

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 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, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

Absent: Commissioner Pete Redmond (excused)

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

Commissioner Socha requested to remove 6-A *Certification of Appreciation for Shawna Jankoviak* from the agenda and reschedule it as Shawna was not able to attend.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tom Hart, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, requested clarification on the agenda item regarding a resolution about sprinkler systems as he is building a new home near Indian River. Administrator Lawson stated that the State is looking at requiring residential sprinkler systems for new homes and that the Board is making a recommendation through resolution that the Board is in opposition to a requirement of that nature.

Sue Budzinski, a citizen of Burt Township, requested clarification as to why the March 25th, 2014 agenda was not posted on the county website in a timely fashion. Commissioner Socha apologized and stated that she is aware of the situation. Ms. Budzinski also commented that the speakers and sound system in the Commissioner's Room should be checked a lot earlier than just prior to the Board meetings.

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Joe Hart, Superintendent of the Wolverine Schools, was present to recognize the Sheriff's Department for their efforts in securing the Security Grant for Wolverine Community Schools. Mr. Hart stated that the schools have received the \$20,000 grant and there have been significant improvements in security. He commended Jodi Beauchamp, Office Administrator, and the Sheriff's department for all the hard work they did to secure the Security Grant. Sheriff Clarmont also commended Ms. Beauchamp for her grant writing abilities and securing a substantial amount of grant money for the County. The Board commended Ms. Beauchamp, Sheriff Clarmont and Mr. Hart for their efforts.

Sheriff Clarmont presented the 2013 Annual Report for the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department is the largest budget part of the county budget. He reported that the County is mandated by law to have a jail. The 2013 Sheriff Department Budget amount of approved expenditures was \$3.2 million and there was an unexpended balance of \$107,569. The 2013 revenues totaled \$228,634. The revenues are streamed from out-of-county boarding fees, diverted felon fees, inmate telephone calls, in-county boarding fees, work release fees and all others. The Sheriff's Department received \$171,621 in grant and donation money for 2013. The Sheriff's Department also receives other revenue funds from drug sale property

forfeiture, sheriff's department contract wage reimbursements, and sale of scrap and salvage which totaled \$20,280 in 2013. The Sheriff's Department cost the Cheboygan County tax payers \$2.6 million in 2013. The Cheboygan County Jail had an average of 77.2 inmates per day, an increase of 19% in prisoners from 2012 to 2013. Sheriff Clarmont reported that the Community Corrections Service Program sends low-risk inmates to work for civic/non-profit/municipal government entities and the inmates receive day-for-day credit on their sentence. Sheriff reported that the Road Patrol saw a 59% increase in arrests and 11% increase in logged calls through 9-1-1 in 2013. Sheriff attributed this increase to the two additional road deputies added to the Sheriff's Department after the closing of the Cheboygan State Police post. The Sheriff's Department Canine Unit responded to 28 calls in 2013. The National Certified Prescription Drug Diversion officer produced \$8,454 in forfeiture revenues in 2013. Some of the highlights of 2013 are the County jail's medical program and its continued success with reducing costs and prescriptions by creating a narcotic free jail. Additionally, the District No. 4 Health Department nurse provides medical care which is another cooperative government initiative. There is a Wolverine Sheriff's Department sub-station in Nunda Township Hall on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Commissioner Gauthier commended the Sheriff. Commissioner Socha thanked the Sheriff for his report and for being thorough. Sheriff Clarmont thanked the Board for their cooperation with his department and for their synergistic working relationship. Commissioner Socha reminded the Board that a community with strong law enforcement and a safe community are among the highest priorities for the Board. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Departments are sponsoring training for methamphetamine recognition and it is open to community leaders, Board members, press, first responders and fire department officials on March 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson stated that correspondence regarding the Griswold Mountain rezoning has been submitted asking for a delay in coming before the Board. Mr. Lawson stated that if the commissioners are receiving correspondence they need to relay it to Administration or Community Development so that it can be made part of the record. Commissioner Socha stated that it is not appropriate for individual commissioners to be discussing issues regarding the Griswold Mountain rezoning and the citizen commentary needs to be put into writing and submitted to the appropriate department. Administrator Lawson stated that information needs to be submitted and it will be categorized as correspondence or exhibits, as necessary.

Commissioner Gouine stated that when he was walking into the south side of the county building there was water collecting into a puddle outside on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Gauthier asked Mr. Lawson if there was an update regarding the fairground property. Mr. Lawson stated that the earliest time the fairground property will be addressed will most likely be May.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Socha presented Resolution 14-05 to recognize the efforts of the County Road Commission during this exceptionally difficult winter.

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to adopt:

Cheboygan County Resolution 14-05

WHEREAS, the winter of 2013-14 has been one of extreme cold and near record setting snowfall throughout Cheboygan County; and

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan County Road Commission and staff are committed to maintaining quality and safe roads within Cheboygan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize the efforts of the Road Commission and their staff in maintaining the roads within Cheboygan County with limited staff and resources during this exceptionally difficult winter.

Discussion was held regarding the mailbox policy the Road Commission has. Commissioner Gauthier commended the Road Commission for their hard work for the last 25 years. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Commissioner Gouine presented Resolution 14-06 regarding the residential sprinkler system requirements being entertained by the State of Michigan. Discussion was held. Commissioner Gauthier stated he would like to add the word "substantial" in the resolution before "additional costs..." The Board concurred.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by commissioner Matelski, to adopt:

Cheboygan County Resolution 14-06

WHEREAS, the ability to construct new residential structures relies heavily on affordability, and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Residential Code Review Committee is currently giving consideration to regulations set by the International Code Council (I.C.C.) to adopt rules requiring the installation of residential sprinklers in all new residential structures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners would like to express its concerns with the adoption of I.C.C.'s recommended code due to the substantial additional cost of installing sprinkler systems within homes that do not have access to public water supplies and the possibility that such mandated requirements could cause a financial barrier to the construction of new homes within Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners supports the current standard that permits the home owner to choose whether or not to install a home sprinkler system.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Administrator Lawson presented the MSHDA CDBG Grant Amendment. He said the grant has to be amended to declare how much our grant money we will use for emergency repair. Commissioner Gauthier asked if there is a practical change for applicants from this amendment as well. Administrator Lawson stated the amendment is purely for accounting purposes.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the budget amendment to MSHDA CDBG grant #MSC-2012-0730-MOA and authorize the Chairperson to permit staff to submit the online amendment. Motion carries with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Linda Socha
Chairperson