

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
October 23, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Linda Socha, Don Horrocks, 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 Horrocks, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chairperson Socha read the Certificate of Appreciation and Best Wishes for Christine Kirsch who recently retired after over 36 years of service to the county.

Cheboygan Housing and Homeless Coalition Director Jacque Thompson updated the Board on the 2012-2013 Emergency Solutions Grant. This grant offers assistance to the homeless, focusing on homeless prevention and emphasizing rapid re-housing, which helps people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis. It supports a coordinated intake and effective data collection, performance measurement and program evaluation. The 2012-2013 Grant totals \$38,792 and is managed by NEMCSA.

Cheboygan County Council on Aging Director Mike Bur reviewed the council's accomplishments and budget reduction actions over the past couple of years. He also presented Emergency Plans for the Sand Road building in Cheboygan and the Wolverine Road building in Wolverine for the board to review, as well as the November 2012 newsletter "Senior Sun".

Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner Cam Cavitt presented the annual report for the period January 2012 through October 2012. Cheboygan County currently has no legally established drainage districts. Although county records are incomplete many drains both open and closed, some natural and some man made, exist in the County. Mr. Cavitt said he has received more than one hundred phone calls in the past year and has visited numerous sites to follow up on some of these calls. He noted the majority of the calls are forward to the County Road Commission for review. Mr. Cavitt cited working with Inverness, Tuscarora and Benton Townships and the City of Cheboygan to address various issues.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Administrator Lawson's written reported included information on the 2013 Budget and in particular Probate Court Special Court Initiative, SAYPA, and Cheboygan County Council on Aging updates for use during budget discussion. He also reported the Recycling Department has scheduled a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics drop-off on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Cheboygan County Road Commission Garage in Indian River.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to accept the Drain Commissioners Annual Report as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Administrator Lawson led discussion on the 2013 budget and reviewed the strategic planning, board vision & mission statements and board goals. He said the budget factors and department goals and objectives were updated from last year. He noted budget factors are an important part of the process. Chairperson Socha noted possible changes to the personal property tax and court reform will be unknowns going into this budget, as stated in the budget factors.

Each Board member had received complete copies of the proposed 2013 Budget for their review several weeks before this meeting.

Finance Director Kari Kortz reviewed the proposed figures for revenues and expenditures page by page noting, and briefly explaining, those line items with changes greater than 10% or \$10,000. Board questions were addressed. Ms. Kortz said at this point \$282,619 would be taken from the Tax Revolving Fund to balance this budget. She said this would not be drawn on unless it is needed. Chairperson Socha stated she would like to see the money generated from the tax foreclosure fund set aside for capital improvements. She said in the past years there was only one time money was set aside for capital improvements and this board should consider doing that. Ms. Kortz asked if the \$100,000 in Capital Improvements should be used for this year's expenses and was told to do so. Chairperson Socha said this year was the first time in many years that major capital improvements were done. Chairperson Socha asked if any news on the Indigent Defense Bill which could potential cost the county \$88,000. Administrator Lawson said that needs to be monitored but doesn't look that it would be that costly. Chairperson Socha asked about the hard cap on health insurance that were set in September and how it affects the county. Administrator Lawson explained we are very close this year and may require an override. He summarized the health insurance cap stating it is a state law however technically there is not a penalty to the county since we do not receive any revenue sharing. Options would be if we are under the threshold cap we would not have to do anything, but if we are over that the Board would have to do a motion to accept what was over.

Commissioner Redmond was excused, leaving at 12:30 p.m.

Having completed the Revenue items, Ms. Kortz then reviewed Expenditure items by Department and Fund pointing out those that changed by greater than 10% or \$10,000. Board member questions were answered and some discussion was held on certain items including the Building Safety Fund 249 which the county only funds 20%, it appears that expenditures will exceed revenues next year over and above that 20% by approximately \$75,000, last year it was \$51,000. Ms. Kortz said a new vehicle has been included in this budget at a cost of \$20,575. Administrator Lawson said rate changes will be coming to the board from this department have not be factored in. Building Official Al Hoard has brought this to the attention of the contractors' group. Administrator Lawson also explained the reduction in the county's vehicle fleet. Chairperson Socha said a careful analysis of the county's fleet should be done prior to reducing the fleet. Administrator Lawson said a report on the changes in the vehicle fleet can be done.

Ms. Kortz said Fund 267 Circuit Court Drug Court; Funds 281 and 283 Cheboygan County Housing; and Fund 292 Childcare are not final yet.

Chairperson Socha voiced concern with capital improvement funds sitting in the Fund 401 Court House Preservation if the State would ever decide to take over those funds. She asked that capital improvements funds be included a separate fund.

Among Capital Improvement projects slated for next year are \$100,000 for a new boiler and \$208,000 for the parking lot and sidewalks. Administrator Lawson said the parking lot and sidewalks should be a little lower having gotten an estimate on this project. He said with all the potential improvements next we would take approximately \$750,000 from the Tax Revolving Fund, which is a very small portion of the Tax Revolving which has a balance of approximately \$7.5 million. He said of that \$350,000 is scheduled to be paid back with interest to that fund. Finance Director Kortz said we never spend everything we budget and we always get more revenue than we budget.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 23, 2012

Discussion held on Fund 509 County Marina and Fund 561 County Fair. It was the consensus to apply for a grant through the Michigan Department of Agriculture for the County Fair restroom renovation.

Chairperson Socha said the next budget session will be scheduled at the end of the November Finance/Business meeting, starting with review of Capital Improvements, further discussion on Building Safety Department, Housing, SAYPA and Childcare. Chairperson Socha asked if the board could get a simplified Childcare budget as it is so complicated.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Commissioner Allor commented on a call from State Representative Pete Pettalia regarding elk damage to crops in Forest Township. She said representatives from the DNR and Farm Bureau have inspected the damage and the farm owner has been trying all suggestions and nothing seems to deter the elk.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson