



## UPWARD Talent Council County Commissioners' Executive Board Meeting April 5, 2018

### MINUTES

**I. Call To Order**

Board Chair Gerald Corkin calls the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M. Eastern.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Tim Aho, Iron County; John Waltman, Luce County; Gerry Corkin, Marquette County; and Larry Mersnick, Schoolcraft County.

**Absent:**

Patrick Johnson, Delta County  
Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon

**Michigan Works! Staff:**

William Raymond, CEO; Michelle Viau, Director of Finance; and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager

**III. Public Comment**

There is no public comment.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda is made by made by Commissioner Doucette; seconded by Commissioner Mersnick; the motion passed unanimously.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from March 1' 2018 meeting is made by Commissioner Doucette; seconded by Commissioner Aho; the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Financial Report**

CEO Raymond presents the financial report, inclusive of the addition of a more detailed cost category. Chair Gerry Corkin thanked both CFO Viau and Raymond for the efficiency in which they are able to approve checks. Raymond reported that the Apprenticeship Grant is on course to be expended with about 50 apprenticeships in the pipeline to report against the grant expenditures. Michelle Viau added that there were no trouble areas at this time. Michelle also answered questions around the larger, one-time



charges for Springthrough, explaining that we contracted with an IT service provider to provide help desk assistance, identify needs, and that UPWARD is in the process of purchasing and upgrading our IT infrastructure.

The vouchers for February 2018 were reviewed. Questions about technology (Springthrough) expenditures were answered. Commissioner Bonovetz motioned to accept the vouchers for February totaling \$483,918.32; seconded by Commissioner Mersnick and passed unanimously.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Empire Mine resolution and Letter of Support**

Copies of the resolution from prior meeting were provided. There was discussion around the advantages to choosing the U.P. over Minnesota (easier to get the ore here, better quality ore, easier to remove). Raymond commented that it appears we are more aggressively showing our support than MN, and that is good for our chances.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Consolidated Community School System Service Delivery Discussion**

Raymond indicated to the Board that CCSS has been the contractor in the Top of the Lakes region since 2015; for a variety of reasons, those 4 counties are the only ones as a contracted system. CEO Raymond is recommending to the board that the region no longer be contracted, and becomes UPWARD system. The rationale is that with the costs associated, and number of contracted employees, we can save around \$100-200K/year, and provide a better service delivery process by bringing those services in-house as under UPWARD. Raymond has assessed this and thinks there is much more that could be done to impact job seekers and businesses. Raymond advised that he has had a conversation with Bill Henry, the Director of CCSS, to let him know of his official recommendation. Chair Corkin asked if they could get some information on the performance of the region, the costs, as he thinks it will be important for the whole Board to see that to make a decision.

Commissioners Doucette and Waltman voiced concerns over how this would impact the organization from a pension perspective; CFO Viau will be gathering the fiscal information around pensions and the implications of those vested and/or close to it. Commissioner Doucette asked if we would be adding staff to UPWARD; in this case, yes, to our payroll, but there will be a reduction in costs overall. We will allow those currently staffing those centers to post as well. Commissioner and Chair Corkin will need Board members to read over information on rationale and cost savings, implications, etc. before the next meeting to understand and be able to vote. Commissioner Bonovetz made motion to recommend that full Board approve in May; Commissioner Aho supported and seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Reports:**

**A. Chair**

Commissioner Corkin thanks Bill Raymond for his report each month and appreciates all of the meetings he's been having with people all around the counties. It's nice to visit the commissioners and business people and make those relationships.

**B. CEO**

Raymond introduced new Office Manager, Tracy Roberts and let the Board know that future communications and requests can go to her, and they will be seeing communications coming from her on his behalf. Commissioner Bonovetz asked if there will be changing expectations or changes in delivery of service. Raymond indicated there are no real impacts to delivery of service, and we are steadily filling the open positions for UPWARD. Chair Corkin mentioned that it seems there has been a lot of turnover. CEO Raymond stated that there has been some turnover, due to people finding some really good jobs in the area and moving on. Chair Corkin asked if exit interviews are conducted, and Raymond advised that yes, exit interviews are given and now that we have our HR Manager on board, this process should be even more streamlined.

**X. Communications**

**A. Cycle I Monitoring**

Cycle I monitoring is complete; there were no issues with monitoring. Commissioner Corkin asked about the local audit and Michelle Viau advised that the preliminary audit is complete and there are no issues. The final report should be available by the May meeting. Commissioner Bonovetz moved to support the communications presented; seconded by Commissioner Doucette and then motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Public Comment**

CEO Raymond informed the group that Dave Nyberg is leaving his post as Governor's Snyder's Upper Peninsula Representative. The Governor named Mark Pontii from Iron Mountain, the formerly Verso's Public Relations Director to succeed Nyberg.

Raymond updated the Board on his attendance at the NAWB conference in Washington, D.C., where he was able to make lots of good connections with other board associations. He will be meeting with the Bay Area Workforce Development CEO to brainstorm on ways that our two organizations can collaborate. Raymond also made connections with the National Restaurant Association. This Association is planning to visit the Upper Peninsula this summer to gather regional information and also to speak about apprenticeship opportunities. Raymond plans to follow-up with their representative and coordinate a meeting during their U.P. visit.

Commissioner Corkin asked how the Workforce Board was progressing. Raymond responded that things are good, things have settled down and people aren't at odds. He



announced that the current chair is looking to step down when his appointment is over. There has been good feedback from the Board that they like how things are going, and they are having good discussions. Raymond says the Board is much more focused now.

Commissioner Bonovetz brought up Community Action, saying that he sees the connection with MI Works to be more fluid. He thinks that the relationships with these other agencies are important to avoid redundancies.

Commissioner Doucette spoke to the upcoming annual Alger Chamber dinner this year, asking if Raymond would be attending. Raymond says he will plan to attend. With the vast region Raymond oversees, he will be looking at a better way to delegate appropriately as he can't possibly make all of the events. Commissioner Mersnick asked if there was a way to track all of the events. Office Manager Roberts will begin tracking the chamber events to share with the Board in the future.

**XII. Next Meeting:**

Full UPWARD Talent Council Local Elected Official Board Meeting on May 11, 2018 at the Island Resort & Casino, approximately 11:30 EST, lunch will be provided.

**XIII. Adjournment**

With no other comments, meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:54pm.