

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Benton Township Resident Roger Gauthier stated he was disappointed that Dr. Grenetta Thomassey of the Tip of the Mitt Water Council would not be addressing the Board as scheduled. Mr. Gauthier spoke regarding rezoning of Lake and Stream to Forest AG. He said the next logical step as he sees it would be to insure that protection in the zoning ordinance would be adequate for streams. He suggested the separation of ales from streams in the ordinance, citing creeks and streams are spawning areas for many sports fish.

Commissioner Redmond said Grenetta Thomassey was to give a presentation on our water resources, but due to the weather she was unable to be here today. The presentation will be rescheduled. Commissioner Matelski said he would be interested on where Dr. Thomassey stands on the dredging that is going on in the Cheboygan River, with materials being dumped into the lake.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Lawson reported on several projects. He reported that exterior signage for the county building area is being prepared. The concrete portion of the Animal Shelter project will go out for bid next week and the storage building construction portion will go out for bid the week after that. The engineers for the Sand Road senior center completed the septic design. The proposed new signage received vocal approval from the board.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Development Director Steve Schnell presented an amendment to the CDBG/MSHDA Housing Grant Agreement. Mr. Schnell said an additional \$2,000 is being requested under the current grant. MSDA is allowing us to request a grant amendment for additional grant funds to enable us to complete projects that are ready to go. We were awarded \$175,000 for two years which has to be spent by July 31, 2015. He said the second request is a budget transfer of \$9,007 from emergency repairs category to non-emergency rehabilitation category. Discussion was held.

## Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 24, 2015

**Motion** by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the budget amendment to MSHDA grant #MSC-2012-0730-MOA and authorize the Board Chairperson to approve the online submittal of this amendment request and the necessary budget adjustments. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

### BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Wallace commented that NEMCOG and the Consortium are looking at merging.

Commissioner Gouine asked for an update on Mullett Township's request for support for grant. Commissioner Redmond stated that a public hearing at the township level should be held to get the public thoughts before requesting support from the county. Administrator Lawson said he spoke with the Mullett Township Clerk and a public hearing has been scheduled for the matter. In any such case an explanation and background must be provided to this board before it renders support. Administrator Lawson stated moving forward a copy of the grant application and minutes of public hearing must be submitted to be considered for support by the board of commissioners.

Commissioner Gauthier referred to an advisory committee that was formed when the hospital closed regarding health care for the county and they only met once. He suggested reinstating it because he said that OMH is building a new clinic in Indian River and Thunder Bay is opening a clinic in the Cheboygan Area Schools. Discussion was held regarding low immunization rates in Cheboygan County. Commissioner Allor suggested that the Board invite McLaren to do a presentation to regarding healthcare offered in the County.

Commissioner Gauthier commented regarding a letter received from the Veteran Organizations in the County regarding the open position in the Veterans Affairs office. Administrator Lawson has appointed Mellissa Hokens as Interim VA Director and that the new hire would be a veteran. Jim Tessadri is concerned with the disconnect between the office and the veterans in the County. Mr. Tessadri stated that he has talked to a lot of veterans and that the six veteran service organizations in the County find that it is difficult to communicate with non-veterans regarding problems they face relative to their time in the service. Commissioner Gauthier stated that there should be a Veterans Advisory Board. Don Horrocks stated that he disagrees that the position has to be a veteran, but that there should be a committee of veterans in place.

Commissioner Redmond stated that the Board Training Session is scheduled for March 12, 2015 from 9:30 to 3:30 in the Commissioners Room. He stated that a Planning Session would also be held this year and he suggested Thursday, March 26, 2015 as a date. Administrator Lawson is to look into a facilitator for the Planning Session.

Commissioner Redmond commented on the proposed Meijer store.

Commissioner Brown commented that Emmet County has purchased property in Mackinaw City for the new ambulance service for the Village of Mackinaw City, Mackinaw Township and Hebron Township. He passed around drawings of the new building to be erected on Central Avenue in Emmet County.

Commissioner Matelski agreed with Don Horrocks about a veterans committee.

Commissioner Gouine stated that young veterans from the Gulf War do not generally seek assistance and there should be a way to reach out to them.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 24, 2015**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None**

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adjourn the meeting to the call of the chair at 10:45 A.M. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

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Peter Redmond  
Chairperson