



UPWARD Talent Council County Commissioners' Executive Board Meeting June 7, 2018

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

Board Chair Gerald Corkin calls the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M. Eastern.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; John Waltman, Luce County; Gerry Corkin, Marquette County; Larry Mersnick, Schoolcraft County; Patrick Johnson, Delta County and Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County

Absent:

Tim Aho, Iron County

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 Johnson; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen; the motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from April 5 2018 meeting is made by Commissioner Johnson; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen; the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Report

CEO Raymond presents the financial report. Bill Raymond indicates that UPward has not yet received all of the allocations for next fiscal year, and there will be some carry over of funding into the new fiscal year. The budget will not be finalized until all allocations come in, but he is anticipating about \$325K more than last time. Chair Gerry Corkin commented that he noticed there will be help for needy families in the upcoming budgets (at a State level) and that there will be Medicaid clientele who are not exempt and will be subjected to 80 hours requirement per month. CEO Raymond said it is a



challenge, as the population will come to our service centers, and there won't necessarily be additional funding to serve those clients.

Commissioners Nykanen and Corkin reviewed the line item budget and vouchers and everything was in order; there were no questions. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Nykanen and supported by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed unanimously.

VII. Old Business

A. Update on Service Delivery Process in Chippewa, Luce & Mackinac Counties

CEO Raymond indicated that interviews were conducted with those that applied for the open UPward talent positions, and they will likely be making offers tomorrow (6/8). UPward will be doing a contract extension with CCSS for the 2 employees that were near pension and/or lifetime health insurance; the rest will be hired on by UPward. There is no unfunded liability at this time, and we are cautiously optimistic. All the staff that will come on with UPward will have a 90-day probation period. The staff (HR, Policy and Compliance, and Workforce Service Managers) feel good about the prospects. The plan is to provide more supervision and oversight, to help them do their jobs more effectively. Chair Corkin asked if there was a supervisor present there and CEO Raymond indicated that Denise Hillier, Workforce Service Manager is there and is doing a good job managing through the transition. Commissioner Corkin states that the cost versus the productivity was always an issue and he will be anxious to see the changes. Discussion was had around combining work functions, or cross-training, and how that can create a strong workforce because the functional areas are not in siloes.

VIII. New Business

A. Consolidated Community School System Service Delivery Discussion

There were several motions to vote on:

16-02 c1 Regional and Local Plan motion – Motion made by Commissioner Bonovetz; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen. The motion passed unanimously.

18-17 System Plan motion – Motion made by Commissioner Doucette; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen. **Motion to make Bill Raymond as Alternate Signatory** – Moved by Commissioner Mersnick; seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motions all passed unanimously.

IX. Reports:

A. Chair

Commissioner Corkin states that he wants to keep an eye on the TANIF legislation. He also stated that the Empire Mine situation looks a little more positive; there is hope that they may re-open Empire within two years, as well as Minnesota.

Everyone on the board is hopeful, as it would bring about 400 new jobs to the U.P.

B. CEO



Raymond stated that they are moving forward with the Strategic Planning RFP, and although the RFP went out a few days ago, it is still too early for any to have come back in. Bill has been out in the western U.P. for visits with some of the board members and will continue to meet with members from both of the boards.

Several of the Commissioners went around the table to provide updates with their respective counties:

Commissioner Nykanen: Funding was secured for a synthetic fuels plant

Commissioner Bonovetz: Construction will begin soon in Copper Mine; they know they won't have the people to fill the jobs and will have to work hard to get ancillary services in the area in order to locate people there. Once the mine is operational, they will have to work hard on training.

CEO Raymond indicated that he would like to have conversations with all of those businesses and advised that they have already talked to Aquila mines to assess their upcoming needs.

X. Communications

A. Region 1 April 2018 Labor Snapshot

B. April 2018 Fast Facts

C. Civilian Labor Force Estimates April 2018

Motion to accept Communications made by Commissioner Bonovetz; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen. Motion passed.

XI. Public Comment

Commissioner Mersnick brought up Deb Doyle's retirement, making a recommendation to give her a card of recognition, signed by board members. CEO Raymond stated they are working with the Delta County Chamber and EDC to do something for her.

Commissioner Johnson provided an idea of a plaque that everyone could sign.

Commissioner Johnson announced that the construction of the jail is going well. Also, a new Airport Administrator was hired and he's doing well. Escanaba has also hired a new city manager, Phil Strom.

XII. Next Meeting:

Meeting is scheduled for July 5th. There will be enough for quorum, so the meeting will remain for July 5th.

XIII. Adjournment

With no other comments, meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:53pm.