

# Michigan Northern Counties Association

SID OUWINGA, PRESIDENT  
OSCEOLA COUNTY

ED LOWRIE, VICE-PRESIDENT  
CRAWFORD COUNTY

SID EVANS, TREASURER  
BENZIE COUNTY

## MINUTES OF MEETING

November 20, 1978

A meeting of the Michigan Northern Counties Association was held on Monday, November 20, 1978, in the Crawford County Courthouse.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

President Ouwinga called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Fred Kauffman

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letters of commendation to MNCA for the resolutions sent out in August, from John Engler, Joe Mack, and Connie Binsfeld.
- B. Dean Rhoades
  - 1. There will be training for new commissioners on December 18th in Gaylord, and on December 19th in Big Rapids, from 3:30 to 9:30 both days. Each county will get a notice.
  - 2. The Cooperative Extension Service feels that Sid Ouwinga and the M.N.C.A. do a very good job.
- C. Sid Ouwinga said he received an appointment on the Transportation Steering Committee of NACo for a two-year term. He may need some travelling expenses from MNCA.

### IV. BUSINESS SESSION

- A. MOTION by Brokowski, second by Brandt, to approve the minutes of September 18, 1978, as written. Carried. Unanimous.
- B. Sid appointed the nominating committee for officers for next year.
- C. Sid displayed the voluminous application for monies under the new Sheriff Bill. This was discussed, then a vote was taken to see how many counties were going to apply. Most were undecided.

### V. CHANGE IN AGENDA

Jack Cinco and Paul Surratt, scheduled for today's afternoon session, were both contacted and invited to attend the meeting of December 18, 1978, because of the cancellation of the afternoon

meeting. All members wishing to attend the funeral at 1:00 p.m. today for Ed Lowrie, Crawford County Commissioner, were invited to do so. Luncheon will be served in the Hotel at 11:45.

VI. PAUL MITCHELL, Bureau of Employment and Training -

"New C.E.T.A. Program"

A. Some of the Major Changes

Title I, under the old program, was Adult Work Experience (AWE). It is now administrative.

Title II used to be Public Service Employment (PSE). The new act has comprehensive services, upgrading and training for unemployed people. They will also add a PSE Program.

Title III is now a National program for migrant workers, displaced homemakers, etc.

Title IV - All the youth programs are under this now, with the exception of the Young Adult Conservation Corps.

Title V is a National commission.

Title VI is now counter-cyclical PSE. Allocations are based upon the number of unemployed.

Title VII is the Private Sector Initiative Program. The Private Industry Council will administer this program, working with industries. Each local area will be able to set up its own program. Mr. Mitchell hopes this will be a wide open program.

Title VIII is now the Young Adult Conservation Corps, which is a new Governor's Grant Program, linked with education programs. This is to demonstrate the transition from school to work.

B. New Eligibility Requirements

1. For Title II, Training Section - Must have been unemployed 20 days and economically disadvantaged.

2. PSE - Unemployed 15 weeks, or economically disadvantaged, or on welfare. Wages will be limited to \$10,000 maximum, but each beginning salary must comply with the average wage for that area, or about \$7,200. This applies to all new employees after October 1, 1978.

3. Employees can be on Title II, PSE, for only 18 months. If they have been in the program 26 weeks or more prior to October 1, 1978, 26 weeks only will be applied to that 18 months. Also a training component--10% must be used for training; next year 15%; the next year 20%; the next year 25%. They are moving more toward training and less toward PSE.



4. Title VI - Unemployed 10 out of the past 12 weeks; 18 month limit. The average wage must be the same as for Title II, but you will be able to supplement with local funds as long as the average wage requirement is complied with.

C. Cost of the Program

Title II - Training - \$14 million.

PSE - \$22 million.

Title VI - \$37 million. All of this means an increase of about \$5 million in Balance of State, Michigan.

D. Questions & Answers

Q - Is there a 7% cap?

A - For allocations, yes. This says how much money you actually can spend. This must be according to the nationwide average.

Q - Harland - How will the \$10,000 maximum affect the counties?

Q - Fox - In Iosco, "economically disadvantaged persons" can be majors, captains, etc., so their children can be employed under CETA, which isn't fair. Has this been changed?

A - They have not solved this youth problem as yet.

Under Title VI you must use 50% of your funds for projects, such as a program with a demonstrated goal, that will last a specific time, and it must be for a group of people working as a unit.

He is going to a meeting this afternoon on screening. This is a very difficult thing to do.

Q - Are we going to have to fire every CETA worker in the county?

A - No. It depends on what program they are on. If your people are earning more than the max, you may either have to pick up that salary, or let them go.

Q - Sid Owinga - Who pays for the schooling if you want to put on some new people?

A - CETA will pay for schooling under certain conditions.

Q - Owinga - We're getting an extra \$5 million. Will Michigan be able to spend all of that?

A - Yes, with no problem. Michigan has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. You must tell each person you hire under CETA what their rights are, what the restrictions are, etc.

Q - Will these funds be used just for younger people?

A - No, for people of any age.

Q - Ouwinga - I'm afraid you are going to see that when people are laid off, they are not going to be replaced.

A - I realize the bill is not all good.

Q - Why should we stick our necks out for 18 months? We are making it so complicated it isn't worth our while.

A - I am sorry about that. The regulations will be put into effect April 1, 1979.

Q - What about retirement?

A - Retirement will be paid for anyone enrolled up to July 1, 1979.

Q - Could we take the four deputies we have now and lay them off for 18 months, hire four more for 18 months, then lay them off and employ the original four for another 18 months?

A - Until they catch up with you!

Q - Do you feel this State is better off than others where CETA is concerned?

A - Yes, I feel this State is much better off. Each county's commissioners have the final say about CETA funds and eligibility, and the general use of the funds.

Q - Mattis - Would a county be allowed to take all CETA programs and put them under one Director?

A - This occurs in many cases. It depends on whom your prime sponsor is. There is nothing they can do about the National CETA Programs.

Q - Ouwinga - A number of CETA people will be laid off in my county. What if the Clerk needs someone else in his office, but can't find anyone to meet the new requirements. What can he do?

A - This is a problem, and I don't really know the answer.

## VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sid Evans said all bills are paid up to today, leaving \$6,018.86 in the treasury.



VIII. BILL NUGENT, Bureau of Management & Budget -

A. "Sheriff Funding Bill"

Mr. Nugent said they have developed their grant package, which was sent out with a letter to all counties about the Bill.

Q - Owninga - How compulsory is this new law?

A - Not compulsory at all. You don't have to do this if you do not want to.

Q - If we take these dollars, are we obligated to have a sheriff road patrol?

A - If you accept the money, you must have patrol. In Section 77, Paragraph 3, it states that "The Sheriff Department of the county is required to provide patrol only as far as they receive these monies."

Q - Our Sheriff says the funding is all set for three years, but I don't agree.

A - No, it is not set for three years. A new plan must be submitted for the 2nd and 3rd years. There is no guarantee that the funds will be there for three years.

Q - Alpena put three deputies on three months ago. Do they still have to add more men?

A - Yes, immediately before the Bill went into effect on October 1, 1978. However, I think a county can get around this if it has a good reason, or a good case.

Q - Mengabier - There are three things I'm wondering about: 1) Counties can contract for one year; 2) MAC has asked not to count CETA employees as local effort; and 3) the issue of data on accidents-- we need this from county, city, and State Police, but the State Police data doesn't come out for two years.

A - The Feds wanted this money to be used over and above the present county funding. This should be resolved within the next three weeks. I would appreciate your writing your problems to me. The Bureau is trying to speed up this MSP data reporting system.

Q - Kauffman - What if the CETA employee joins the Teamsters? How can we fire him?

A - If it is a "no cut" contract, you may have trouble. The agreement must be by resolution if you want to get this money.

Q - What if we don't choose to come in this year? Can we get into it next year?

A - Yes, you can come in whenever you wish, without even waiting

for the beginning of the second or third period.

Q - Any guidelines on wage control?

A - No. This is a labor-management problem.

Q - Ouwinga - How did you figure these percentages?

A - The percentage of the highway fund distribution less snow removal.

Q - Say we wait until January 1980--would our county still get the original amount?

A - No, they would have to figure out a new formula.

Q - This must be filed by December 1. This doesn't give us much time.

A - This date comes from a committal we have. We told the sheriffs that if they want that money quickly, this could be done if they get their applications to us by December 1. You don't have to get it to us by December 1.

Q - Ouwinga - We have four CETA deputies. I'm afraid these four will have to be laid off. If we write you a letter about this, would you appropriate money for them?

A - Not necessarily.

Q - What about the Headlee Amendment?

A - This will not affect the Sheriff Funding Bill.

Q - If a county is financially sound, it will not get as much State money as a county that gets itself into financial trouble-- isn't this right?

A - Prudent management does enter into this.

#### B. Effects of the Proposals on County Government

On these mandates, there will be considerable sentiment to reduce State Revenue Sharing in order to fund these mandates.

The "All Urban Consumers Index" seems to be the index the State wants to use. There will still be some inequitable taxation, and it might be three or four years before this is settled.

Bond issues must be approved by the voters. The definition must be done by the Attorney General. He is a member of the Tax Commission. Other alternatives are to attempt to clarify this by having an independent firm do the bonding, and to develop legislation for an appropriate bond program.



Q - Valuation for levied taxes cannot increase more than 10%.  
What percentage do we use next year?

A - Take this year's assessed valuation, then apply a 10% multiple (if the CPI goes up 10%, or whatever the CPI happens to be if it is under 10%). If property values rise twice as much as the CPI, and the millage rate is cut to accommodate it, if we are forced to stick to the 10% I wonder about the application of the millage roll-back.

Q - Will there be comparable roll-backs at the State level in income taxes, gas tax, etc.?

A - They will not be rolled back.

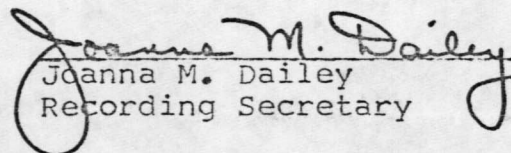
IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 1978, in Crawford County.

Sid Ouwinga said Jack Cinco and Paul Surratt have agreed to be here in the morning, and he is trying to get Bob Davis and Don Albosta.

X. ADJOURNMENT - 11:50 a.m.

- LUNCHEON - Hotel Shoppenagon.

  
Joanna M. Dailey  
Recording Secretary