

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2016**

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 Bruce Gauthier, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

Absent: Commissioner Chris Brown (excused)

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

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Cheboygan County Airport Manager Del Reynolds addressed the board and explained the management and history of the airport. He stated the sale of fuel makes up the majority of the revenue used to operate the airport. In addition they rent hangars and receive an annual appropriation from the county. Mr. Reynolds stated that they have to relocate the fire training building off of the Airport Authority property because MDOT indicated that the property was purchased with federal funding and therefore buildings on airport property need to be associated with aeronautical use.

Lieutenant Ken Mills presented the annual SANE report. Lieutenant Mills stated that back in 2014 the SANE team changed quite a bit but that as a result the budget is more stable. He said SANE recently received a grant award. The grant received stipulates that money is be used for operating costs, not personnel costs. The grant covers nearly all of the operating costs. Lieutenant Mills said SANE has been very active eradicating methamphetamines and heroine as priorities. Lieutenant Mills related that an overdose in Emmet County that led them to a meth-lab. He said that opiate prescription drugs are still an issue and a priority for SANE. Educating the community and targeting individuals selling their scripts are also priorities of SANE. Lieutenant Mills stated that the trend for heroin use has been decreasing over the last three years, which he attributes that decrease to SANE Officers. Lieutenant Mills outlined an MSU study done on the effectiveness of narcotics task forces. The study shows SANE rated at the top for effectiveness and stands out for the number of arrests regarding prescription opiates. Lieutenant Mills reported the SANE arrest score per officer on the report is double the score of the next highest score. Lieutenant Mills highlighted the type of drugs purchased and the costs of controlled buys conducted by the SANE officers. Commissioner Gauthier asked about prescription opiates and if there is resentment coming from medical field. Lieutenant Mills said violating HIPA laws is a concern. NMRE does in prevention efforts, set up presentations for physicians at their grand rounds and SANE sends out a list of people every month receiving prescription opiates to medical professionals that they should be on a notice of. Commissioner Allor asked where the complaints to SANE typically come from. Lieutenant Mills said that there is a substantial number of people who call anonymously with tips, also pharmacies and local law enforcement report suspicious drug activity. However, the bulk of the information comes from SANE investigations. Commissioner Allor asked how SANE counters the emphasis that physicians face to address pain management with prescription opiates. Lieutenant Mills said prevention efforts are tough for

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physicians but it is a cooperation between SANE, the community, law enforcement and the medical field that will have a positive effect on the prescription drug problem. Undersheriff Tim Cook stated that SANE has a corroborative effort with law enforcement in Northern Michigan. Undersheriff Cook said the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department has been part of SANE since its inception in 1987 and the Board of Commissioners have also supported SANE. The Undersheriff said Lieutenant Ken Mills has been a great leader for SANE. SANE is conducting 3 to 5 active investigations in Cheboygan County every week which are really high numbers for the number of officers SANE has. Investigations develop and take a lot of time to do. Undersheriff Cook stated that this isn't just about making arrests, it is about what we can do for our community to put the community in a better place and there is a lot of credit owed to SANE. Commissioner Redmond noted that the Board of Commissioners have always appreciated what Lieutenant Ken Mills and SANE have done for Cheboygan County.

Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner Cam Cavitt presented his 2015 Annual Report. Mr. Cavitt stated that Cheboygan County does not have an organized drainage district as defined by the Michigan Drain Code and that Cheboygan County does not assess special taxes, fees or special assessments on citizens for drainage. Mr. Cavitt stated that he does help offer assistance with drainage issues that arise to help protect private property and the water resource. Mr. Cavitt stated that the Little Black River Watershed Project and the Sangster Creek/Butler Road drain ditch are two projects concerning flood control in the City of Cheboygan and that those drains are maintained by the City of Cheboygan's Department of Public Works. Mr. Cavitt stated that he will continue to foster intergovernmental cooperation to reduce costs and provide a more efficient service. Mr. Cavitt stated that whoever is the Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner should have no malevolence or cause for self-promotion because of the authority that the elected Drain Commissioner could exercise. Mr. Cavitt stated that the office has been misused in the past and it becomes a detriment to the citizens that elected officials represent. Mr. Cavitt addressed specific statutory responsibilities of the Drain Commissioner. Mr. Cavitt discussed the Little Black River bridge project and he thanked various individuals to keep the project in front of MDOT. Mr. Cavitt discussed legal Black Lake level requirements set in 1964. Mr. Cavitt stated that Michigan contains some of the most pristine waters on the planet and have large inland lakes and wetlands and part of his duties are regarding water quality. Commissioner Gauthier asked where the Smith rapids are. Mr. Cavitt stated that they are on Stoll Road about a mile up from the mouth. Commissioner Matelski stated that he understands that there was supposed to be some work done on the Alverno Dam but the owners have canceled it. Mr. Cavitt stated there has not been a lot of communication between the owners, the State and local elected officials on this matter.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Matelski to receive and file the 2015 Drain Commissioner Annual Report. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Equalization Director Janice Eaton presented the 2016 Apportionment Report.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adopt 2016 Millage Rate Resolution 16-23. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adopt the 2016 Cheboygan County Apportionment Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

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Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to adopt Tax Resolution 16-24 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2017 Proposed Budget

Finance Director Kari Kortz said the Board has had a copy of the 2017 Recommended Budget to review since early October. She distributed a summary of all changes +/- \$10,000 from the 2016 Amended Budget to the 2017 Recommended Budget. These line items were reviewed, explained and questions were answered by the Finance Director and/or Administrator Lawson. Ms. Kortz noted allocated costs for the childcare fund has yet to be determined, but she will keep the board apprised.

Administrator Lawson reported working on financial policies to insert into the 2017 Budget document. Regarding the County's pension liability, he said MERS has reduced the rate of return from 8% to 7.5%. To help control the unfunded liability in the future, the general policy for new employees will be a hybrid pension plan as that will help reduce long term liability. Administrator Lawson stated that retired county employees have not be granted COLA increases for about the last seven years. He noted that employee funds stay with the beneficiary if the retiree is deceased. The cost of 2% for retirees would be approximately \$200,000.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM.

Mary Ellen Tryban
County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson