



**Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
County Commissioners
Executive Committee Meeting
March 5, 2020**

I. Call to Order, Gerald Corkin, Chair

Board Chair Gerry Corkin called meeting to order at approximately 1:58 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Board Chair, Gerry Corkin, Marquette County; Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County; and Tim Aho, Iron County.

Excused:

Patrick Johnson, Delta County; and Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County.

Michigan Works! Staff:

Bill Raymond, CEO; Michelle Viau, CFO and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Commissioner Nykanen and was supported by Commissioner Doucette. Agenda was approved unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2019

Motion to approve the December 5, 2019 minutes was made by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Nykanen and passed.

VI. Financial Report

A. Grant Status & Overview

CEO Bill Raymond reviews the grant status with the board. Some of the grants there were under-spent before and are catching up and some of the grants are being extended to be able to expend the funds. We requested additional funding for the BRN (Business Resource Network), as there may be some funding available. CEO Raymond also announces that the GoingPro monies will be added to supplemental budget, extending the money through the end of the year.

B. Line Item Budget Report

C. Voucher Review Report

The vouchers were reviewed by Commissioners Corkin and Nykanen. A motion to approve the vouchers was made by Commissioner Aho and supported by Commissioner Corkin. The board voted to pass unanimously.



VII. Old Business

A. Delta County AJC Procurement Update

CEO Bill Raymond provided an update to the board and explained that UPMW has not heard officially from the county yet; the new county administrator was quite positive and thought the county board would pass this. There should be an update soon.

VIII. New Business

A. Action Items – Recommended Motions

1. New Workforce Development Board Member

Bridget Kennedy has been attending the workforce meetings for Brad LeBouef from Systems Control, she is their HR Director. She went downstate with Bill to testify for the restoration of GoingPro funding and is a strong supporter and board member.

A motion to approve new member Bridget Kennedy to the UPMW Workforce Development board was made by Commissioner Doucette and supported by Commissioner Aho. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PI 20-04: Going PRO Apprenticeships

This is funding to allow opportunity to have flexibility in training apprenticeships. Commissioner Corkin asks about some of the apprenticeships around the region and Bill explains that we have several ongoing. A motion to approve the funding was made by Commissioner Nykanen and supported by Commissioner Aho. The motion passed.

VIII. Reports

A. Chairman

Chairman Commissioner Gerry Corkin talked about the Michigan Launch Initiative and updated that the horizontal launch project was awarded to Oscola county, but that the U.P. is still in consideration for the vertical initiative, to be determined in March.

B. CEO

CEO Raymond talked about some points of focus in his report. Some of the monies coming in are good for the programs at UPMW, for example the early middle college coming in to the U.P. is 1 of only 9 approved in the state. Jeff Mason, CEO of MEDC who is getting ready to retire, made a farewell stop at the UP CDC meeting earlier in the week. Commissioner Corkin comments on the \$9K approved for the legacy costs associated in Gogebic county.



IX. Communications

A motion to accept the communications was made by Commissioner Nykanen and was supported by Commissioner Corkin.

X. Public Comment

County Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Aho comments on some of the budget issues in his county.

Commissioner Doucette comments that they were happy to get their millage to pass as well. They continue to struggle with inmates coming in and out and how to handle some of the issues with COVID-19 virus. There will certainly be issues with inmates and courthouse staff. They will be cleaning the whole building on the coming weekend.

Commissioner Nykanen comments about the inmates and jail that they have a meth situation there and will be hiring another officer to support the jail operations.

Commissioner and Chair Corkin advises that Marquette county is working on labor negotiations.

From Gogebic county, Commissioner Bonovetz updates that there was a meeting with Highland Copper and they discussed job training – They brought in a group of 9 investors from a company based in Houston and Perth Australia and are currently going to due diligence; they were concerned because they wanted to meet with representatives with local government; He told them they would have the support from MI Works if they decide to locate there. He said it was a refreshing to still have a possible opportunity here for the project.

Bill talked to the board about the efforts and steps UPMW are doing for the COVID-19 virus – they have had a lot of calls and messages from the State about updates and steps to take as the situation evolves.

XI. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:32 p.m.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Apr 2nd - 3 weeks from today – The committee decided to cancel the Apr 2nd Executive meeting and plans to meet on May 11th with the full board.