

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
March 23, 2021**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order via telephonic and in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Mary Ellen Tryban, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Ron Williams (attended via telephonic and was practicing Health Department's quarantine recommendations due to recent out-of-state travel), Roberta Matelski, John Wallace and Steve Warfield.

**ABSENT:** None

**Also in attendance:** Treasurer Buffy Weldon, Administrator Jeff Lawson, Finance Director Sue Buitenhuis, Administrative Secretary Kathy Morrow, Sheriff Dale Clarmont, IT Director Dave Berg, County Clerk Karen L. Brewster, Scott Swanson, Kortny Hahn, John Moore, Louis Vallance, Beth Bridgman, Lena Thompson, Missy France, Debora Pond, Chuck Leady, Circuit Court Judge Aaron Gauthier, SRR Director Rebecca Charboneau, Civil Counsel Bryan Graham, Chuck Leady, Cynthia Curtis, Jean Richendollar, Kathy Johnson, Larry Hull, Laz Surabian, Paul Steeno, Randy Strong, Owen Goslin, Cindy Kress, Bruce Hartdegen, Joe Kline, Mark Gahn, John Studer, Tom Bartley, William Brown and Mark Hull.

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

Public Hearing opened at 9:32 a.m..

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the MDOT 2022 Annual Application. The Board of Commissioners approved this application at the Finance Business Meeting of February 9, 2021 and there was a request by Mr. Louis Vallance to have this public hearing today. There are certain components of this application with the estimated expenses for the 2022 budget of \$1,086,739. This represents keeping the Straits Area Service routes with the expectation that they will come back online sometime, hopefully, this year or in 2022. Other components of this application were the ADA compliant information, a list of whether employees were unionized or not, contract clause certifications, coordination plan for local bus operating assistance, FTA certifications and assurances, vehicle accessibility plan updates and a copy of the Local Advisory Council meeting with the partner agencies. A public notice was placed in the newspaper and a Service Development and New Technology applications. Subsidy was the highlight of this application. Later on the agenda, there was additional federal funding, which the Board will look at to approve. SRR was looking at expanding the Hybrid Route 3 and 4, which would replace some of the straits or service roles. There was an application in 2020 to replace up to five (5) of the busses. Just because, SRR requires the application, doesn't mean that SRR would get all the vehicles in the same year. This means that the program would start over based on utilization miles and availability of funding. SRR could be eligible for FY2023 or FY2024. Straits Regional Ride Director Rebecca Charboneau gave a quick overview of the primary routes.

Louis Vallance citizen of Grant Township commented on the MDOT 2022 Annual Application. He suggested putting something on the ballot for a SRR millage, looking at the county being ADA compliant, having a building built to house the Straits Regional Ride busses, different methods of payment, and to have viable transportation for Cheboygan County.

Debora Pond, citizen of Benton Township commented that she supports Straits Regional Ride and having access to SRR was an invaluable resource.

Public Hearing closed at 9:48 a.m.

**Motion** by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Warfield, to approve the agenda moving 7 a “Recognition Award – Cal Gouine” to 5 a. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**Motion** by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to approve the agenda adding 11 c “Resolution in Support of 4 year Commissioner Terms” under Board Matters for Discussion. A roll call was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 no.

Chairperson John Wallace and Administrator Jeff Lawson presented Commissioner Cal Gouine’s wife, Sharon Gouine and his family, a Recognition Award for his 10 years of service with Cheboygan County. Commissioner Wallace commented that Commissioner Gouine had not only served as a Cheboygan County Commissioner for 10 years, but he was also giving back to the community any chance he could. He was also always offering bits of knowledge and advice when it came to how something should be constructed, or how buildings could be improved on. He made a big difference in the Cheboygan County community for many years and he is missed. This also included his military service. During his time on the Board, Commissioner Gouine acted as liaison between the County Board and several of its subcommittees, which included the Fair Board, Planning Commission, District #4 Health Department, Straits Regional Ride and several others. Administrator Lawson thanked his family for sharing him with the county and allowing him to put in all the hours he had. The commissioners and staff miss him and appreciated his service to the community. Commissioner Gouine received a standing ovation.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Debora Pond, citizen of Benton Township commented on a recent Bridge magazine article where Michigan is in the midst of their third surge of COVID-19 infection. Last week, the State reported that 9% of all tests came back positive. A threefold increase of what is needed to contain the virus. People with symptoms are not self-isolating as they had been in recent months. Michigan was a hot spot for more contagious variants, which was particularly troublesome. What was most troublesome was that the Board of Commissioners continues to fund this misguided path of passing these new resolutions. These counties all have the distinction of being counties routinely with high COVID-19 infection rates. She questioned if this was the type of company that this county liked to keep. This Board may believe that putting forth resolutions that go against all public health recommendation is helpful in some way. Resolutions against the Governor and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are harmful. Countless numbers of people from other communities refuse to shop or visit this community, which is costing this community. Please leave public health to the public health professional and she hoped that the Board would learn something tomorrow at the Reconvened Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Joe Kline, citizen of Benton Township commented on the 117 adjudicated ballots for the County and an answer to a FOIA Request he received from Benton Township showing their precinct had a total of 18. He stated he wanted a full Board investigation of the voting machines and voting practices in each township. He also stated that he was against the Menominee County Resolution.

Lena Thompson, citizen of Benton Township commented that she was very concerned that this Declaration of Concern was passed ignoring the basic health protocols during a public health emergency because there was a spike of COVID-19 in the month of February. A group of citizens were walking around mask less in the community and these people do not know their COVID-19 status, so anyone of them could be transmitting the virus every time they go out and perform these selfish actions. This declaration condones bad behavior and it needs to be rescinded. She also commented that she was concerned about Election Integrity.

Bruce Hartdegen, citizen of Ellis Township commented on Election Integrity and having 100% transparency in all elections going forward.

Mark Gahn, citizen of Benton Township commented on not having any voter's issues in the county, but an investigation should take place on the Dominion Voting System so that people can decide where things are really going and he was concerned with the 117 adjudicated ballots.

John Studer, citizen of Ellis Township commented that we need to certify the election and he supported the Menominee County Resolution.

Cynthia Curtis, citizen of the City of Cheboygan commented on COVID-19 and there being no difference in wearing a mask or not wearing a mask.

Owen Goslin, citizen of the City of Cheboygan commented on hearing a lot of miss information and he urged citizens to attend the meeting tomorrow with the District #4 Health Department. He also commented on the Public Hearing, which would help people to get transportation and he was disturbed that the Board was continuing to discuss these resolutions on the agenda. The Health Department was trying to keep us safe and this just undermines the work that they were doing. He urged the Board to table these resolutions.

Louis Vallance, citizen of the Grant Township read MCL PA 3 of 2021 – 750.396 Sec. 396 Wearing a mask or face covering devices, which states “A person who intentionally conceals his or her identity by wearing a mask or other device covering his or her face for the purpose of facilitating the commission of a crime is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days for a fine of not more than \$500 or both. He also commented on the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 US.

Betsy Gahn, citizen of Benton Township commented on Election Integrity, opening up businesses, restaurants and letting citizens do things within their right, and having to wear masks.

Tom Bartley, citizen of Cheboygan County commented on the Cheboygan Estate LLC Residential Development in the City of Cheboygan and his concerns with the investors.

William Brown, citizen of Grant Township commented on Election Integrity and having the right voting machines.

Chuck Leady, citizen of Benton Township commented on COVID-19 and stated that nobody actually knows from profound knowledge all the answers, none of the vaccines have full FDA approval, but the approval that was out there was known as an emergency use approval. He was in support of the Board's resolutions.

### **SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Goodrich presented the Prosecuting Attorney 2020 Annual Report. She ran across a quote, which said: "Look back and be grateful, look ahead and be hopeful, look around and be helpful". After one (1) year of being the Prosecutor Attorney, the pandemic caused the office system and the court system to change. She thanked Administrator Lawson for working with her and her staff last year. He really took the time to talk with our office, to assess what our office and each department in the building to come up with its own unique game and worked with us to come up with a solution. She thanked the Finance Director Sue Buitenhuis for working with them in grant funding, so that they had the equipment for her employees to be able to transition to work from home when needed for safety purposes and working in the building. The courts also reached out to do the same collaborative effort. We all have our own goals in the courtroom, in particularly the prosecutors and defense attorneys, and other personnel really think the new court system works well. Law enforcement also was committed. We were all being organized and making everyone's safety a priority. The first council of public defenders and the private attorneys were flexible with the new office system, even though they were opponents in the courtroom. The jail also assisted the defense attorneys being able to meet with their clients, so that they could get cases resolved and processed through the system. Cases continue to be processed and to go through the judicial system, the justice facility will be obtained, even with a temporary pause in the court system as they figured out how to interview. Specifically in the Circuit Court in 2020, there were 209 felony cases authorized. This was slightly down from the 222 felony cases authorized in 2019. The Prosecutor's Office was able to procure a partnership with a child advocacy center. This was really important because previously, the child victims who needed to be interviewed by these professionals had to travel to Traverse City, which was quite a lengthy drive for a child, especially since they have already had a traumatic situation. The office was able to execute a live stream process that made the work even more transparent to the public. Circuit Court Clerk Julie Rettell played a vital role in coming up with new ways to process the paperwork to get discovery from attorneys. She was also in charge of sending writs so that defendants in jail or in prison could attend Circuit Court remotely and continue to participate with their attorneys in their hearings. In addition to adjusting the circuit court structure, changes also needed to be made to the Cheboygan Drug Court Treatment Program. The prosecutor's office was also responsible for making the referrals so that there were participants within the drug court. The Drug Court kept the efforts going, whether attending by telephone or meeting in person. The tremendous efforts of the Drug Court team to continue to be innovative in ways to help participants, she believed, contributed to their success and graduations in 2020. The number of applications from Defendants wanting to enter the treatment program does not appear to have slowed down, which was a compliment to the effectiveness of the program even during difficult times. In 2020, there were three (3) attempted murder cases. In 2020, District Court was able to increase the drunk driving convictions rate to 97% from 91% in 2019. There were several cases highlighted from the annual report. In 2020, the Cheboygan County Sobriety Court team graduated 13 participants. In 2020, Probate Court had a successful appeal with parent termination, which resulted with the children being able to be adopted. After the former Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's resignation in June 2020, she took over the child abuse neglect cases, juvenile delinquency cases, and mental health hearings until Assistant

Prosecuting Attorney Paige L. Miller joined the team on January 11, 2021. There was a jury selection using ZOOM for the first time due to the limited space available in Probate Court to select an in person jury. Due to the court's superior organization in setting up the process, both opposing counsel on whether this was really going to work or not, the execution in planning ahead of time went very well and we were successful in selecting a jury. The Cheboygan County Prosecutor's Office continued to represent MDHHS in child abuse/neglect matters in the county. This past year, there have been 102 Law Enforcement Notifications (LENs) processed. Crime Victim Rights Advocate Celeste Charboneau helped victims understand their rights and the process of court proceedings in all three (3) courts. The criminal justice system had to make many changes to be able to continue court proceedings. For victims, most of them have adjusted to the technology of attending court hearings using the internet. Ms. Goodrich was sad to report that after almost 21 years of service with the county Celeste Charboneau decided to switch directions in her career and left the prosecutor's office. However, Child Support Specialist Sarah Hartman has agreed to take over and started yesterday in her place. The Prosecuting Attorney office is held accountable in the following five (5) areas: CAR processing, locating medical support, order establishment and service of process. Child Support Specialist Sarah Hartman increased performance in four (4) out of five (5) areas and only went down by less than 1% in the other categories. Service of process was a category that had been struggling for many counties and was one of the more difficult aspects of establishment when dealing with COVID-19 restrictions.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the Treasurer's Office Wall Repair/External Building Column Repair. The Treasurer's Office vault wall repair is complete. Maintenance crews have moved the Treasurer's office furniture and equipment. The limestone External Building Column covers have been removed. Inspections of the I-beams behind the columns identify base rusting of the beams at sidewalk level. Staff has directed the engineer to develop a repair detail for the I-beams to present to the contractor for a repair charge order. The engineers have identified that the repair detail will consist of cleaning of the rusted areas and placement of welded steel reinforcement plates on to the I-beams. Once completed, the lower portions of the columns will receive a rust preventative epoxy coating.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the Marina Fuel System Project. Ryba Marine is scheduled to begin construction of the sea wall and dock area this spring. The tank manufacturer has indicated that due to demand the fuel tank for the project will not be available until November 2021. Ryba will work with their sub-contractors to complete underground, electrical, concrete and other components of the project by fall 2021. If the tank is not available prior to November, the project will be completed by Memorial Day Weekend of 2022.

The County will be the project manager on the construction of the fuel dock building and will be securing project bid/quotes for this portion of the project beginning next week.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Beth Bridgman citizen of the City of Cheboygan commented on her FOIA Appeal. She had made a FOIA request in January 2020 for information relating to the computer hardware and software used by the county in the November 2020 General Election, which she received a copy of the receipt/acceptance forms concerning Dominion Voting System. She also wanted to know how much time each computer was spent connected to the Internet and she wanted the number of adjudicated ballots at each polling location. The county clerk supplied a total of adjudicated

ballots and indicated that there was no public record related to the internet request. Ms. Bridgman handed out a page from the Federal Election Commission Home Agenda dated 12/13/2001 – Agenda Document 01-62 with the item of Human Error Rate vs. System Error Rate on page 6 highlighted. The Dominion Voting machines were supposed to lead to fewer adjudicated ballots, but in the November 2020 General Election the machines used resulted in more. She did not feel that this resulted in inappropriate election behavior in Cheboygan County, but it left room for it in other counties.

Civil Council Bryan Graham presented the three (3) options to the Board of Commissioners on the Bridgman's FOIA Appeal.

**Motion** by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Tryban, to affirm in part and reverse in part the decisions made by the County Clerk concerning the FOIA requests made by Beth Bridgman dated December 31, 2020 and received by the County Clerk's Office on January 4, 2021 for the following reasons: 1) Concerning the second FOIA request, the Board reverse the County Clerk's decision and finds that the Ballot Summary was a public record related to the number of adjudicated votes for each polling location and that this public record was not exempt from disclosure under Section 13 of the FOIA, therefore, the Board directs the County Clerk to disclose the Ballot Summary for each precinct at no cost to Ms. Bridgman and 2) Concerning the third FOIA request, the Board affirms the County Clerk's decision and finds that the request did not describe or request a public record, but merely asked a questions to the County Clerk. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the MDOT Project Authorization 2017-0032/P18. This authorization is additional CARES Act funding called CARES flex that has been allocated for additional reimbursement of operating eligible expenses.

**Motion** by Commissioner Tryban, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to accept the MDOT Project Authorization 2017-0032/P18 FY 2021 section 5311 Operating Formula Grants, authorize the Chairperson or Administrator to sign, and authorize any necessary budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 absent.

53<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court Judge Aaron J. Gauthier presented the Drug Court – Approval of Agreement for Drug Court Services contract between the 53<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court and Tip of the Mitt Service, LLC. Cheboygan County Circuit Court desires to enter into a contract with Tip of the Mitt Services, LLC for services provided to the Drug Court Program.

**Motion** by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to approve and execute the Agreement for Drug Court Services by the County Chairperson after review by the County Administrator, Finance Director, and Legal Counsel, vendor to be added to the sole vendors list and authorize any necessary budget adjustments, if applicable. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

## **BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented Draft Resolutions. The Board of Commissioners directed Staff to draft a resolution opposing orders issued by Governor Whitmer and state agencies in response to COVID-19. Staff had prepared three (3) draft resolutions for Board review and discussion. A draft was prepared utilizing a resolution approved by Menominee County. The

only change to this resolution from the Menominee Resolution was changing Menominee County to Cheboygan County.

Staff had also prepared a resolution that supported the adoption of Senate Bill 1 2021. This Bill has been approved by the Senate and has been presented to the Governor. A similar Bill was vetoed by the Governor in December 2020. The Bill “amends the Public Health Code to require an emergency public health order issued by the Director of Health Department and Human Services (DHHS) to include information about the rationale for the order, to limit the effectiveness of such order to 28 days unless the legislature approved an extension and to prohibit a new emergency order that addresses the same epidemic as an earlier order with legislative approval”.

The third resolution encouraged a veto override by the legislative to enact Senate Bill 1 2021 if vetoed by the Governor.

**Motion** by Commissioner Warfield, seconded by Commissioner Sangster to approve the

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION 2021-06  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY MICHIGAN COUNTIES IN  
OPPOSING CURRENT AND FUTURE ORDERS UNILATERALLY ISSUED BY GOVERNOR  
WHITMER AND STATE AGENCIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, Antrim County, Baraga County, Delta County, Grand Traverse County, Houghton County, Kalkaska County, and Menominee County have recently passed resolutions opposing orders unilaterally issued by Governor Whitmer and various state agencies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County wishes to voice our solidarity with the other counties in the State of Michigan in opposing orders unilaterally issued by Governor Whitmer and various state agencies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus has caused an unprecedented time in our history; however, even in the time of crisis the basic civil liberties and foundations of our society must be preserved; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Whitmer and the various state agencies do not have authority to unilaterally impose orders that essentially equate into laws. This function is reserved by the Michigan Legislature and is essential to the checks and balances upon the three branches of government; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County acknowledges that there are differing opinions on the path to be taken in response to COVID-19; however, those debates and decisions are to be made by the legislators that have been duly elected by the People of the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the draconian orders that have been issued thus far throughout the pandemic have resulted in irreparable harm to the economy, education of youth, and mental health of residents in Cheboygan County; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County would like to gesture to other counties in the State of Michigan that Cheboygan County is an ally in any collective effort initiated to challenge the legality of the orders and restrictions issued by Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or any other state agency that were unilaterally imposed without the approval of the Michigan Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County does not dismiss the seriousness of COVID-19; however, the response to the threat must be appropriate and justified. Unfortunately, the orders issued by Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have resulted in, and are indicative of, inflicting future collateral damage to the local economy, small businesses, and families that far exceed the actual threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County supports common sense approaches to combat COVID-19, such as: following social distancing recommendations, health screenings for employees and customers, promoting healthy hygienic practices, and encouraging individuals that are considered high risk to continue to self-quarantine and adhere to the strictest recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners calls upon the Michigan Legislature to fulfill their duty to the People of the State of Michigan and restore the checks and balances essential to our democracy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners support a collective action by the counties in the State of Michigan to challenge the legality of the orders and restrictions put forth unvirtuously in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic by the Executive Branch of Government in the State of Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Senator Schmidt, Representative Allor, Representative Damoose, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, the Michigan Association of Counties, and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Warfield, seconded by Commissioner Newman to approve

**RESOLUTION 2021-07  
CHEBOYGAN COUNTY RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 1 2021**

**WHEREAS**, many counties in the State of Michigan have passed resolutions opposing orders unilaterally issued by Governor Whitmer and various state agencies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County wishes to voice our solidarity with the other counties in the State in opposing orders unilaterally issued by Governor Whitmer and the various state agencies in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: and

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County supports measures to combat COVID-19 such as: following social distancing recommendations, health screenings for employees and customers, promoting healthy hygienic practices and encouraging individuals that are considered high risk to continue to self- quarantine and adhere to the recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control CDC; and

**WHEREAS**, "Senate Bill 1 would amend the Public Health Code to require an emergency public health order issued by the Director of the Health Department and Human Services (DHHS) to include information about the rationale for the order, to limit the effectiveness of such order to 28 days unless the legislature approves an extension and to prohibit a new emergency order that addresses the same epidemic as an earlier order without legislative approval".

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Cheboygan County supports the adoption of Senate Bill 1 2021 by the legislature and Governor to insure that orders issued to combat COVID-19 are subject to checks and balances.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Whitmer, Senator Schmidt, Representative Allor, Representative Damoose, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, the Michigan Association of Counties and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

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

Commissioner Wallace presented the Resolution in Support of the 4 year Commissioner Terms. Discussion was held on if there was any opposition, being elected within a short period of time, and first term people not being able to get a chance to really find out what was developed and then they have to run for re-election the next year.

**Motion** by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Sangster to approve staff to draft a Resolution in support of the 4 year Commissioner terms and have it on the agenda at the April Finance Business Meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Lena Thompson, citizen of Benton Township commented that she didn't understand how this Board was saying that what the Governor was doing was illegal and that there were no laws. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services was working under the Public Health Act 368 of 1978, which was a Michigan Compiled Law and there were other laws that were already on the books. She also commented on people saying that the Michigan Supreme Court ruling that these laws were unconstitutional, which was inaccurate.

Debora Pond, citizen of Inverness Township thanked everyone who worked the election. Everyone she had spoken to has had nothing but positive things to say about their experience regarding this election. She addressed the term "registered democrats" stating that a citizen could vote for Democrats, join the Michigan Democratic Party, but no one was "registered" as a Democrat. She also commented on the talk about illegal, unsolicited, absentee ballots stating that people needed to read their mail very closely.

Owen Goslin, citizen of the City of Cheboygan commented that he was disappointed with the meeting today, which seemed that the bulk of the Board of Commissioners meeting was taken up with issues that really were full of a lot of misinformation from the voting conspiracies, haggling over the Health Department and the Governor's orders, but there were some good issues talked about such as transportation and drug courts. He commented on a Bipartisan-Bicameral Omnibus COVID Relief Deal that had passed in December 2020, but the money was stalled in Lansing.

Louis Vallance, citizen of Grant Township thanked the Board for adopting the MDOT Project Authorization 2017-0032/P 18-FY 2021 Section 5311 Operating Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program. He suggested that the inmates start to clean up the forests to help eliminate wildfire danger in the county and to get the Drain Commissioner and EGLE to fix the drains on the east side of Cheboygan. He questioned if there were any tornado drills and plans in place for Cheboygan County.

Chuck Leady, citizen of Benton Township thanked the Board for having the foresight to put this meeting on by the GO To Meeting platform. He commented that it was a rather good meeting with a lot of issues being brought up about voting machines, governor orders and infrastructure.

Missy France, citizen of Inverness Township commented on citizens wearing masks and how wearing masks were affecting our children. She suggested risking it for humanity and leading by example.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sangster commented on adding the 2020 November General Election to the Planning Board Agenda. He stated that it was going to take some time to compile information. Commissioner Warfield suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee to review how the November 2020 General Election took place, which would include Commissioners Warfield, Tryban and Sangster. The committee would work with County Clerk Karen Brewster to understand the

process, put together some highlights and then let the administrator compile a list of information for the full board to discuss at their planning meeting.

Commissioner Sangster commented that he wanted to congratulate Representative Sue Allor for going to the floor at the state level again and again for money for the school board.

**Motion** by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 a.m.

---

Karen L. Brewster  
County Clerk/Register

---

John B. Wallace  
Chairperson of Board of Commissioners