

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
April 24, 2012**

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, Don Horrocks, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace and Sue Allor

Absent: None

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

Chairperson Socha requested the addition of Ratification of Committee Formation and Members of the Cheboygan County Health Access Advisory Committee immediately following approval of the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda with the above addition. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Chairperson Socha read her request as Board Chairperson for ratification of committee formation and membership of the Cheboygan County Health Access Advisory Committee. This is an ad hoc committee that will report to the Board of Commissioners and specifically to the Chairperson for emergency management if and when necessary. "The immediately closing of the Cheboygan Memorial Hospital early morning of April 3, 2012 in a non-systematic manner is affecting everyone in this county and surrounding region. (She said she knows there were events last evening that were very positive and we are happy about that, but she still wants to form this committee and have it in place because everything is concrete yet.) Since then, I have been continually involved and updated along with Mr. Lawson by various entities and offices. The failure of the organization and the subsequent bankruptcy proceedings is not something the County Board is directly legally involved in. We are, have been, and will continue to monitor day to day events, offer communication and contact who and when we can at all other levels of government. Of note, the Board of Commissioners was never officially approached by administration of the hospital at any time prior to the bankruptcy proceedings. Government does not typically nor should it intervene in the private sector legal issues. We are not a creditor. However, in written correspondence to the Board on April 3, 2012, Cheboygan Memorial Hospital officials stated that the hospital was still in the process of determining a procedure for the removal, storage and distribution of patient records and would timely notify everyone involved once a course of action was determined. We expected that to happen. Monitoring that situation when a course of action was not implemented and a very serious crisis had developed, I exercised my authority to address that issue. My action working quickly Mr. Lawson, Greg Williams, and Bryan Graham, was to put together a team including county and city administration and those with county associated health background. I chose carefully so as to not appoint persons with connections to creditors, hospital past or present board members or administration or special groups. Immediate contacts and questioning helped with the resolution of the immediate records crisis and there is now (although not ideal) at least a process for distribution. At this time, I would request that the Board ratify the team/committee so that if the scheduled bankruptcy proceedings on April 30th do not result in resolution of health care access especially emergency room critical care, that this group (already researching and contacting) can immediately move into study of a systemized, rational and factional basis for recommendations to this Board for action. This allows for full compliance of the Open Meetings Act as well as access to clerking of the meetings and civil counsel. I requested of Mayor Sangster the utilization of the City Manager and of the District 4 Health Department Board utilization of Mr. Bruning and Dr. Meyerson and both have given authorization. All other members proposed have agreed as well. Purpose: Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners to review the status of health care access within Cheboygan County. Time Frame: Immediate to unknown at this time. Mission: The Mission of the Health Access Advisory Board is to provide a status report to the Cheboygan County

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Board of Commissioners concerning health care access within the County and feasibility of re-establishing urgent/emergency room care within the County. Preliminary Objective: Identify existing physicians and health care resources within the County, Research existing health statistics and needs assessments to identify health care deficiencies with the County, Obtain definition from McLaren Health and other providers of a Physician based health care system, Identify current EMS availability and capacity within the County, and Review the feasibility of re-establishing urgent/emergency care within the County. Members: Jeff Lawson, Chair, Cheboygan County Administrator; Sue Allor, Cheboygan County Commissioner (B.S.N.); John Bruning, District 4 Health Department Administrator; Dr. Joshua Meyerson, District 4 Health Department and NW MI Health Department Medical Director; Dr. Donald Ramsay, DO, Cheboygan County Medical Director and former Medical Control; Dale Stewart, Cheboygan City Manager; Gregory Williams, Director, CCE Office of Emergency Management; Staff: Clerk: Cheboygan County Clerk Mary Ellen Tryban; Civil Counsel: Bryan Graham ”

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to ratify formation of the ad hoc Cheboygan County Health Access Advisory Committee and the appointments made to that committee by Linda Socha, Cheboygan County Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 absent.

Administrator Lawson said we are hopeful by April 30th the transaction with McLaren will be settled but there is a long term need to look at health care access in the county. Before the closure of the hospital they were in the process of a study of care within the county for a critical access hospital and he would like to have this study completed. He said they have told a McLaren representative that from the Health Department's perspective we would be interested in participating in that study. He said it is also critical for the ambulance service as to how quickly they can get people to emergency rooms.

Chairperson Socha said both Congressman Benishek and Senator Stabenow's offices have been extremely helpful in this matter. She said we will continue to monitoring this situation daily. She commended the administrator for the work he has put into this. She said we are receptive to receiving public input and are trying to do the best for the citizens of the county.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Leonard Page, Grant Township resident and board member for NEMCSA reported that NEMCSA have important programs for this county. There were over 1000 homes weatherized through a recent weatherization program in te 13 counties, about 100 in this county with 39 on waiting list. The average cost was \$6,600 per home for weatherization. He said the Head Start program is a major budget item for NEMCSA with 2600 children in Head Start and 300 in the pre Head Start in all 13 counties. Mr. Page commented on the great news last night about the sale of the hospital to McLaren and reopening the emergency and some diagnostic department. He suggested that additional persons be appointed to the newly formed ad hoc Cheboygan County Health Access Advisory Committee such as a nurse from the hospital and someone from the general public for more input. He also suggested public hearings be held to hear from ordinary citizens in the county. Chairperson Socha said public input would definitely be welcomed, and this ad hoc committee's meetings will be posted, open and clerked with minutes. She said the Health Department has done a tremendous job of stepping up.

Lori Trestain, a nurse employed by CMH for 19 years, said her family including herself, a step daughter, and husband have all lost their jobs, even their dog has as he interacted with patients in Larson Hall. She said she, along with many nurses, have been attending the bankruptcy court and have shown support any way they can. She said she is encouraged by the new committee put together and would like to be part of this group. Chairperson Socha said the committee would be open to input from all, seeking objective information and would welcome ideas. Anyone can get ideas to Jeff, the County Administrator.

Roger Gauthier, a Benton Township resident, stated he, too was encouraged by last night's announcement and the formation of the ad hoc committee. He said he retired and moved back to Cheboygan, and the County needs a full service hospital to draw people here. He stated he was astounded this happened in the first place. When the administration eliminated obstetrics, people should have recognized the administrative problems. He asked why did the city and county not

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become involved in the bankruptcy proceedings as interested parties. Committee should request the financial records for CMH. He said the community needs to know that its input of its needs is recognized. He thanked the Tribune for keeping people informed through all of this. He suggested the committee evaluate the needs of the community, and where, when and how public funds might need to be engaged in providing the services the community needs. Chairperson Socha said all of the suggestions have been part of the mix and the board is aware of all the factors. The media has been wonderful. She the main thing we are doing now is seeking information from everywhere.

Ron Wallin of Mackinaw City and former Village President, spoke. He said he is curious about the committee and was hoping there would have been more common citizens on it. He suggested a patient, a nurse and someone not affiliated with government should be on this committee, and suggested Lisa Brisson, as a good person for the committee. Chairperson Socha many not people not chosen as committee members could be used as resources and advisory sources.

Sheila Kahn-Monroe, an attorney for the Michigan Nurses Association, stated she represents the nurses and they have been in this fight since before the bankruptcy process for many years. She said the MNA has reached out to community leaders to become active. So they are happy to see the steps taken today. She said they have contacted Representative Benishek but found him not to be so forthcoming. She asked if the contact information for Benishek's office be shared today. Chairperson Socha said she had contact mainly with Laurie Latham. She said they have been very responsive, as has Senator Stabenow's office.

Anabel Dwyer of Mackinaw City said they have been trying to analyze the planning and citizen action part of this. When the committee meets need hard data, good demographic information. Committee should function as part of a broader planning process and the community should know they can be involved.

Chairperson Socha thanked those who made comments as well as all those present.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Judge Maria Barton presented the 2011 Annual Report for the 89th District Court. She said the District Court had many accomplishments in 2011 including being selected by the National Highway and Safety Administration for DWI Court Training to be held in June 2012. The DWI Court will focus on holding individuals accountable through the team approach. The 89th District Court is meeting or exceeding most of the guidelines specified by the Michigan Supreme Court. She reported revenue down by nearly \$65,000 from 2010 due to the decreasing of cases, as civil infractions and traffic misdemeanors both were down. Judge Barton attributes that partially to the reduction in the Michigan State Police's patrol. She reported that Community Corrections continues to be a cost savings to the County.

Prosecutor Daryl Vizina presented the 2011 Annual Report for the Prosecutor's Office. He reviewed a significant case, connected to the death of a 31 year Cheboygan County woman, that were tried in 2011 two of those involved the delivery of cocaine and three the delivery of heroin causing death. Mr. Vizina recapped the status of his 2011 goals which included continued and expanded youth education programs and a paperless office/electronic communications. Programs on "Sex and the Law", "Bullying", and "Drug Awareness" were presented in the Cheboygan, Inland Lakes, Onaway and Wolverine schools. Statistical information was included in the report on caseload, drug history, bad checks, juvenile delinquency matters, child abuse and neglect cases, mental health hearings, crime victim rights, paternity and child support establishment and drug court.

Equalization Director Joe Lavender presented the 2012 County Equalization Report. He did a PowerPoint presentation showing comparison over the last ten years. The equalized value for the county has decreased 5.0.% from the 2011 equalized values.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to adopt the 2012 Cheboygan County Equalization Report as submitted reflecting a County Equalized Value of Real Property Value of \$1,570,029,932 and Personal Property of \$47,319,734 for a total 2012 County Equalized Value of

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\$1,617,349,666 (Copy of the 2012 County Equalization Report on file in the office of the Cheboygan County Clerk/Register). Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Administrator Lawson asked if there were any questions on his written report which included information on the hospital closure, the County Building camera project, and the Animal Shelter project. No questions were asked.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Director Kari Kortz explained that in 2000, the Cheboygan County Housing Commission assisted in a furnace emergency repair for Paul and Deborah Jankowiak. At that time, a mortgage was recorded in the amount of \$4,033; with payments being deferred. In November of 2011, the Jankowiak's sustained a house fire. In March of 2012, Auto-Owner's Insurance issued a check in the amount of \$51,315.85. Cheboygan County Housing Commission was listed as one of the payee's as we currently hold a second mortgage on the property. The Jankowiak's are requesting that Cheboygan County endorse the check so Chase (who holds the first mortgage) can put the check in escrow and they can begin to rebuild the home.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to authorize the Chair to endorse check number 351547054 from Auto Owners Insurance dated March 3, 2012 on behalf of the Cheboygan County Housing Commission. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Lawson said the County issued request for proposals from qualified architectural consultants to provide the County with preliminary design, construction design and project administration services for Phase 1 improvements to the County Building. Phase 1 improvements consist of Boiler Replacement and Roof Replacement. Three proposals were received by architectural firms. The low bid was received by The Architect Forum located in Mackinaw City, a Cheboygan County based firm. The Architect Forum provided separate quotes for each project phase as follows: Fees for Boiler Replacement Project \$6,250 – Fees for Roof Replacement Project \$9,800. Total cost for architect Services \$16,050.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve AIA Document B105-2007 Standard Form Agreement in the amount of \$16,050 for Architect Services with The Architect Forum for services related to Phase I County Building Roof Replacement and Boiler Replacement, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Leonard Page said he has always had mixed feelings of public broadcasting of commissioner or board meetings, as people have an attitude about toward "government". However, if this session could have been broadcast, people would learn how government works. He said in the July 2011 American Hospital Association report on the Cheboygan hospital there were two thousand two hundred forty-eight admissions, two thousand seven hundred fifty-nine surgeries, and ten thousand one hundred and fifteen emergencies. That's what we are missing. Mr. Page commented on the report by Prosecutor Daryl Vizina. He said the voters did a great job. Chairperson Socha said we are very proud of the team of elected officials the voters have put together.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Chairperson Socha said the board planning session would be held at the end of the May Finance/Business meeting. She asked Kathy Morrow to contact the elected officials to schedule a meeting sometime after the planning session. This year every department head must have goals and objectives.

Commissioner Gouine commented on the Renegade Ranch issue of feral pigs. He said the State and the DNR are probably going to put these hunting preserves out of business. He said the Circuit Court hearing on this matter was a good training exercise on courtroom security. Chairperson Socha commended the Sheriff for the security work. Commissioner Gouine said they did an excellent job.

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Sheriff Clarmont said there were three individuals that were not allowed entrance into the building that day, He said work on County Building security is progressing and the county administer has applied for a grant.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson