

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

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

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Linda Socha, 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 Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Charles Beckwith, on behalf of the Michigan Townships Association, thanked Commissioner Linda Socha for her service.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sheriff Clarmont presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Socha. Sheriff Clarmont, on behalf of the Sheriff's Department, thanked Commissioner Socha for her service and unrelenting support of the Sheriff's Department. Corporal Brenda Beckwith read the Certificate of Appreciate before presenting it to Commissioner Socha. Commissioner Socha thanked the Sheriff and his department and reminded everyone of the importance of law enforcement in the county.

Sheriff Clarmont presented the Sheriff's Department Life Saving Award to Deputy Darren LaChapelle in recognition of his life saving actions on August 5, 2014 which saved a 56 year old woman's life. Sheriff Clarmont related the chain of events that led up to the life-saving actions. Deputy LaChapelle thanked Sheriff Clarmont and recognized the East Mullett Lake fire fighters, the Cheboygan Life Support EMS, and the ER at McLaren Northern Michigan.

Elise Tippett, from the Women's Resource Center, presented an Excellence in Service Award to Deputy Jeff Bur for his commitment in promoting victim safety and offender accountability.

MSUE Educator Jennifer Berkey, representing Patrick Cudney, introduced the new MSU-E Early Childhood Educator, Kylie Rymanowicz. Ms. Rymanowicz, will be housed here in Cheboygan County. She is a certified family life educator and stated she is excited to bring her experience to Cheboygan. Ms. Berkey also informed the Board of new District changes within MSU-E.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson reported on several projects. Mr. Lawson stated that Mackinaw City is considering disbanding their ambulance services with Emmet County taking over January 1st. Mr. Lawson stated that Cheboygan County has not received formal notice of disbanding, but measures are being taken to develop a contract, so if it does occur, the Board can make motion for the contract agreements. Mr. Lawson stated that revenue sharing fiscal transparency report will be online tomorrow and submitted to the state in order to receive revenue sharing funds under the E-VIP program. Mr. Lawson stated that there are two letters of correspondence that are ready to be sent out – one to the Governor regarding pipeline changes and one to the Cheboygan County Council On Aging regarding policies and practices.

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Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to approve the format and the content of the letters to be sent the Cheboygan County Council on Aging and the Governor of the State of Michigan and authorize the signatures and mailings of both letters. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Commissioner Socha requested that the letter to the Governor of the State of Michigan be copied to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to adopt the amended 2014 Cheboygan County Apportionment Report as presented by the Equalization Director. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adopt Cheboygan County Resolution 14-27 Tax Resolution and authorize the Chairperson to sign the resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the 2015 Budget. Ms. Kortz noted that the 2015 General Fund budget needed to be increased \$250,644 since the last meeting due to the realization that there will be 27 pays in 2015. Ms. Kortz stated to compensate for the change in expenditure they could restate tax revenue by \$121,402 based on a 1.6% increase in taxable value, and new legislation on court costs increase back to \$300,000 from \$160,000 which adds revenue of \$140,000. Ms. Kortz stated that elected officials will also receive an additional pay because of the increase in pay periods for 2015. Mr. Lawson stated that legal counsel will draft letter of understanding for elected officials. Discussion held on minor maintenance expenses at the Veterans' Park on Court Street. The General Fund sits at \$11,629,269 at this time which would be an increase of 2.5% from last year.

Discussion was held regarding the Health Board allocation. Commissioner Redmond reported on the allocation to the Health Board stating Presque Isle, Alpena and Montmorency County have approved a 3% increase in the allocation and that there are ongoing negotiations with the Health Department union. Mr. Lawson stated that he would like to work with John Bruning over the next year to better understand the financial aspects of the Health Board. Ms. Kortz said she could move the requested increase for the Health Board of \$7,496.00 to a contingency line for now until the requested information is provided to the county.

Ms. Kortz addressed particular special funds. Ms. Kortz stated there is a substantial increase of \$44,000 from the State in the Convention & Tourism Tax fund. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 201 Road Commission budget is not final and the budget will reflect 2014 numbers at this time. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 215 Friend of the Court will change due to 27 pay periods in 2015. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 220 Rents will have to change before the final budget which should allow a little additional money in the carry forward fund equity line. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 226 Recycling has the fee increase built in, and when the 27 pay periods were added in, it lowered the carried forward fund equity. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 249 Construction Code has a building permit increase was built in and the increase in 27 pays require an additional \$10,175 in actual pay increases which would result in a change in the total budget of \$394,316 that is still requiring a 20% appropriation from the General Fund. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 256 Register of Deeds budget has not changed overall with the pay period adjustments. Ms. Kortz stated that Drug Court budget is not increasing even though it looks like it – the difference comes from timing of receiving the grant funding. Ms. Kortz stated that the Law Library fund will have a savings from switching from Lexis Nexis to Thomas Reuters. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 276 SAYPA has a balanced budget based on child counts but if the counts change we would have to make changes to the budget. Ms. Kortz stated that

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Fund 281 Housing Commission has received pay backs for loans and there is more money to fund projects out of program income; Fund 283 Cheboygan Housing Fund is similar as there are more funds available but the issue is not receiving bids on projects from contractors according to Administrator Lawson. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 286 Revenue Sharing is expecting a \$140,000 decrease because this is the last year for this fund. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 289 Social Services Board requested a higher budget than will be awarded because they wanted to fund a personal needs closet and the county believes this service is available in other areas of community projects and their request for contingency funds is not approved. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 292 Child Care – Family Court will be changed by the 27 pay periods by increasing \$7,120 and that the revenue and expenses decreased because we are not seeing many children in placement currently. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 418 FIA Building Fund/DHS Building Fund is a new fund for rents for the building that went from \$58,000 to \$76,800 – this is leaving the \$58,000 in the general fund and setting the remainder aside for capital improvements. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 401 Court House Preservation will change because of the change in District Court costs which will increase from \$16,000 to 30,000. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 509 County Marina is at \$562,800 and it was adjusted for the 27 pay period adjustment. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 561 County Fair has a recommended budget decrease to \$218,982 from the requested \$231,482 which will make revenue more realistic and cut capital outlay by \$10,000. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 588 Straits Regional Ride increased to build in the 27 pay periods. Ms. Kortz stated that Fund 595 Jail Commissary has an increase of \$76,300 to fix the point the auditor continually makes.

Commissioner Socha related that the Health Department and Road Commission final budget numbers and Reid Building rent amounts are still outstanding and will be adjusted prior to adoption of the budget. Ms. Kortz stated that she will prepare a report on any changes made between now and the time of budget approval.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Allor to adjourn the meeting to the call of the chair at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Linda Socha
Chairperson