

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 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 Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

John Moore, a citizen of Nunda Township, addressed the Board regarding a letter received by the township from a private foundation criticizing voter registration data. Cheboygan County Clerk responded.

Trish Woollcott, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, addressed the Board regarding the lack of a recycling program in Burt Township, at the fairgrounds during the fair or at the state parks.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS**

Del Reynolds, Chairperson of the Cheboygan County Airport Authority, presented the Cheboygan County Airport Authority update. Mr. Reynolds stated that most revenue received by the airport authority comes from fuel sales and hangar rentals. They purchased a new plow truck at the cost of \$230,000, with the federal government paying for 90%, the State 5% and the other 5% paid by the Airport Authority. He said the airport building itself is in need of updating, however, grants for this type of updates are very limited. Commissioner Allor asked Mr. Reynolds how many flights fly in and out of the Cheboygan Airport. Mr. Reynolds stated that there were approximately 10,000 take offs and landings last year, mostly for fueling stops. Chairperson Redmond thank Del for the update.

Michigan State Police Detective Lieutenant Ken Mills presented a Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement (SANE) team update. SANE recently was reduced from six counties to three counties. Lieutenant Mills noted that one of the most significant changes SANE has experienced is the loss of the SANE Prosecutor but he commended the Cheboygan County Prosecutor's office for the expedited warrant processing and how they're always available. Statistics for SANE covering the period of January 1 through October 20, 2015 were distributed. So far this year 134 cases have been initiated in the three counties of SANE.

Commissioner Matelski asked Lieutenant Mills if the SANE team sees an abuse of medical marijuana. Lieutenant Mills stated that it is a problem and the medical marijuana law has lead to many individuals abusing and misusing. Commissioner Gauthier asked Lieutenant Mills about a mushroom drug in the report and whether it grows wild in the area. Lieutenant Mills said it's not a natural mushroom but people are growing it locally and it is a hallucinogenic scheduled drug.

Prosecutor Vizina asked Lieutenant Mills to explain for the public what the SANE team focuses on in their investigations. Lieutenant Mills stated that the SANE team's primary goals in this area

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are to target transactions with synthetic opiates and prescription drugs because they are directly tied to heroin. Lieutenant Mills stated that another focus is meth labs; a focus that the State of Michigan also emphasizes.

Sheriff Clarmont noted how fortunate Cheboygan County is to have the SANE team and to receive the results of the outstanding work that they do. Sheriff Clarmont recommended that the Commissioners review the Governor's Prescription Drug and Opioid Drug Task Force Report recently released by the State Governor's office. Lieutenant Mills said he appreciates the invitation to speak today and also appreciates the support from the Board. He said both the prosecutor and sheriff have done excellent jobs working with SANE. Commissioner Redmond, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Cheboygan County, thanked Lieutenant Mills for his work with SANE and for all that SANE does for Cheboygan County.

Tim Mason, Maintenance Engineer, presented the 2014 Recycling Program report. Mr. Mason stated that Straits Area Services has approached the County about starting an electronics recycling program in 2016. Mr. Mason stated that if the program is operational, the County would save the cost for processing. SAS has been working with Dan O'Henley to determine the acceptable volume and type of electronics they could recycle.

Commissioner Matelski asked Mr. Mason to clarify what SAS would be processing. Mr. Mason said they would recycle electronics that are no longer usable and there would be a small fee for some items. Administrator Lawson affirmed that there would be a small fee charged for some items or a fee schedule could be put in place.

Commissioner Redmond stated that he is aware of the challenge for recycling of commercial cardboard without charging and was wondering if there is a plan for that. Mr. Mason stated that it is hard to police that kind of thing. Finance Director Kortz stated that we have between 20-30 commercial customers that do pay fees, approximately \$36.00 per year, but that is not enough revenue to offset the costs. Discussion was held.

Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner Cam Cavitt presented the 2014 Annual Report of Drain Commissioner expenditures.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Equalization Director Janice Eaton presented Cheboygan County Resolution 15-11 regarding Millage Rate Resolution.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adopt the following Cheboygan County Resolution:

**Resolution 15-11  
2015 MILLAGE RATE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County has the authority to levy its own maximum allowable millage rate of 7.4592 mills distributed as follows: 5.6592 mills for General County Operations, .5000 mills for Senior Citizens Operations, .3000 mills for Ambulance Authority Operations and 1.0000 mills for Roads; and,

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that to maintain basic county services, it will be necessary to levy the rate of 7.4092 mills; and,

**WHEREAS**, notice of the public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held as the County Budget Hearing;

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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Cheboygan shall levy the millage of 7.4092 for 2015.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Equalization Director Janice Eaton presented the 2015 Cheboygan County Apportionment Report.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to accept the 2015 Cheboygan County Apportionment Report as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Equalization Director Janice Eaton presented Cheboygan County Resolution 15-12 Tax Resolution.

**Motion** by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Allor to adopt the following Cheboygan County Resolution: **Resolution 15-11**  
**2015 MILLAGE RATE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County has the authority to levy its own maximum allowable millage rate of 7.4592 mills distributed as follows: 5.6592 mills for General County Operations, .5000 mills for Senior Citizens Operations, .3000 mills for Ambulance Authority Operations and 1.0000 mills for Roads; and,

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that to maintain basic county services, it will be necessary to levy the rate of 7.4092 mills; and,

**WHEREAS**, notice of the public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held as the County Budget Hearing;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Cheboygan shall levy the millage of 7.4092 for 2015.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried by 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented 2016 Cheboygan County Budget information. Ms. Kortz stated that there are requested amounts from departments at this point and the recommendations are not yet built in. She said that there are no wage increases in the budget yet. Ms. Kortz stated that the current tax line will only reflect a gain in property tax revenue in 2016 of about half of what was expected for 2015 upon adjustment for inflation and an approximately expected \$160,000 less in revenue sharing. Ms. Kortz highlighted other revenue changes expected in the 2016 budget compared to the 2015 budget. Ms. Kortz highlighted expenditure changes expected in the 2016 budget.

Ms. Kortz asked Prosecutor Vizina to explain his request for on-call pay to be added to his expenditure budget for the three attorneys in his office. Prosecutor Vizina explained that due to an increase in workload from the loss of 50% of assistant prosecutors in Cheboygan County, the three attorneys rotate being on-call in order to be available in executing search warrants at any time of the day or night without additional compensation. Prosecutor Vizina explained he is requesting an amount of \$5200 be added to compensate the on-call attorney \$100 per weekend of on-call time. Administrator Lawson stated that further discussion will be held regarding this request.

Ms. Kortz highlighted budget expenditure with large fluctuations from 2015. Discussion was held.

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Commissioner Redmond asked Sheriff Clarmont about an expenditure request of \$8600 for body cameras for the deputy officers. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the \$8600 amount was a request for the purchase of cameras but they have since received a grant for the cameras.

Discussion was held regarding District No. 4 budget.

The Board broke for lunch break at 12:25 P.M.; and continued 2016 budget discussion at 12:47 P.M.

Administrator Lawson stated that wages are being reviewed to bring employees that are below an average up to a midpoint in comparable wage data, as a priority. Discussion was held.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to go into closed session for the purpose of a strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as authorized by Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268 (c). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

**ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 1:15 P.M.**

**RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 2:25 P.M.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
County Clerk/Register

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Pete Redmond  
Chairperson