

Michigan Northern Counties Association
June 18, 2012
Grayling Township Hall
Grayling, MI

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by President Anderson.

Roll Call- The following 21 counties were present:

Alpena	Antrim	Benzie	Charlevoix
Cheboygan	Clare	Crawford	Gladwin
Grand Traverse	Gratiot	Iosco	Lake
Manistee	Missaukee	Montcalm	Montmorency
Ogemaw	Osceola	Oscoda	Roscommon
Wexford			

Introduction of Guests

State Representatives Bruce Rendon and Phil Potvin were present.

Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Iosco to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Cheboygan, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report-

Balance	\$2448.60
-	\$ 37.60
+	\$ 28.00
Ending Balance	\$2439.00

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Lake and seconded by Charlevoix. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business-

No unfinished business

New Business-

The Commissioner from Clare County spoke to the group stating that their county has had a recent issue with their new Magistrate. He is demanding re-imbusement for his staff for various items and has publicly stated that he will not do any video arraignments if his demands are not met. The Commissioner wanted to warn other counties to beware.

Guest Speakers-

Ben Bodkin, Director of Legislative Affairs, MAC

Mr. Bodkin presented the June MAC Legislative Update. He stated that Senator Booher, supported by other Northern Michigan Representatives have done a great job in following up with PILT making sure that \$1.3 million was put back into the budget.

Mary Pettit, Public Relations, MAC

Ms. Pettit spoke briefly about the September Annual MAC Conference. She stated that there will be a session on how to create a Face Book Page or Twitter Account for your county.

Q: Is there a conflict between state and Federal regulations regarding Bath Salts?

A: No. With the current Legislation, the State Director of Health will be able to add to the list of illegal substances.

Q: In GT County, a driver was pulled over for impaired driving and his defense was “medicinal Marijuana”. He was arrested and found guilty, though there is an appeals process pending.

A: There are currently bills and statutes to clean up some of these issues. MoReno Taylor is the contact at MAC for this issue.

The speakers were thanked by President Anderson.

Commissioner Discussion of Consolidation of Services

President Anderson notified the members that when Crawford County began consolidating Fire Departments, the question of where to get water was brought up. He suggested that a GPS can help counties locate water sources.

Charlevoix is in the process of building a county sub-station where the Sheriff Department, Clerk and Treasurer will hold office hours.

Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet Counties collaborated and purchased their own 911 radio tower to save money on tower rental.

Benzie County is looking into better insurance and benefits plans. Since the state negotiated a better propane price, they joined.

Antrim and Charlevoix are discussing sharing an Equalization Director so they can have a level 4 Director.

Gladwin County stated that they had a plan for central supply purchasing that worked well, but when the person who did the coordinating left, the program was dropped.

It was suggested that NAACO has a purchasing program.

Clare County contracts electrical and Mechanical services thru Isabella County.

Manistee and Benzie Counties have collaborated in many areas. John will get the list and send it via e-mail.

Motion to adjourn made by Alpena and seconded by Lake motion carried.

Next meeting July 16, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Palinsky
Recording Secretary