

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 27, 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, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** Commissioner John Wallace (excused)

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

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Administrator Lawson's written report included information on the Budget, the Animal Shelter, and the County Building Roof Project. He reported work continues at the Animal Shelter with the fine close-out of the project to occur in February; the contractor is nearing completion on the county building roof, and the public hearing for the 2013 Budget will take place at the December 11, 2012 Commissioners Meeting with adoption at that meeting. Mr. Lawson said steps to Sheriff's Department would be addressed in the spring. Sheriff Clarmont said security camera installation has gone very well and the door system will be next.

**BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**2013 Budget** – Chairperson Socha said the board will review the proposed 2013 Budget for the final time this morning before making the budget available for public review prior to its adoption at the December Finance/Business Meeting. Several typos were pointed out which will be corrected. Finance Director Kortz distributed additional information. Chairperson Socha said the Road Commission numbers were pulled out by board request from the comparison of the Recommended 2013 figures and the Original 2012 figures. Finance Director Kortz reviewed the changes made between the drafts and the 2013 recommended budget. She said a change in the MERS rate resulted in changes to many line items. The overall change between the recommended 2013 budget and the original 2012 budget was 3.82%. Chairperson Socha pointed out this includes capital improvements and without those the increase would be minimal. Expenditures for capital improvements were a result of deferred maintenance. General discussion held on possible state mandated changes and elimination or reductions in Byrne grant funds and other funding that could affect the county budget. Administrator Lawson said we would basically make it through 2013, but drastic cuts would be need in 2014 if these types of cuts come to realization. Finance Director Kortz pointed out that there are still a few payroll related items to be included. Chairperson Socha was concerned with the availability of sufficient funding for technology upgrades. Administrator Lawson said as an organization we are moving forward embracing technology in all areas. Discussed the additional work and responsibilities placed on county employees. Chairperson Socha said we are not only adding and expecting more from employees, but doing so without any raises over the last several years.

**Board Committee Appointments** – Chairperson Socha said committee assignments are not made until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, but she has been studying the existing committees. She asked if any of the current appointments may be unnecessary. If Chair she plans to eliminate a number of committee assignments; and asked that board members review current appointments and all liaison appointments

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to determine the importance of them. Commissioner Horrocks said he has been the liaison for the Humane Society Board and feels that position is not really necessary. Commissioner Redmond said he would like to continue as a liaison for the Fair Board. Chairperson Socha said any liaison position should not be considered as a go between for the particular committee and the County Administrator or Finance Director. Commissioner Gouine said he thinks the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals function well with a commissioner liaison. He said by a commissioner attending those meetings the board can gain insight on matters through the liaison. Chairperson Socha asked what the Huron Shores Management Council is. Commissioner Horrocks said he has never received notice of a meeting for this council so has not attended. Chairperson Socha asked Sheriff Clarmont about the Jail Utilization committee. He said the committee benefits Community Corrections the most, but it may be a duplication of effort because most of those involved are in the jail regularly. He suggested she speak with Commissioner Wallace regarding this committee. Chairperson Socha said she plans to eliminate an appointment to the Michigan Association of Counties boards. Commissioner Matelski said an appointment to the MSU Extension District Council, which meets in Traverse City quarterly, he feels could be eliminated. Chairperson Socha said the internal committee Broadband liaison could be eliminated. The Cheboygan Chamber Economic Roundtable is beneficial especially for the Commissioner from the City. Commissioner Allor said the Cheboygan County Council on Aging information many times is a repeat from the Area Agency on Aging and NEMCSA. Commissioner Gouine said if it is in-house, an appointment of a commissioner to the Housing Commission may not be needed. Presque Isle Electric & Gas will be eliminated from the list of committees, but she plans to continue to attend. An appointment to Huron Pine RC&D will be eliminated. Regarding the liaison to the Road Commission, Chairperson Socha said this is an elected body and a commissioner could attend if something affects their district. Discussion held consensus was to eliminate the Road Commission liaison position. Chairperson Socha said by eliminating committee assignments that are not necessary it will save taxpayers' money. Commissioner Gouine said the Soil Conservation Board only meets occasionally as there is no grant money available. That committee will be monitored. Commissioner Matelski said the liaison could be eliminated from the Port Committee as the County Administrator and Community Development Director attend these meetings. It was the consensus of the board to keep the liaison positions for the Airport, Fair Board, Planning and Zoning, Housing, EDC, and Soil Conservation and monitor them. Chairperson Socha said she will take this discussion under advisement in making appointments.

Chairperson Socha said the Health Care Advisory Committee was put in place earlier this year to address medical records access and ER access when Cheboygan Memorial Hospital closed.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks, to officially dissolve the Cheboygan County Health Care Advisory Committee. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Chairperson Socha said the Organizational Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson