

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 26, 2019**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski, John Wallace and Steve Warfield.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Ellen Tryban

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

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MSU-E Director Adam Koivisto introduced Cheyenne Farr as the new Health & Community Nutrition Instructor working in Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties. Ms. Farr stated starting the end of April, there will be a class available called "Cooking Matters for Adults." This program is targeted to help participants learn how to eat healthy, cook and grocery shop on a limited budget. As well as comparing nutrition facts on the ingredients that they're buying. The class will be a six (6) week course, lasting around two (2) hours each week. Those who are a part of the class will be able to take home groceries with them after each of the classes, so they can make the meals themselves. Mr. Koivisto stated that MSU-E will also be offering several other instructional classes to those who are interested, including Fiscally Ready Communities and Opportunity Zones (OZ), for municipalities across the State of Michigan. OZ is a federal program that gives tax incentives to developers to come into a community and build projects. If interested, please contact the MSU-E office.

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented Earl Manual and Dean Tebo with a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication to the community's needs and work they did for the Coats for Kids program. The deputies provided 223 coats, 160 hats and gloves, 26 pairs of snow pants, 68 blankets, 9 pairs of boots, 9 sweatshirts, 2 sets of pajamas, 20 pairs of socks, 50 stuffed animals and were also able to donate \$500 to each school. Mr. Tebo stated that it was the whole department that saw the need and they all chipped in.

Chairperson Wallace and Administrator Lawson presented Mike Swanson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his 32+ years of loyal and dedicated services as a Cheboygan County Corrections Officer and Animal Control Officer. Mr. Swanson thanked the Board and stated that the last 32 years has actually been a good ride.

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented Mike Swanson with a Certificate of Retirement and a shadow box with each of the patches that he has worn throughout his years of service with the Sheriff's Department. He was also presented with a Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department

Distinguished Service Medal for his 30+ years of service, pinned by Cheboygan County Humane Society Director Mary Talaske. Ms. Talaske introduced Elisabeth Killingbeck as the new Cheboygan County Animal Control Officer.

Amalia Harvey of Catholic Human Services presented – Alcohol and Drug Treatment Education (Liquor Money – How is it being used.) She stated that she works for Up North Prevention, which is essentially a facet of Catholic Human Services. They primarily focus on the fourteen (14) counties in lower Northern Michigan, doing prevention initiatives and education, to help problems like the opioid and prescription drug issues in the community. Her Job was to specifically focus on Cheboygan County. She has been working to start both a youth and an adult drug free coalition. When she first started her position with UP North Prevention, she brought together different people from the community to talk about what issues were being seen in the area regarding drugs and what could be done to amp up the prevention efforts in the county. The conclusion was to efficiently focus on the youth. She began working with schools around the county, including Inland Lakes Secondary School, Cheboygan Area High School and Wolverine High School. Each of these schools were at different levels of their development programs and it took some time to figure out the needs of each school and how to work it into their academic calendar. We do a variety of different things in the community. One of the initiatives was the Drug Endangered Children Awareness Training, which was held for members of the community. This training helps people such as child welfare professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, medical personnel and treatment providers to identify, protect and serve children and their families who are endangered due to drug use. Lynda Rutkowski of Catholic Human Services also runs a program including a Michigan Synar Compliance Check, taking groups of young people to different businesses and having them attempt to purchase tobacco products, to make sure businesses are complying with the law. She reported while performing these checks, none of the retailers in Cheboygan sold to minors, which is exceptional compared to some of the other 13 counties where the program was run. In her position, she makes sure that the funds from the Liquor Tax Grant are being used properly and where they are needed the most in the different counties. A breakdown of the Liquor Tax Grant for Cheboygan County FY 2019 was given as follows: Salaries/Wages \$44,500; Supplies/Materials \$2,000 and Events/Media \$6,000 for a total of \$52,500. By talking with members of the community to figure out where to allocate the funding, she has made many connections, which will continue to help her in the future with the programs. Commissioner Wallace suggested that she contact the Cheboygan Salvation Army Director Hank Roman to apply for some of the grant funding for use at the halfway house. She stated that this type of facility certainly falls under the spectrum of prevention and she will follow up with them.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that Senate Bill 637, which was signed into law as Public Act 365 of 2018 by Governor Snyder on December 12, 2018. The law became effective 3/12/2019. Staff will discuss with legal counsel the effects related to zoning approval for towers located on private property.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Cheboygan County Marina Waterways Grant Application Amendment Request. The County was awarded a \$400,000 grant to be matched with \$400,000 of county funding by the Michigan Waterways Commission to replace the fuel

tanks at the marina as well as construct a new floating fuel dock, fuel building, fuel pumps, fuel piping, sewer pump out system and ADA ramp. The project would also provide a new sidewalk to the new fuel dock. A revised engineering estimate for the project has identified an estimated cost of \$1,050,000 (an additional \$250,000 from the original estimate of \$800,000 due to projected increase cost in material, labor and contingencies). The County will apply for an additional grant in the amount of \$125,000 to match by an additional \$125,000 of County funds to complete the project.

Motion by Commissioner Warfield, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve submittal of the Cheboygan County Marina Waterways Grant Application and authorize the County Administrator to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Buck Love Business Retention & Growth Specialist commented that the County has participated in discussion with the NLEA and partner Counties concerning the creation of a Broadband Consortium over the past two years and approved a preliminary resolution of support to form a consortium in 2018. Presently NLEA was asking for the Board's vote in support to join the consortium. The goal of the consortium is to provide another tool/option for companies to get high speed internet and to provide a comparison pricing option with their current provider. The consortium would work to provide access to high speed internet for business and economic development.

Paul Blome Vice President of Tube Fab/Roman Engineering encouraged the Board to adopt the Broadband Consortium Agreement. As a large employer in Cheboygan County, we struggled with the internet and data activity. Being able to add this to the tool kit, as they support companies who are either in the area and want to stay or companies who want to locate to the area would be very helpful. NLEA can steer us in a direction so that we can find a solution.

Administrator Jeff Lawson commented that what the agreement identifies was if a county was not a part of the NLEA Broadband Consortium, then it could not participate. In the private sector, they would have to renegotiate their cost. As far as counties coming on in the future, a county can sign on to the agreement similar to what Cheboygan County has.

Commissioner Warfield had a concern on the cost assessment. Administrator Lawson commented that in the agreement, the consortium cannot allocate funds for any county so in the future, if there were any types of investment of funding, each of the counties would have to agree to it. The consortium was starting out to try to leverage conversations with providers from each county to provide access to private businesses, specifically, here in Cheboygan County on infrastructure improvements. Our other partner counties have infrastructure that they have invested on their own projects, but that does not commit Cheboygan County to participate in their projects or force the Board of Commissioners to preapprove them. So even if the Consortium Board were to direct them, this Board would need approval through the budget process or a supplemental budget process.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to approve the NLEA Broadband Consortium Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 1 no (Commissioner Warfield) and 1 absent.

BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Wallace commented that the Committee of the Whole/Planning Session was scheduled for May 28th starting at 9:30 a.m. and was being held at Audie’s Restaurant in Mackinaw City, which will be an all-day session with lunch being provided.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

John Kurczewski citizen of Tuscarora Township commented on the 5G Technology Resolution. There is already a list of many counties, townships and villages that have adopted this resolution even though the governor has passed this through. The main objective was to show our government that there were much better options such as 5G Technology as a better and safer alternative. If there were enough resolutions adopted around the state, maybe government would listen to us.

Chuck Ledy citizen of Benton Township commented that one month ago today he gave a presentation on 5G technology and wireless connections. He found the NLEA Broadband Consortium Agreement on the agenda of interest. The gold standard today is fiber optics. If the county is going to get involved, he would hope that this would include some technical aspects of studies and safety so as to promote good broadband.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Matelski commented on her attending her first Area Agency on Aging meeting in Alpena, which was very interesting. There are so many options available to help the elderly.

Commissioner Warfield commented that he attended a Road Commission meeting where the auditor gave a presentation. He would like to review the audit from the Road Commission with Finance Director Manko once a copy was available.

Commissioner Wallace commented on the March 2019 Michigan Works! Northeast Michigan Consortium Manager’s Report that he handed out.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Dawn A. Reo
Chief Deputy Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson