

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
September 27, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson Pete Redmond at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Chris Brown, Bruce Gauthier, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

Absent: None

Commissioner Wallace gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Janet Vance, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, addressed the Board regarding charitable contributions to the Humane Society being disguised as contracts in various townships throughout the county. Ms. Vance stated that there were points missing from the last meeting when the issue was discussed. She said this is per the Michigan Townships Association magazine and the State Constitution. She stated that townships in Cheboygan County are appropriating money to a charitable organization and it is an unlawful expense because townships cannot donate money to any cause. Ms. Vance stated that the services provided by the Humane Society are contractual with Cheboygan County and should be paid for by County taxes and not additionally by township donations.

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Lisa Anderson, District Coordinator for MSU-E District 14, presented the MSU-E 2015-2016 Annual Report. Leigh Ann Thunick, the 4-H Program Coordinator for Cheboygan County presented highlights from the program for 2016. Ms. Thunick stated that she has focus efforts on getting participation from all around the County including Wolverine Schools and Inland Lakes Schools. Ms. Thunick stated that the after school programs for 4-H have been successful. Ms. Thunick stated that the STEM clubs hosted two "family engineering nights" where parents interacted with children doing science activities. Ms. Thunick stated that she also did a program called "Build Your Future" which was a career exploration curriculum with Tenth Graders at Wolverine Schools. Ms. Thunick introduced an exchange student in the Flex International Exchange Program. Kylie Rymonowicz presented highlights about the MSU-E Early Child and Family Development Program. Ms. Rymonowicz stated that one of the projects she is most proud of is one she was able to bring grant funding in for "BEES" (Building Early Emotional Skills). Commissioner Gauthier asked if MSU-E interacts with early head start programs. Ms. Rymonowicz stated that she is working on building those connections and that when NEMCSA restructured they lost a little bit of connection but they are working on those youth and parents. Ms. Anderson stated that Wendy Wieland, Innovation Counselor for MSU-E, who is housed in the Emmet County Office, has been working for Cheboygan County by working with business plans and budgets for commercial maple syrup producers and the local food alliance. Commissioner Gouine asked why the local farmers market doesn't allow vegetables to be sold in vinegar. Ms. Anderson responded that it has to do with the Cottage Food Law and food safety. Patti Spinella, SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) Instructor, presented highlights from her program in 2016 including nutritional education classes with 465 youth and adults in attendance for a 6-week series and she stated that the SAYPA Program has a "Cooking Matters" course

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instruction and nutrition presentations. Commissioner Gauthier asked how many participants she had for the health program. Ms. Spinella stated that they had 14 participants and 50 referrals. Ms. Anderson spoke about the Sea Grant Program in partnership with the University of Michigan that provides research, outreach and education about the Great Lakes. Ms. Anderson mentioned pesticide applicator training. The Board thanked MSU-E for the presentation and for the programs.

Julie Sproul, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, presented an update on the Homemaker Program to the Board. Ms. Sproul stated that the program has been around a long time and it is a contract program with the State of Michigan and the County. Ms. Sproul stated that the funding has changed for the program in more recent years and she looked into adding that service into the Child Care Fund Plan and received approval to do that so the Child Care Fund reimburses the County 50% for the position. Ms. Sproul stated that the position is servicing 32 families, which is 115 children. Ms. Sproul stated that the homemaker position provides a multitude of services including identifying and educating about unsafe home conditions, supervised visitation and helping people locate housing. Ms. Sproul discussed licensed foster care statistics in the County. Ms. Sproul stated that approximately 7,500 people receive assistance in this County which is closing on a third of the population of the County.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, addressed the Board to state that Cheboygan needs to become more business friendly to fill the vacant store fronts in Cheboygan and Indian River and the present Zoning Ordinance is 171 pages and this month there was an approval of a 135th Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Muscott stated that the zoning ordinance is very confusing and behind the times and he asked the Board to address it as a priority.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Redmond acknowledged individuals in the audience present from Benton Township and stated that he understands that the issue regarding Benton Township borrowing money from the County for road projects was not on the agenda today but to let them know that it was the consensus with the Board to move forward with putting a program together.

Commissioner Gouine stated that he spoke with a City Council member regarding Meijer and the ball is now in Inverness Township's court and the township is inquiring about borrowing money from the County for the sewer issue. County Treasurer Linda Cronan stated that the statute allows the County to lend money for road projects only. Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Mary Ellen Tryban
County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson