

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 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 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 Brown, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joanne Cromley, a citizen of Koehler Township, addressed the Board on behalf of the Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment to thank them for adopting the Enbridge Pipeline Resolution and commends the Board on inviting an expert regarding the pipeline to present findings.

Leonard Page, a citizen of Grant Township, addressed the Board to inform them there are now four counties who have adopted the Enbridge Pipeline Resolution – Cheboygan, Emmet, Alcona, and Presque Isle counties and that there are efforts in four other counties to pass the same as there are 18 counties total affected by the Enbridge Pipeline.

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Commissioner Redmond, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Cheboygan County, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Barbara Rotter for her 15+ years of service on the Cheboygan County Board of Canvassers. Ms. Rotter was present to accept her certificate and thanked the Board.

Commissioner Redmond, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Cheboygan County, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mary Street for her 12 years of service on the Cheboygan County Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Street was not in attendance.

Cheboygan County Road Commission Manager Brent Shank presented updates on Road Commission projects. Commissioner Allor commented that she has received positive comments from Townships about the Road Commissions work. Commissioner Wallace and Commissioner Brown has also noticed and heard positive feedback. Sheriff Clarmont thanked Mr. Shank for the quick responses received by the Sheriff's Department from the Road Commission for emergency situations. Cheboygan County Road Commission Board member Ken Paquet thanked the citizens of Cheboygan County for recently passing the Road Millage. Mr. Paquet stated there has been financial participation from townships in repairing road ways. Cheboygan County Road Commission Board member Bob Chadwick thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to serve on the Road Commission again.

Steve Rolands from the State Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency presented information on the Northern Michigan Veterans Coalition. THE NMVC is a local organization for Cheboygan County with hopes to be a self-sustaining organization. Mr. Rolands stated that the NMVC groups to unify

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – January 26, 2016

providing information regarding resources and benefits for veterans. Commissioner Gauthier commented on the completeness of NMVC's organizational structure and wished them luck on their goals.

Veterans Services Director Melissa Hokans presented the 2014-2015 Annual Veterans Services Report. Commissioner Gouine asked Ms. Hokans why only 14% of walk-in veterans received appointments in the County Veteran Services office. Ms. Hokans stated that it is the case that some veterans don't show up for appointments, but that she handles veterans as soon as they walk into the office and if she cannot handle their request she schedules an appointment for them with a service officer. Commissioner Gauthier asked Ms. Hokans if she expects to be fully accredited this year. Ms. Hokans affirmed that she does. Commissioner Gauthier asked about the small amount of money distributed through the emergency funding available to veterans in 2015 and if the amount went to help a veteran. Ms. Hokans stated that it did help veterans. Commissioner Gauthier asked about the process to receive emergency funds as a veteran. Commissioner Brown asked about the process regarding veteran's claims through the Veteran's Assistance Fund. Ms. Hokans stated that the Veterans Assistance Fund is funded completely by donations and there is a \$250 maximum allocation restricting that fund. Commissioner Brown asked why there isn't a greater number of small allocations from that fund. Ms. Hokans stated that her hands are tied with paperwork she has to have and it is not an instant process. Ms. Hokans stated that there hasn't been very many allocations from that fund because she is understaffed. Commissioner Allor stated that based on her personal experience the amount of paperwork for a veteran to complete to receive services is voluminous. Commissioner Matelski asked Ms. Hokans if most of the veterans she deals with in Cheboygan are elderly. Ms. Hokans affirmed. Commissioner Matelski asked if there are any younger veterans. Ms. Hokans said there are young people coming in asking for help for their elders.

Dr. Ed Timm made a presentation on the Enbridge Line 5. Dr. Timm noted that pitting corrosion is the greatest issue for an aging "vintage" pipeline which creates numerous holes in the pipeline that can't be patched. Commissioner Brown asked about the origination of a photograph used in Dr. Timm's presentation. Dr. Timm was not certain where the photograph came from. Commissioner Brown commented on pressure, pipe integrity and maintenance. Discussion was held. Commissioner Gauthier asked about the truthfulness of certain items in an Enbridge media release article. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson reported that the 9-1-1 Committee of County Administrators met on January 20 with the 9-1-1 Management staff to discuss a position review to evaluate the possible creation of a mid-level management position at 9-1-1. Administrator Lawson stated that the committee will develop a report for 9-1-1.

Administrator Lawson stated that the bids for the heating and cooling systems for the animal shelter project and the Reid building project will be opened on January 28, 2016 in the Administrator's Office. He stated that an AIA agreement will be provided for Board approval at the February 9, 2016 meeting.

Administrator Lawson stated that the Case Management NEMCOG employee for the Drug Court program is retiring in March and that Judge Pavlich has requested for the position to be reviewed as a County employee at 40-hours per week at the same or lower cost than the NEMCOG Agreement depending on the hourly wage set for the position.

He said Judge Butts has indicated he would like to be on the agenda for the February 9, 2016 Board Meeting to discuss salary increase percentages for several of his court positions. Administrator Lawson noted that the comparable data used for wage increases was provided to department heads and wage increases were based on averages in the region. Some positions do not have good comparable data, or do not match up at all. Administrator Lawson stated that

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – January 26, 2016

Judge Butts doesn't agree and feels the Board should make the final decision regarding wage increases. Commissioner Matelski, Commissioner Allor and Commissioner Redmond all stated they have already approved the final budget, but will hear what the Judge has to say.

Administrator Lawson stated that the Community Development department staff has received notification from the State that the County has been awarded an \$186,000 MSHDA Housing Grant. Administrator Lawson stated that staff will be meeting with Emmet County staff on Wednesday to being preliminary discussion concerning the possible expansion of transportation service in Emmet County. Commissioner Matelski asked if Emmet County is requesting the expansion. Commissioner Redmond stated that Emmet County was part of the original rotation and they want to expand on their services. Discussion was held. Commissioner Brown noted about the potential of a weekend Straits Regional Ride Service run to Mackinaw City during Summer months.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Allor was happy that Dr. Timm came and gave a presentation. She stated that we do have a pipeline that runs through the straits and under Indian River and the "what ifs" are a scary thought for all those miles that could be affected. She stated that she also recognizes the tax base provided by Enbridge; looking at money over environmental safety.

Commissioner Brown stated that he also appreciated Dr. Timm's presentation but acknowledged there could be credibility issues with someone who reports on things that could happen in a hypothetical matter. Commissioner Brown states that he supports oversight for assurance things are being taken care of. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Matelski stated that he was disappointed in the presentation. He stated that the only facts presented were regarding breaks in pipes and he still has a lot of questions. Commissioner Matelski would like to speak with someone from Enbridge.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.M.

Mary Ellen Tryban
County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson