

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 23, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:31 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Karen Johnson, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, John Wallace and Robert Bolinger.

ABSENT: Commissioner Matelski (Excused)

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

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott citizen of Tuscarora Township commented on the marina property and asked why the county would want to take State Land that was paying property taxes of approximately \$4,000, acquire it and then gift it to a charity. By law the County could not give things to charity because it would remove it from public use. If the City of Cheboygan would want to do this, it was in their jurisdiction and he would not have any problem with that. He stated that he didn't know why the County should get involved. In other issues there was approximately \$4 million dollars of deferred maintenance needed at the marina right now.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chairperson Wallace and Administrator Lawson presented Finance Director Kari Kortz an appreciation certificate for her 11+ years of service with Cheboygan County. Ms. Kortz thanked all of the staff and the Board of Commissioners.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that the Emmet County had been discussing the expansion of public transit for a number of months. In 2017, Emmet County gathered information from Straits Regional Ride Staff concerning existing routes and possible future route development within Emmet County. Information was also sought from Charlevoix Transit for possible route development between Emmet and Charlevoix Counties. Emmet County has invited representation from Cheboygan and Charlevoix Counties to a Public Transit Work Session on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 4:00

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P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Friendship Center located at 1322 Anderson Road. Staff would be attending the meeting. Emmet County had also invited two Commissioners to attend.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the USA negotiations between Inverness Township and the City of Cheboygan regarding the Meijer Project. He stated that he had met with both units and on each occasion they have gone through with the outline of both of the contracts. Right now they were analyzing putting a committee together to negotiate. A response should be received back from the units within a couple of weeks and then they would sit back down to negotiate.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented Budget Adjustment – Raise Revenues and Expenditures for the Sheriff' Department. On January 4, 2018, the Sheriff's Department received a grant award from the Nova Southeastern University to be used for drug investigation. This grant was not included in the original budget. This budget adjustment raises the Sheriff-Local Grant revenue line item and the Drug Investigation expenditure line item by \$400. Fund 101 total budget increase of \$400.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine seconded by Commissioner Bolinger to approve the budget adjustment to raise revenues and expenditure (Fund 101 Total Budget Increase totaling \$400). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented the following inter-budget transfer, which was requesting a transfer related to personal services (payroll) line items: A clerk in the Probate Court resigned her position as of December 31, 2017. This has resulted in a vacancy, which was being advertised for. The position was not expected to be filled until February 12, 2018 or after. The Probate Court Judge had requested to transfer the savings of \$3,528 resulting from the vacancy from full-time to overtime and fringe to allow the other departmental staff additional hours to keep up with the work load and train the new employee. This budget adjustment decreases the Full-time expenditure line item and increases the Overtime and Fringe expenditure line items by a total of \$3,528.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson seconded by Commissioner Gouine to approve the inter-department budget transfers, no additional appropriations (from 101-148 to 101-149 totaling \$3,528). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Finance Director Kari Kortz stated the Westlaw online access for the Public Defender's Office was a new condition in the Public Defender contract approved on December 12, 2017. In order to comply with the contract, Cheboygan County had to request an additional user name and password, changing the number of attorneys on the contract

from seven (7) to eight (8). The current contract cost was \$814.85 per month. The new contract cost would be \$932 per month, which was an increase of \$117.15 per month.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the modification addendum to the three (3) year Westlaw Agreement, authorize the chairperson to sign and approve the necessary budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the County's Parks and Recreation Plan, which identified the County considering coordinating efforts with municipalities or other appropriating partners, to enhance existing parks and recreation offerings or implement new ones. The subject parcel sets between the County Marina and Gordon Turner Park.

The State was approached by the Cheboygan Yacht Club last fall requesting the ability to construct a building to be utilized by the club adjacent to the County Marina. After review, the State had proposed to transfer ownership of the property to the County by conveyance allowing development of the parcel for public use and/or to enter into a use permit to allow the Yacht Club to construct their building. The State had identified the cost of purchasing the property at less than \$10,000, but a final sales cost could only be confirmed by submitting a Land Transaction Application, which would not commit the County to purchase, but confirms the sale price of the property. The State purchased the property for \$75,000 in 2010 and currently pays \$4,234 per year in property taxes.

Discussion was held by the Board of Commissioners on if there was a need for County ownership of this parcel for future recreational or open space use. Administrator Lawson stated that in the County's Park and Recreation Plan there was a statement that the County would consider recreation development and partnerships with other units, but it did not indicate any type of policy for expanding park land as a County or purchasing property under the Park and Recreation Plan. Also there was discussion on whether the Board wanted to discuss possible use of the parcel with the Cheboygan Yacht Club for their proposed development.

Commissioner Gouine asked if the property could be put on the market and sold. Administrator Lawson stated that the State could put it on the market, but once the County acquired it, it wasn't likely. Mr. Gouine stated that the City had a park near the property and he wondered if the City would be interested in expanding the park.

Commissioner Sangster stated that there were strong letters of support from the City. Administrator Lawson stated that he had spoken with these same City representatives last Friday and they didn't indicate that they wouldn't be reviewing it as a possibility.

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Commissioner Wallace stated that he felt the proposed use by the yacht club was a good idea, but he thought the City should take ownership rather than the County as the County already had enough maintenance costs.

Cheboygan Yacht Club Commodore Dave Butts stated the Yacht Club thought it would be nice if someone could do something with the property that would compliment the marina. The club wasn't asking for the property as a gift, and the clubhouse, the related park, and the new walkway would be available for public use. The plan wasn't to add boat slips that would compete with the marina, but was to have people visiting the Yacht Club facility to use the marina boat slips.

Commissioner Newman asked why the proposal came to the county rather than the City first. Administrator Lawson stated that the State directed it to the County first due to the marina. Mr. Butts stated the State wanted to transfer the property to a local unit of government and the Yacht Club didn't have a problem working with either the city or county.

Jim Niles commented that if we had something next to the marina, there would be more boat traffic. A club house at the mouth of the river was an invitation to invite people. He asked the Board of Commissioners if they would like to hear their presentation, that was given to the DNR before they made their decision

It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to table this matter, have staff contact the City and to put the Yacht Club's presentation on the agenda.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Beaugrand Township Supervisor Marcia Rocheleau thanked Kari Kortz for all her help and assistance with the CCE 911 Board and Airport Authority Board on accounting and other financial matters. She wished her the best in her next endeavor.

Mrs. Rocheleau commented that she wasn't against small businesses trying to operate, but there are rules and regulations that a business needed to follow for the safety and the welfare of the residents that surround them. Currently she has had reports of garbage going in on trucks at Triple D and leaving empty. She stated that if that was the case, then they were transferring garbage out of their trucks into something else. This becomes a transfer station and was no longer a zoning issue, but a solid waste management issue. The DEQ was asked to go into the business and they didn't find anything, but they did check with Republican Waste and found out that recently the business had taken a lot of trash to their place of business to get rid of. This matter went into Court over a month ago and it was stated that if Triple D did not comply within seven (7) days, there was going to be an injunction to get them to stop. To date nothing has been done. Mrs. Rocheleau stated she just wanted some answers. Commissioner Wallace stated they would see where this matter was at.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson commented that Kari Kortz would be a great loss for Cheboygan County and her compassion and expertise that she has shown here was above and beyond of what most employees would employ. Ms. Johnson wished her well in her future endeavors. After attending a township meeting, she learned that Charter Internet had a program available for families that qualified for free lunch and could get the internet service for \$15 per month. This service was also available for senior citizens and was something that could impact a lot of people in the County.

Commissioner Wallace commented that the CCE 911 was still in the interview process, but had narrowed it down to three (3) applicants.

Commissioner Gouine commented that he had concerns about the tearing down of the Gold Front Buildings. Administrator Lawson stated that he had two companies that have requested information and have reviewed the site. If the bids came back more than what was originally estimated, then they would have to sit down and talk about it. Discussion was held on the architect structure of the buildings.

Marcia Rocheleau commented that Charter Internet service was only available in certain areas of the County.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Newman to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson