

**SPECIAL FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 13th, 2014**

A special meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Thursday, March 13th, 2014 at the Chippewa County Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Cooper, George Kinsella, Don McLean, Ted Postula and Scott Shackleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Jordan, Phil Wolf, Margie Hank, Chuck Leonhardt, Jim German, Christine Lundquist, Cathy Maleport, David Martin and Kelly Church

Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were offered.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve the agenda as amended. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

None

PRESENTATION

MERS staff member Tom Jordon addressed the Committee regarding the MERS Health Care Retirement Vehicle, which Chippewa County adopted and started funding in December of 2013. This meeting was scheduled for questions and answers, and to discuss how to fund the Health Care Retirement Vehicle. Through discussion and the overview given by Mr. Jordan, it was summarized that the Committee needs to establish a factor that can be used to start possibly charging the General Fund budget in FY2015, for employees who are eligible for retiree health care. The Committee discussed covering the past obligations (unfunded) with the DTRF and to cover current employees who are eligible for retiree health care with a budgeted factoring. Discussion also included that at some point in the funding of the Retirement Vehicle that the Retirees monthly premiums would be able to be paid from the fund, saving the general fund. Discussion also included offering a buyout to future retirees, who would sign off from their retiree health care.

That factor will be put together by using the information from the actuarial, the ARC, and the difference between the current vs. retirees by Chuck Leonhardt, Margie Hank, Jim German and Kelly Church. The factor will need to be fair, equitable, and logical and be shared with the Chippewa County Health Department, since the Health Department is considered a single County entity.

The Committee will also be establishing an Investment Committee, to show that due diligence of the investment and the Committee will meet either quarterly or semi-annually to review investments, and to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, the Investment Committee, will potentially have the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of Finance, the County Treasurer, and two appointments of members with financial backgrounds.

It was also determined that at the April Finance Committee meeting that a Policy/Resolution will be presented that addresses the funding of the MERS Health Care Retirement Vehicle, as follows:

Policy/Resolution

Health Care Retirement Vehicle Funding – That each October, the County Treasurer, Accountant, Administrator, or designees will meet prior to the Finance Committee meeting, to review the DTRF fund, and that 90% of the annual receipts will be allocated to be sent to MERS for the Health Care Retirement Vehicle, to continue to fund the County’s retiree health care obligations. The factor should be determined for budgeting and be shared with the Health Department.

It was also noted that we need to get information to the Health Department on the percentage of the FY13 funding amount versus the FY13 payroll.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

No additional comments were offered by the Committee or by the Chairman.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, supported by Commissioner Postula, to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Cooper declared the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Kelly Church, Deputy Administrator

Don Cooper, Chairman