



Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! County Commissioner Board Meeting Minutes May 8, 2020

I. Call to Order, Gerald Corkin, Chair

Board chair Gerry Corkin calls meeting to order at approximately 1:00pm.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Board Chair, Gerry Corkin; Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Gail Eilola, Baraga County; Don McLean, Chippewa County; Patrick Johnson, Delta County; Joe Stevens, Dickinson County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County; and Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County

Excused:

Tim Aho, Iron County; Bob DeMarois, Keweenaw County; Kevin Erickson, Luce County; Paul Krause, Mackinac County; and Bernie Lang, Menominee County.

Michigan Works! Staff:

William Raymond, CEO, Michelle Viau, CFO and Tracy Roberts, Administrative Services Manager.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda is made by Commissioner Tikkanen
Supported by Commissioner Nykanen

V. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2020

Motion to approval meeting minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting was made by Commissioner: Bonovetz with **Correction: Adjournment** should be Chairman Corkin
Supported by Commissioner Doucette

VI. Financial Report

- A. Grant Status & Overview
- B. Line Item Budget Report
- C. Voucher Review Report

Motion to approve financial reports, grant status and overview was made by Commissioner Doucette

Supported by Commissioner Corkin

CEO Bill gives an update on the financials – and budget –



Commissioner Stevens asks a question on Youth programs. He asks, How will it play out for funding as things are closed down? Bill responds the plan is to continue on the course, incorporating virtual processes where possible, doing business virtually.

Commissioner's Corkin and Doucette reviewed vouchers.

Bill indicates that our JMG (Job's for Michigan Graduates) monies are being repurposed; they are still sorting it out what might happen there; also, PATH funding was slightly reduced. He says that these are nothing that will hurt the budget long term; however, it will take a few months to get back into the swing of things. Gerry Corkin asks how the AJCs are operating? Bill says that we are mostly all virtual, set up to help customers and partners via phone; the staff is doing a lot of work over the phones assisting the UIA as much as we can. Commissioner Corkin asks if we have we been able to help a lot of people? Bill Raymond comments that for all of the issues and complaints, Michigan is doing really well comparatively – Michigan is one of the leaders as far as having the federal stimulus monies dispersed.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

A. Action Items – Recommended Motions

1. PI 20-06: WIOA Statewide Activities Allocations for PY2019 CRM

Motion to approve PI 20-06 was made by Commissioner Bonovetz and was supported by Commissioner McLean.

2. PI 20-08: AY19 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for the SYP 2020 Initiative

Motion to approve PI 20-08 was made by Commissioner Eilola

Supported by Commissioner Nykanen

Commissioner Bonovetz asks How does the county go about applying for the Summer Young professionals' activities? Bill Raymond indicates this happens through the Employer Specialists. Commissioner Stevens wonder is the funding could be used as an internship with the county.

VIII. Reports

A. Chairman Commissioner Corkin advises the board that he thinks it is important for the Federal Government to come up with another appropriation for the states, because if the pandemic goes on much longer there will be many more layoffs. There will be big holes in county budgets unless the States were to get some funding.

Commissioner Stevens comments that as the money flows through the States, it needs to come down to the counties. He tells the board that Dickinson county has not had any layoffs yet; they have stayed open the whole time (by appt only). He says they are in good shape now but is concerned for the future. Commissioner Corkin agrees and says that the UP counties need to lobby to get some of the money that has come through to the State down to the counties. In Alger county, Commissioner Doucette called a coalition meeting to work very hard with State



and Federal representatives to express concerns. Commissioner Doucette has been working on that through NACO. Commissioner Bonovetz reminds board members that there is always a link through MAC to contact Senators. On the website, you can click on contact and can send info. He has done this and heard back from Senators. Commissioner Bonovetz adds that small local units of government will need finances to help with unexpected COVID-19 expenses. Commissioner Tikkanen adds that it just takes a couple of keystrokes to follow up with our legislators statewide and on a national level. Commissioner Tikkanen informs that Houghton county is open for business, but that anyone coming into the courthouse is to have a facemask.

B. CEO

CEO Bill Raymond gives an update to the board on current happenings. There are a lot of good things going on with the UPMW staff, and Bill is really pleased with how everyone has pulled together to be there to assist those that need help the best we can. CEO Raymond also mentions that there are some economic development monies coming through to help with projects. They have been having meetings with members of EDOs and InvestUP and the hospitals about opening and what ways to figure that out. Bill informs the board about a Regional Collaboration survey to be sent out on collaborating with board members and partners on regional workforce strategies.

IX. Communications

- A. Announcements – new emails and website
- B. Updated UI Claims as of 4/25/2020, Region 1
- C. Michigan Labor Market News update
- D. U.P. Regional Snapshot
- E. March 2020 Fast Facts

Motion to approve communications was made by Commissioner Doucette
Supported by Commissioner Tikkanen

Commissioner McLean commented about the changed organization name from UPward Talent Council to Upper Peninsula Michigan Works and he thinks that it is a great change and has helped to eliminate confusion.

Commissioner Stevens has a request to have Bill provide a forecast for the next 6 months with stimulus monies, and what UPMW will do with those monies. He says a lot of people are off work and concerned about people going back due to unemployment. CEO Raymond advises that right now, there is 15 billion of legislation introduced in D.C., we will see how negotiations go through. He says it is hard to tell how it will be approached, but some funding will be for CTE and community colleges, so not all of that would be for MI Works.

Commissioner Corkin reminds the board members that the 2nd phase of the launch initiative is to be announced in 2 months and hoping for good news for the U.P.

The Marinette Marine contract worth about 800 million and 20 years of work, as well as anywhere between 1200-1500 jobs. Bill met with them a few weeks ago with some economic developers and they indicated that about 35% of their workforce comes from



Michigan. Commissioner Tikkanen says that the impact of the contract in Marinette reaches the U.P. as well, as they sub-contract with them in Houghton County

X. Public Comment

XI. Next Meeting/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned approximately 1:40

The next Full LEO Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug 6th at the Escanaba AJC.