

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
May 26, 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 Allor, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Sheriff Dale Clarmont, as a combat vet, thanked the new Veteran's Administrator, Mellissa Hokans, for organizing several veteran memorial activities around Cheboygan for Memorial Day.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Denise Mott, Administrative Manager for the Cheboygan Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CCBOC), presented information on medical access available to area veterans along with Paula Eiconas, Primary Care Director of Northern Michigan who presented medical services available at the Mackinaw City CCBOC. Crystal Helms, a VA Social Worker, said she works with homeless veterans for healthcare and also the veterans justice outreach program. Commissioner Allor asked if a veteran who is not already involved with the CCBOC services can easily apply. Ms. Mott responded that it is easy with their DD-214. Commissioner Gauthier asked for statistics on veteran homelessness. Ms. Helms stated that the amount of homeless veterans that she sees is far less than the actual homelessness population. Commissioner Redmond thanked them for coming and explained that the Board's objectives are to spread the word about available veterans' services.

Mike Grisdale, Marketing Support for Mackinac Straits Hospital, presented an update on Mackinac Straits Hospital services. The Mackinac Straits Health System offers a Walk-In Clinic at the Hospital in St. Ignace, 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. as well the Evergreen Living Center, a long term living facility. In addition to the hospital in St. Ignace, Mackinac Straits Health Systems operates clinics throughout the area including Mackinac Island, Naubinway, Mackinaw City, Pickford and the Cheboygan Rivertown Medical Clinic. He said the Mackinaw City Medical Clinic inside Pinecrest Village Senior Living Community houses Dr. Roderick Baltzer who sees many patients from Cheboygan County. The Mackinaw City Specialty Clinic houses Todd Harburn, D.O. specializing in Arthroscopic & Orthopedic Surgery. The Rivertown Medical Clinic in Cheboygan houses Dr. Loretta Leja and Dr. Amy Bolmer. Mr. Grisdale introduced the oncology team of Amy Bolmer, D.O. and Nurse Linda Burmeister. Dr. Bolmer started with the Mackinac Straits Hospital last October. Mr. Grisdale applauded the Board for its interest in health care services in the community. He said whatever healthcare can be offered locally is great. He said he sees the county's role in healthcare as education, awareness, and nutrition health through MSU Extension, the District Health Department and the Senior Center; coordination of law enforcement and ambulance services to the ER and other health care facilities; and promote the future need for more assisted living and skilled living facilities for our growing senior population.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – May 26, 2015

County Treasurer Linda Cronan presented a report with statistical data from 2011 – 2014. She noted that in 2014 over 50 million dollars was funneled through the department. Among the items presented were Delinquent Real Property Taxes, Miscellaneous Receivables, Principle Residence Exemption Denials, Dog Licenses, Passports, Recycle Surcharge, Tax Foreclosure Fund, Receipt Items by Bank, Tax Administration Fund Funded, Homestead Audit Interest Funded, Tax Foreclosure Fund Funded, Commissioner Matelski asked if many veterans are taking advantage of the tax exemptions available to them. Treasurer Cronan stated that there have been many taking advantage of the exemption. Commissioner Brown asked what is amount of money that the Treasurer's office brings in through non-mandated programs that they opt into. Treasurer Cronan stated that she doesn't have exact figures but the tax audit interest fund brings in revenue. Finance Director Kari Kortz asked if there is a threat of loss of funding for the Treasurer's employee whose compensation is funded through the Homestead Audit Interest Fund. Treasurer Cronan stated that a previous administrator agreed that if the funding ran out for an employee that funding for the position could come from the general fund. Commissioner Redmond thanked Treasurer Cronan for a very extensive report.

Sheriff Clarmont suggested the Commissioners to take a moment during the upcoming break to view a state of the art patrol car paid for through the years from the Stonegarden and Homeland Security grants.

Administrator Lawson introduced Kevin Houghton, the new Veterans Department Assistant, to the Board.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson presented a Proposed Wage & Benefit Report to be compiled. Administrator Lawson stated that the method used widely by municipal units is to compare wage and benefit levels to similar municipal units and that historically the counties of Emmet, Otsego, Chippewa, Antrim and Charlevoix have been used as comparable with Cheboygan County. Commissioner Allor spoke in favor of a written policy to be used as a guideline. She asked if at this time information would be gathered from the other counties. Administrator Lawson said we would not be hiring a consultant as that would be very costly and it would take a considerable lengthy time to do. He said a few elected officials have mentioned a merit or incentive based pay system. He said he did not say he was against that, but it could show a lot of movement.

Administrator Lawson stated he already introduced the new Veterans Department Assistant and noted Mike Fairchild has been hired as the IT Technician. He also said that bids for the structural portion of the new storage and kennel area at the animal shelter will be sought. The Health Department will be reporting on medical services at the July Committee of the Whole meeting; and to date scheduling for Otsego Memorial Hospital has not been done due to the fact that their board also meets on Tuesdays.

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

### NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Lawson recommended the lower bidder, E.F. Wilkinson & Sons, for the septic system at the Sand Road Senior Center. He said there was a change in bond which added \$2,000 to the bid and resulted in a total of \$52,383. Commissioner Redmond said this would be a ground system. Commissioner Allor said the funds would come from the senior millage fund, which will create a deficit in this years budget.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to approve the Construction Agreement between Cheboygan County and E.F. Wilkinson & Sons in the amount of \$52,383 for the Senior Center septic system, approve the necessary budget adjustments and

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – May 26, 2015**

authorize the Chairperson to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Finance Director Kari Kortz requested approval of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Application for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court Drug Court. The requested grant amount is \$123,686 for FY 2016. In FY2015 \$85,000 was award.

**Motion** by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier, to approve the Cheboygan County Drug Court JAG Grant Application, and all future forthcoming documentation after review and approval by the Finance Director, and legal counsel, if applicable. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Sheriff Clarmont presented a Department Inmate Work Crew Program he put together due to the elimination of Community Corrections' Community Service Program in the Jail. The sheriff reported he worked with the prosecutor's office and the courts on this after reviewing similar programs in other counties. Sheriff Clarmont reviewed and explained the expenses and savings for this proposed program. To cover the overtime for jail personnel, the money for this year will come from the Inmate food line item. He said approximately 12,789 in savings would be realized for the remainder of FY2015. Sheriff Clarmont said the program will be reviewed in six month to determine if it is viable to continue. The cost for the service would be \$10 per day per worker.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the initiation of the Cheboygan County Sheriff Department Inmate Work Crew Program and authorize the necessary budget cuts. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wallace reminded board members of the annual Tri-County 9-1-1 Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Odawa Hotel in Petoskey at noon.

Commissioner Brown recognized the proactive programs approved by Judge Scott Pavlich and Sheriff Dale Clarmont. He also noted his youngest child graduated from CHS and commented on the large amount of scholarship dollars given to the Class of 2015.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

---

Mary Ellen Tryban  
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

---

Pete Redmond  
Chairperson