

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 22, 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 Bruce Gauthier, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** Commissioner Chris Brown (excused)

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

Commissioner Redmond added an agenda item under New Business for Item B *Secondary Road Patrol Grant Application*.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

MSUE District 13 Coordinator Lisa Anderson advised the Board that Kylie Rymanowicz, Extension Educator, Children and Youth Institute will be leaving the Cheboygan office, moving to Saginaw.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS**

Judge Robert Butts presented Probate and Family Court 2015 Annual Report. Judge Butts stated that three of Probate/Family Court's long-time employees retired this year. Those retiring were Mike Grulke, Toni Schneider, and Ann Couture. He introduced two new employees, Courtney Blumke, Deputy Probate Register; and Heather Arnold, Deputy Probate/Juvenile Register. Judge Butts commented on the annual statistics for the family division-juvenile department. He stated the numbers are way up for delinquent/neglect and abuse cases. He commented on the successes of the Child Protection Mediation Program and that it is one of two or three programs like it in the state. It allows for neglect and abuse cases to be handled much more quickly and efficiently. Judge Butts stated that the key thing for him with neglect and abuse cases is not that they resolve every case on the first shot but how quickly they can get the cases rolling. He commented on the divorce clinic attendance summary and stated that it is a program he started two years ago as a benefit to people filing for divorce "in pro per" and is held four times a year. On the juvenile cases annual report, there were over 3,224 youth community service hours worked last year. He noted that Michigan courts are at the cutting edge of different areas, including technology and monitoring cases and making sure they are handled in a timely manner and performance measures are being implemented statewide. Judge Butts stated that Probate/Family Court is scoring slightly less than the state average on those statewide measurements. Commissioner Allor asked what is attributable to the large increase in delinquent case load figure. Judge Butts stated that he really doesn't have an answer to that and it just varies from year to year but there may be more of a focus from law enforcement on delinquency. Commissioner Gauthier asked about the average number of days from intake to disposition of cases. Judge Butts stated that it has a lot to do with scheduling all of the parties for mediation in a timely manner. Commissioner Gauthier said the Court should try to get the average number of days to be lower next year. Commissioner Matelski stated that a 35 day average for mediation of cases sounds reasonable. Commissioner Matelski asked if there has been an increase of issues

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with marijuana since the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act was enacted. Judge Butts stated that there have been a handful of cases where as soon as the Court receives the juvenile's case that they have to order the parents to lock up their medical marijuana. Commissioner Matelski commented on a lower divorce rate in 2015 than in 2006.

Dave Berg, Information Technology Director, presented the 2015 Information Technology Annual Report. He stated that he has been short-staffed since July, as his co-worker is still recovering from a motorcycle accident, but should be returning to work soon. Mr. Berg stated that the virtualized network and server have newer, up-to-date machines and that there are 13 servers. He highlighted the benefits and efficiencies of having a virtualized network, including faster recovery options for when a server may crash. He noted that Wi-Fi has been implemented at the county marina this summer and it was good coverage and no complaints from the boaters. Also free Wi-Fi has been implemented in the county building this year. He said that there are several secure Wi-Fi networks throughout the building for particular offices. There has been a high demand this year for increase in data storage, especially the Sheriff's Department who stores body-cam videos that take up a lot of data storage. He reported that server backups occur nightly and we have a two destination backup system. In the future he hopes to have a triple destination backup system where one of the backups would be at a different location. He stated the county is considering fiber optic internet and telephones in the future as it is a faster option. Commissioner Wallace asked if the county is at risk of being hacked from an outside hacker. Mr. Berg stated that it is not at risk. The county's firewall is an actual appliance and it is locked down to only receiving what we have it open to receive which is Central Dispatch. Commissioner Allor asked how long the Sheriff's Department body cam footage has to be stored. Mr. Berg said that there is no precedent for it now and so other counties including us are saving them indefinitely until we hear otherwise.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Lawson presented the Revised 2016 Apportionment Report and Amended Resolutions. Administrator Lawson stated that the Apportionment Report had to be modified due to the voter approval of the Ambulance Millage and two townships with road millage adjustments from the November 8, 2016 General Election results.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to amend the 2016 Cheboygan County Millage Rate Resolution 16-23 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. The resolution reads as follows:

**Amended  
Resolution 16-23  
2016 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 2016. Motion by Commissioner seconded by Commissioner to adopt the 2016 County Millage Rate Resolution authorizing the levy of the rate of 7.4092 mills distributed as follows: 5.6592 mills for

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General County Operations, .5000 mills for Senior Citizens Operations, .2500 mills for Ambulance Authority Operations and 1.0000 mills for Roads and authorize Chairperson to sign. A roll call vote was taken. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

**Motion** by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to adopt the Amended 2016 Cheboygan County Apportionment Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to amend the 2016 Cheboygan County Tax Resolution 16-24 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. The resolution reads as follows:

**Amended  
Resolution 16-24  
TAX RESOLUTION**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that there be raised by taxation and that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners are hereby authorized and directed to spread upon the several assessment rolls and tax rolls of the County: County Tax, Township Tax, School Tax and any special taxes in the amounts as adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in the 2016 Amended Apportionment Report. An amount of the above mentioned taxes not to exceed the schedule of millage as determined by the Apportionment Report adopted by the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners at their annual meeting held on November 22nd, 2016.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Brown).

Administrator Lawson presented and reviewed the Road Funding Application drafted by Civil Counsel. The format is similar to the senior millage appropriation application. Administrator Lawson stated that the first part is an outline of the program authorized by Public Act 77 of 2016 for counties to lend money to townships for road improvement projects. He stated that the cap for a loan would be \$250,000 per project per township. Administrator Lawson went through the components of the loan application. Commissioner Allor asked if there will be a limit on the number of loans a township can have with the county at one time. Administrator Lawson stated that was not addressed in the application process but the recommendation would probably be to have scoring criteria. If you have a repeat township versus a township who has never requested a loan previously, that would warrant points or that there would have to be a cycle passed before they reapply. Commissioner Allor asked if there would be a specific window for applications or if the applications could be submitted all year round. Administrator Lawson stated that applications would probably be accepted during the construction season realistically. Commissioner Allor expressed that it is her concern that with the county loan maximum amount being up to \$1 million and any township can apply for up to \$250,000 for their individual project then you would only have 4 townships. Administrator Lawson commented that it can simply be stated that townships who have applied are first in line before other townships or it can be noted on a point system. Discussion was held about creating a policy for the township road improvement project loan process and scoring criteria. Commissioner Allor stated that she thinks a policy and requirements should be in place before we design the application. Commissioner Redmond stated that is why this is a discussion item at this point. Administrator Lawson stated that whatever the Board feels comfortable with is what they will move forward with, as there is no roadmap at this point. Discussion was held.

**BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Chuck Beckwith, Chairperson of the Michigan Townships Association, addressed the Board to thank them for taking on the township road improvements loan project that they were just discussing. Mr. Beckwith stated that it is extremely important to all of the 19 townships to try to

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get secondary roads back into better shape. He commented on analyzing the necessity to improve a road based on its condition and that some secondary roads cannot be driven on by emergency vehicles and this is an important issue that should be considered in the scoring process.

Doug Damm, a citizen of Benton Township, thanked the Board for being the first Board of Commissioners to act under Public Act 77 of 2016. Mr. Damm stated that a group of citizens in Benton Township have been working on the logistics of a special assessment for road improvement since March of last year and that it has been kind of a conundrum.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wallace stated that he passed around a Michigan Works report card from October to everyone. He voiced concern about the overreach of the Planning Commission, especially regarding minor site plan revisions. Commissioner Wallace stated that revisions should be handled by the administration of the Community Development Department instead of reconvening a Planning Commission meeting to talk about a small adjustment.

Commissioner Allor stated that she is officially resigning as Cheboygan County Commissioner for District 7 after the next Board of Commissioners meeting (December 13, 2016) and that she will be turning in her resignation. She stated that she needs to be sworn as the State Representative for the 106<sup>th</sup> District and she cannot hold two elected positions at once.

Finance Director Kortz said changes distributed were included in the draft budget in the packet. These changes were to Fund Equity, Restitution for Victims and Disaster Expenses. She explained a change/correction to Fund 263. This fund number has been in use, however with the changes in the law for Concealed Pistols it has been brought to attention that Fund 263 should be used for CPL's. The fund currently in that particular fund will be migrated to Fund 273 so that Fund 263 will be used for CPL's

Commissioner Matelski complimented Administrator Lawson on 2017 Budget document. Administrator Lawson said the budget is a team effort of many staff members. He noted the that the Public Hearing on the proposed budget will be held in conjunction with the next Finance/Business meeting on December 13, 2016.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
County Clerk/Register

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Pete Redmond  
Chairperson