

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
June 23, 2020**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:32 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Mary Ellen Tryban, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski, John Wallace and Steve Warfield.

ABSENT: None

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

Motion by Commissioner Warfield, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Goodrich presented the Prosecuting Attorney's 2019 Annual Report. She stated she was appointed as Cheboygan County Prosecuting Attorney on January 1, 2019, and was sworn in by the Honorable Aaron J. Gauthier on that date. Introduction of her staff as follows: Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Fred Feleppa, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amber Libby, Office Manager Melanie Hansen, Circuit Court Clerk Julie Rettell, District Court Clerk Matt Friday, Victim Rights Advocate Celeste Charboneau and Child Support Specialist Sarah Hartman. In 2019, the cases that went from 89th District Court and was bound over to 53rd Circuit Court had 201 felony/high court misdemeanors cases authorized, which was a 10% increase from the 183 cases that were bound over in 2018 and a 13% increase from the 178 cases that was bound over in 2017. The MIDC contract now provides for a defense attorney at every arraignment, probation violation and bench warrant to balance out the courtroom and also to represent the victim's interest. The Prosecuting Attorney's office tries to take a strong stance on criminal sexual conduct cases to protect the most vulnerable citizens. In the case of People vs. Michael Allred, the victim was between the ages of 13 – 16 years. He plead to CSC 1st degree, habitual offender 2nd and was sentenced to prison for 23 years to 60 years. In the case, People vs. Lloyd Miller, the victim was a disabled adult. He plead to CSC 1st degree, habitual offender 3rd and his prison sentence was 40 years to 60 years. In the case, People vs. David Calleaux, Jr., the victim was under 13 years old. He plead to a CSC 3rd degree, CSC 2nd degree and a 3rd habitual 3rd offender and his prison sentence was 20 years to 30 years. He was also subject to a life time of electronic monitoring. The Prosecutor's Office also focused on traffic safety. Michigan Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Kenneth Stecker put on a seminar for the office as well as local and other county law enforcement. She attended a three (3) day Michigan Child Death Training along with other law enforcement, which addressed child safety in the community, taught how to respond and investigate a child's death. There was continued participation in the Cheboygan County Drug Program. It is the Prosecutor's Office responsibility to evaluate and refer cases to that program. Weekly meetings were attended with a team of participants to review the defendant's progress in that program. The court sessions were

attended in which the participants updated the courts on how the defendant was doing, how their services were going, how they were progressing and address where they may need help. After attending drug court training, it was emphasized that the study of these drug court programs that the prosecutor's attendance at these court sessions actually increases the likelihood of success for the participants. In District Court, the Prosecutor's Office has started attending every arraignment, which arraignments occur on a daily basis. There was a change in the pretrial process to be able to resolve cases prior to trial, so there is an initial pretrial and a final pretrial before a trial is scheduled. In Probate Court, the office has continued the dedication to make sure that students are in school and enforcing the truancy rules. There seems to be a lot of studies that have a direct coalition between a child's attendance and their academic performance. In the fall, each school in the county attends a meeting to talk about their issues and any ways that they can assist them. Then in the spring, they come together in the commissioner's room to address as a county any issues and ways that they can help each other make the children more successful in the community. The Prosecutor's Office is a member of the Child Protection Mediation Program Steering Committee to view the child abuse/neglect case mediation system and funding. The office also assists in the mental health competency petitions. In 2019, the Victim Rights Advocate continued registering victims for the VINE Services, which notifies the victims of court hearing dates and times, and also works with the jail when any time a defendant is released. A system of DNA testing has been set up, which is causing testing to be quicker, so the victim can be notified in a criminal sexual assault case of any results of an STD test. The Prosecutor's Office works with the Women's Resource Center to find ways to honor victims. For example Domestic Violence Awareness where we have a purple ribbon campaign and the Good Neighbor Fund for the County contributed their dress down day monies to the Petoskey shelter. She reported to the Board that Fred Feleppa resigned yesterday as the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and she has appointed Amber Libby as the new Chief Assistant Prosecutor. Judge Vizina congratulated the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on addressing the Truancy Policy in the schools.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the O.E.M. Dissolution. A meeting will be held next Wednesday to confirm the distribution of assets held by O.E.M. Cash assets will remain on hand until all final costs associated with O.E.M. are paid. Once all associated costs are paid for, funds will be distributed by percentage back to each unit. Physical assets that can be divided such as trailers, generators, radios, etc.... will be divided based on agreement percentages. Remaining larger valuable items such as the new pick-up truck will be purchased from other units by percentage.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave a report on the Marina. Marina staff is currently working to have three (3) piles damaged by ice replaced at the Marina. The lowest quote is for \$16,300. This information has been provided to MMRMA for possible insurance coverage.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave a report on the Cheboygan County Audit. The County's audit process continues. The State of Michigan is permitting units to request a 30 day extension to their audit process due to delays caused by COVID-19. Staff will be filing for this extension.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave a report on the County's 2021 Budget. Staff will be presenting the 2021 Budget process timeline at the July 14, 2020 Financial Business meeting.

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that the NLEA is in the process of hiring a new president for the organization. Staff has forwarded a link to the presentations that was held yesterday and if

the Board has a chance to go ahead and listen to them because he was looking for feedback on the candidates.

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that maintenance staff was working with mechanical contractors in the building this week to install the new air purifying units.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Crime Victims' Right Application for 2021. This grant is between the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and the County of Cheboygan. This grant offsets the cost for Victim's Rights Services provided through the Prosecutor's Office. This grant is applied for each fiscal year and is included in the General Fund Budget. Since the agreement is between the State and the County, the Prosecuting Attorney is requesting the Board's approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Tryban, to authorize grant acceptance and execution of all other necessary Grant documents by the County Chairperson after review from the County Finance Director and Legal Counsel and authorize any necessary budget adjustments, if applicable. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 absent.

Treasurer Buffy Weldon presented the Sale Proceeds Report. In 2008 and each year after 2008, not later than June 30 of the second calendar year after foreclosure, the County Treasurer shall submit a written report to the Board of Commissioners. All or a portion of any remaining balance, less any contingent costs of title or other legal claims, may subsequently be transferred into the general fund of the County by the Board of Commissioners. Although the law only required the County Treasurer to report the remaining balance from the sale proceeds. An attached report showed all of the revenues and all of the expenses that had been reported in this fund. Pursuant to the law, any allowable expense can be charged against the sale proceeds. In the foreclosure process, there are additional fees that are set by statute such as October 1st a \$15.00 fee is added to all delinquent taxes that are in the 2nd year of delinquency. These fees are to help cover the cost of recording fees, mailing notices, title searches, publications, etc.... The sale proceeds and the fees have covered expenses in administering the program. The 2018 Sale Proceeds is \$98,947.41 and the total Surplus is \$88,639.47, which is \$10,307.94 less from additional expenses. History of previous Sales Proceeds as follows: 2016 - \$360,628.87; 2017 - \$98,294.46; and 2018 - \$98,947.41 for a total of \$557,870.74 being held in the foreclosure fund.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Warfield, to accept report and instruct Treasurer Weldon to hold funds in the 517 Foreclosure Fund. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Drug Court – Approval of MDCGP and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Application and Certification. Cheboygan County Drug Court desires to apply for grant funds to continue the Drug Court Program. The certification/applications for these grants are due on July 1, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to authorize grant submittal and execution of all other necessary grant documents by the County Chairperson after

review from the Finance Director and Legal Counsel, and authorize any necessary budget adjustments, if applicable. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Probate Judge Daryl Vizina presented the 2020 Salary & Wage Resolution – Non-Union General Employees #19-17 – Amendment #1 – Probate Court position consolidation and re-classification. The Probate Court has reviewed options to carry out cost saving measures due to financial impact related to COVID-19 and recommends the consolidation and re-classification of positions within the court. The consolidation would eliminate one position, re-classify three (3) positions with wage/hour adjustments and increase pay per hour for Compass Program Director position. The consolidation would set position hours at 40 hours a week for the majority of classifications in the court. This will increase the yearly wages received by employees holding these positions. The consolidation is estimate to save approximately \$7,000 a year in wages as well as creates classification wage scales with a 40 hour work week to make the Court competitive with internal and external comparable wages, which has been pursued by the Court over the past 10 years.

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Warfield, to adopt Amendment #1 to the 2020 Salary and Wage Resolution – Non-Union General Employee #19-17 to be effective June 24, 2020 and authorize the Chair to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 1 no (Commissioner Matelski) and 0 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented Resolution 2020-10 Freedom of Information Act Policy 100-3. This resolution adopts updates to the County’s FOIA Policy to comply with State Law changes to the FOIA Act.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve Resolution 2020-10 adopting Policy 100-3 Freedom of Information Act request. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. (A copy can be obtained from the County Clerk’s Office.)

BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wallace commented that the Michigan Work Share Program handout was probably one of the best explanations that he has seen on how this works. He reported that the Board has received a letter from Chairman of the Veteran’s Park Committee Tom Smith thanking the County for being very attentive to the Veteran’s Park.

Commissioner Tryban questioned if the resolution, in support for the 2020 Cheboygan County Fair was going to be on the agenda at the next meeting. It was discussed by Commissioner Newman at the last Finance Business Meeting. She commented that she has been contacted by officers of the Cheboygan County Youth Livestock Program because at their last meeting someone brought up the idea of having an expo at the fairgrounds where they would actually invite people from other counties to participate with their livestock. This would bring people from other counties into the fairgrounds along with the CCYLP. At their meeting, CCYLP was really not in favor of this. The process of an online sale auction was being looked at and then the fairgrounds would not be used at all. Staff will check with the Fair President and the Fair Manager.

Commissioner Gouine questioned if the 4th of July Fireworks was still being displayed from the Fairgrounds by the City. Administrator Lawson commented that the City was still having the firework launched from the fairgrounds and that the parking lots across the street would be closed. Discussion was held on who was going to keep citizens out of the county parking lots.

Commissioner Wallace questioned the Sheriff on how the OEM Coordinator Patrick Holt was working out. Sheriff Clarmont commented that it was working out great. During this COVID-19 pandemic, Patrick Holt and Ron Fenlon were both working approximately 16 hours a day. All of the providers in the area such as first responders, police, fire, ambulance, hospitals, doctor's offices and long term care facilities were given the maximum amount of PPE distributed by the OEM. Hopefully, things are winding down regarding the response to COVID-19 for the need of PPE. EOM believes they have up to a 60 to 90 day supply of PPE available. He reported that both Emmet and Charlevoix County are doing the same thing as Cheboygan County and bringing the OEM back into their county.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Warfield, to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson of Board of Commissioners