

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING/BOARD PLANNING SESSION
April 25, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson John Wallace at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City.

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Karen Johnson, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski John Wallace, and Robert Bolinger

Absent: None

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS – None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – BOARD PLANNING SESSION

Review of Board Goals –

Administrator Jeff Lawson reviewed the County Mission and Vision Statement and the current goals for the County. No changes were made to the Mission and Vision Statement, but it was suggested that the Board Goals needed updating to clarify the ability to change and keep up with the times for the implementation of these goals in a timely fashion. Staff would review. It was the consensus of the Board to send out a survey to the public to update the Board Goals.

Discussion was held on housing improvement, implementation of blight ordinances and direction of enforcement with each of the units, the process of the Gold Front demolition and keeping communication open.

CCE 911 Radio Project –

Administrator Jeff Lawson briefly reviewed the CCE 911 Radio Study that was presented to the Board last year. Discussion was held on the proposed

revisions to the CCE 911 Articles of Incorporation for clarity in the existing agreement as well as providing the necessary language to pursue the funding necessary for the project through a millage or increase of the phone surcharge to implement the project, which would be placed on the November ballot. Discussion held on the pros and cons. Staff to put together more information. The consensus of the Board was to look at a phone surcharge. This topic would be discussed jointly by Board members at the Annual Tri-County CCE 911 Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 12:00 P.M. to be held at the Headlands Waterfront Event Center in Mackinaw City.

Economic Development –

Administrator Jeff Lawson updated the Board on the Economic Development discussion that was held last year. The Board was still trying to define exactly what the county development picture looked like. He stated that there were a lot of agencies and a lot of puzzle pieces and questioned how to get all these players together in their capacity of what they can do. Discussion was held on if the current EDC was effective, what funding is needed, and at what level and should there be someone on staff or contracted for economic development work. It was the consensus of the Board to RFP for an economic development consultant. The Board wants to work on putting together an effective system to try and provide an economic development plan.

Solid Waste Plan -

Administrator Jeff Lawson reviewed the Solid Waste Plan, which had been placed back on the agenda for further discussion as related to an amendment for transfer station siting clarification and enforcement provisions. Last year, most of the conversation was centered on Type B transfer stations. The difference between Type A and Type B was the volume. . Discussion was held on the amendment process.

Commissioner Johnson commented that what she saw in the SWMP was that the Board of Commissioners needed to make a decision on to whether to amend the plan and bring it into compliance or continue with status quo. She felt the County was running into issues within the County in regards to the definition of a Type B transfer facility, defining what a waste hauler actually was, clarifying the language for the siting criteria, defining enforcement actions, and identifying the group that would come together or if the County Commissioners would take this upon themselves. One of the main things to deal with on this plan was the state did not regulate Type B transfer facilities that were under a certain volume of waste that gets processed through these facilities. This was where the SWMP gets put into place. It becomes the responsibility of the County to manage these issues. There was some disagreement with the County and from the DEQ on who was responsible for enforcement action.

Administrator Jeff Lawson stated that the quickest way to regulate the activity that was causing most of the concern over the past few years was by land use regulation and also by regulating the number of haulers by requiring a license to operate in the County. Discussion was held on the difficulty of the enforcement of the SWMP.

Infrastructure Project Review –

Administrator Jeff Lawson reviewed the status of the Jail Expansion/Storage Building and discussed the needed work scope changes to the Marina project to keep the project in the original \$800,000 project cost budget. Discussion was held on the history and income of the Marina. The recommendation was to submit an amendment to the grant scope of work for State approval.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott citizen of Tuscarora Township commented on the hiring of the new Planning and Zoning Director being from Colorado and having no experience with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. He pointed out the difference of salaries listed on two different job applications for Mr. Turisk and reviewed information that he received from a FOIA request from Mr. Turisk previous employer.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wallace commented that he had asked the Board of Commissioners to make a list of things to be discussed at this Planning Commission Session. It was the consensus of the Board to compile the list today and to come back to discuss it at a later time.

Commissioner Sangster suggested one of the topics to be discussed was on expanding the Straits Regional Ride's schedule in Cheboygan County, look at what the cost would be and discuss what Cheboygan County would like to see. Straits Regional Ride was quite essential to many citizens. Discussion held on a possible market study being done.

Commissioner Newman commented on a handout that was given out by Mr. Muscott on the Solar Farm Ordinance-Draft Rev. 1.0. He stated it had a lot of good information. This Solar Project in Grant Township could be a great money maker for the County and he would like the Board to stay spot on with this.

Commissioner Gouine stated he would like to discuss the DNR property located between the City beach and the County Marina. Administrator Lawson stated that the City was still working on obtaining it from the DNR.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – April 25, 2018

Commissioner Johnson reminded the Board that there was money put in the 2018 budget for updating the SWMP. She suggested that the Planning Commission change the format of their meetings with the solar ordinance coming up and their ability to work on this. The Planning Commission has two meetings a month. Maybe the first meeting would be directed more towards business and the second meeting would be directed more towards the review of projects so that this gets taken care of and the ordinance language gets brought to the public. Commissioner Johnson also questioned where they were at with the Redevelopment Ready Community application. Administrator Lawson explained that this was something that the City and Mackinaw City was working on. These were specific to these municipal units and there were certain criteria that had to be met as a unit of government, but once the units meet that criteria, the State gives them that designation. It identifies to the developers that they are ready for business. The County can supply support information, but its designation was not what the County has direct access to for those communities to use. Commissioner Johnson would like to discuss the hiring of a Human Resources individual even on a contract type basis to help give the County employees the health and wellness benefits that an HR person brings to the table rather than tasking the Administrator with that. Especially, in a situation where this might involve the Administrator, the County employee would not have anyone to go to.

Commissioner Matelski was concerned with the Glass Bottom Boat Tour. Administrator Lawson stated that once the State Waterways Commission approves their license, then the County has a slip agreement that has to be signed and the owner needs to supply an insurance certificate.

Commissioner Wallace commented on the list of topics to be discussed being: Hiring of an HR Person; Economic Development; Drug Court; staffing in Construction Code; a survey and a County newsletter to go out with the tax bills because a lot of the older people do not have computer access; employee recognition, County property maintenance; Solar Farm Ordinance and the Opioid epidemic. It was the consensus of the Board to meet again with a starting time of 9:30 a.m.. He thanked the Administrator for a good job in getting things organized.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00. p.m.

Karen L. Brewster
County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson