appreciation to Roger Trudell. The Resolution was read by Commissioner Haupt. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None. Commissioner Trudell stated he enjoyed his 10 years on the Board of Commissioners and working with Commissioner Lichtman on the Finance Committee.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

1. Isabella County Transportation Commission: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Isabella County Transportation Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Trudell nominated Don Brown. Commissioner Green nominated Gerald Stryeski. Commissioner Moreno nominated Nancy White. Commissioner Haupt nominated Jeremy Murphy. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a roll call vote. Murphy: Haupt. Stryeski: Lichtman, and Green. Brown: Long, Trudell and Horton. White: Moreno. Don Brown received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

2. Isabella County Transportation Commission: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Isabella County Transportation Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Green nominated Gerald Stryeski. Commissioner Moreno nominated Nancy White. Commissioner Haupt nominated Jeremy Murphy. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a roll call vote. Murphy: Haupt. Stryeski: Lichtman, Ling, Horton and Green. White: Moreno. Gerald Stryeski received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

3. Isabella County Transportation Commission: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Isabella County Transportation Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Jeremy Murphy. Commissioner Moreno nominated Nancy White. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a roll call vote. Murphy: Haupt, Trudell, Horton and Green. White: Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Jeremy Murphy received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

4. Building Authority: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Building Authority for a five year term ending 12/31/2019 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Horton nominated Shirley Decker. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Green to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Shirley Decker. Motion Carried. Shirley Decker was declared appointed.

5. Building Authority: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Building Authority for a five year term ending 12/31/2019 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Rudolph Kler. Commissioner Moreno nominated Nancy White. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a roll call vote. Kler: Lichtman, Haupt, Trudell, Ling and Green. White: Horton and Moreno. Rudolph Kler received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

6. Economic Development Board of Directors: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Economic Development Board of Directors for a six year term ending 7/1/2020 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Green nominated Jeffrey Bean. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jeffrey Bean. Motion Carried. Jeffrey Bean was declared appointed.

7. E911 Board: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the E911 Board for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Trudell nominated Robert Denslow. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to close nominations

and cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Denslow. Motion Carried. Robert Denslow was declared appointed.

8. Commission on Aging District #1: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Commission on Aging District #1 for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Green nominated Roxanna Dunevant. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Roxanna Dunevant. Motion Carried. Roxanna Dunevant was declared appointed.

9. Commission on Aging District #3: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Commission on Aging District #3 for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Moreno nominated Shirley Decker. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Shirley Decker. Motion Carried. Shirley Decker was declared appointed.

10. Commission on Aging District #4: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Commission on Aging District #4 for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Moreno nominated John Dinse. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for John Dinse. Motion Carried. John Dinse was declared appointed.

11. Materials Recovery Facility Board: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the MRF Board for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Moreno nominated Craig Graveratte. Commissioner Trudell nominated Tom Riley. Commissioner Horton nominated Kenneth Schaeffer. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a Roll Call vote. Graveratte: Moreno, Lichtman, Ling and Green. Riley: Haupt, Trudell. Schaeffer: Horton. Craig Graveratte received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

12. Materials Recovery Facility Board: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the MRF Board for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Ling nominated Tom Riley. Commissioner Horton nominated Kenneth Schaeffer. Vice Chairperson Lichtman called for a Roll Call vote. Riley: Haupt, Moreno, Lichtman, Ling, and Trudell. Schaeffer: Horton. Tom Riley received the majority of the votes cast and was declared appointed.

13. Board of Public Works: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for two openings on the Board of Public Works for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Jeremy Murphy. Commissioner Horton nominated Kenneth Schaeffer. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for John Dinse. Motion Carried. John Dinse was declared appointed.

14. Construction Board of Appeals (Architectural/Engineering): Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one openings on the Construction Board of Appeals representing Architectural/Engineering for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Trudell nominated Bruce Rohrer. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bruce Rohrer. Motion Carried. Bruce Rohrer was declared appointed.

15. Construction Board of Appeals (Building Trades): Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Construction Board of Appeals representing Building Trades for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Jerel Konwinski. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jerel Konwinski. Motion Carried. Jerel Konwinski was declared appointed.

16. Construction Board of Appeals (Electrical Trades): Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Construction Board of Appeals representing Electrical Trades for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Moreno nominated Richard Jakubiec Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Haupt and seconded by Commissioner Green to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Richard Jakubiec. Motion Carried. Richard Jakubiec was declared appointed.

17. Construction Board of Appeals (Plumbing Trades): Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Construction Board of Appeals representing Plumbing Trades for a two year term ending 12/31/2016 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Robert Meyers. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Meyers. Motion Carried. Robert Meyers was declared appointed.

18. Parks and Recreation Commission Board: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for two openings on the Parks and Recreation Commission board for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Haupt nominated Ronald McDonald. Commissioner Moreno nominated Randall Vasold. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to close nominations and cast unanimous ballots for Ronald McDonald and Randall Vasold. Motion Carried. Ronald McDonald and Randall Vasold were declared appointed.

19. Planning Commission Board: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for three openings on the Planning Commission Board for a three term ending 12/31/2017 or until successor is appointed. Commissioner Moreno nominated Tim O'Neill. Commissioner Ling nominated Nancy White. Vice Chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Trudell to close nominations and cast unanimous ballots for Tim O'Neil and Nancy White. Motion Carried. Tim O'Neil and Nancy White were declared appointed.

20. Zoning Board of Appeals: Vice Chairperson's request for nominations for one opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term ending 12/31/2017 or until a successor is appointed. Commissioner Lichtman nominated James Wynes. Vice chairperson Lichtman asked for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Trudell to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for James Wynes. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell, seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve and place on file the December 2, 2014 Regular Board Minutes, the December 12, 2014 Finance and Administration meeting minutes, the December 9, 2014 Criminal Justice and County Affairs meeting minutes, and the December 24, 2014 Human Resources and Public Works Committee meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee:

1. December 12, 2014 Routine Personnel Items:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell and seconded by Commissioner Ling to accept and place on file the December 12, 2014 Routine Personnel Items as presented. Motion Carried.

2. December 12, 2014 Claims List:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to accept and place on file the December 26, 2014 Claims List in the amount of \$156,169.23. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None.

3. November 2014 Direct Pay List:

It was moved by Commissioner Lichtman and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to accept and place on file the November 2014 Direct Pay list in the amount of \$1,672,211.20. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None.

4. Finance Committee:

It was moved by Commissioner Trudell and seconded by Commissioner Green to authorize the Finance Committee to review and authorize payment of bills through December 31, 2014. Motion Carried.

Criminal Justice and County Affairs Committee:

1. Partners in Change:

It was moved by Commissioner Haupt and seconded by Commissioner Ling to amend the Isabella County Community Corrections three year contract with Partners in Change in the amount of, not to exceed, \$51,845.00, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the same. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None.

2. Public Defenders Contract:

It was moved by Commissioner Ling and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to accept the FY 2015 Isabella County Trial Court Agreement for Attorney Services for Indigent Individuals, and authorize the Board chair to sign the same. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None.

Human Resources and Public Works Committee:

1. Resolution 14-12-01:

The following resolution was presented by Commissioner Moreno.

Resolution 14-12-01:

WHEREAS, Michigan’s Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Public Act 453 of 1976, prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and educational facilities based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status; and,

WHEREAS, Representative Jim Dressel (R-Holland) first introduced legislation in 1983 to extend the protection of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community; and,

WHEREAS, thirty-one years later neither state nor federal law prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As a result, it remains legal to not hire or terminate someone solely for being gay or transgender, to deny someone housing based only on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to refuse to serve someone based only on their sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan’s own Department of Civil Rights has concluded that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Michigan “exists and is significant” and “has direct negative economic effects on Michigan” and has recommended that the Michigan Legislature expand the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include both sexual orientation and gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, thirty-six Michigan cities and townships have passed local civil rights ordinances banning discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity, starting with the City of East Lansing forty-two years ago in 1972; and

WHEREAS, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have already adopted legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, both the City of Mt. Pleasant and the Charter Township of Union, local governing bodies, have recently both similar resolutions; and,

WHEREAS, all hardworking people in our state, including those who are gay and transgender, should have the opportunity to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families. No one should have to live in fear that they could be legally terminated for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this day December 16, 2014, that the Isabella County Board of Commissioners Commission hereby calls upon the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation to amend the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity without further delay and send them copies of this resolution

It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Horton to adopt Resolution 14-12-01 supporting an amendment to Michigan's Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act.

Vice Chairperson Lichtman opened the discussion to public comment.

Maureen Heke, Human Rights Committee Chairperson stated that the Human Right committee represents the voices of the people in the Community that are not heard. She believes the amendment recognizes the dignity of all people and the humanity of the LGBT community. She urged the Board to support this Resolution.

Laura Gonzales, At large member of the Human Right Committee and Mt Pleasant resident stated that the Human Rights Committee passed a motion to request the Legislature to amend the Elliot Larson Civil right act. Discrimination against any individual in our community should not be tolerated.

Norma Bailey, Mt Pleasant resident stated that local citizens need to show the State that the residents want this amendment.

Robert Newby, 816 Beech Ave, Human Right Committee member urged the Commissioners to add their voice to amend the Elliot-Larson civil rights Act.

The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Yeas: Commissioners Green, Haupt, Trudell, Horton, Moreno, Ling and Lichtman. Nays: None.

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee: None

Administrator/Controller:

1. Performance Appraisal:

It was moved by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Ling to accept and place on file the 2014 Isabella County Administrator/Controller Performance Appraisal.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

General Public Comments:

Norma Bailey, Mt Pleasant resident thanked the Board for making a stand and voting unanimously for Resolution #14-12-01.

Maureen Heke, Human Right Commission Chairperson thanked the Board on behalf of the Human Rights Commission for supporting the activities of the HRC.

Michael Fisher, Mt Pleasant resident thanked Commissioners Lichtman and Trudell for their service to the County and leaving the County in a great fiscal position. He also stated he is looking forward to working with the Commissioners in the new term.

Commissioner Haupt thanked Commissioners Lichtman and Trudell for their service to the County.

Commissioner Moreno stated that he feels much better stating the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America because now there can be liberty and justice for all.

Commissioner Horton stated that discrimination should not be tolerated.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: It was moved by Commissioner Trudell and seconded by Commissioner Haupt to adjourn to the call of the chair at 8:05

Liber 96
December 16, 2014