

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE/BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 12, 2015**

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 Chris Brown, Bruce Gauthier, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor.

Absent: None

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

Commissioner Redmond added to the agenda under New Business Item G *North Country Community Mental Health Authority Resolution 15-06*.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Approve Monthly Finance Claim (Finance total = \$20,760.40; Prepays total = \$958,454.61)
- B. Budget Adjustments
- C. Investment Reports
- D. Michigan Drug Court Grant Application
- E. Fairground Usage Agreement – Relay For Life
- F. Cheboygan County Road Commission Annual Report ACT 51
- G. Bureau of Construction Code Application Approval – Cheboygan Area Schools
- H. Correspondence
 - 1. Otsego County Resolution Re: North Country Community Mental Health Authority Board Enabling Resolution
 - 2. Public Notice – Cheboygan County Road Commission Public Hearing
 - 3. NLEA Annual Activity Report 2014
- E. Minutes
 - 1. Finance/Business Meeting of April 14, 2015 and Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 28, 2015
 - 2. Health Board – 3/17/15
 - 3. NEMCSA – 4/10/15
 - 4. NLEA April-May 2015 Newsletter and April President's Report
 - 5. North Country Community Mental Health – 3/19/15
 - 6. Community Corrections Advisory Board – 1/28/15
 - 7. C.C.E. 9-1-1 Board Packet 4/15/15 – Board of Directors Minutes 2/18/15; Agenda Items; and Director's Report 4/15/15 and Board Packet 5/6/15 – Board of Directors Minutes 4/15/15; First Quarter 2015 Financial Report; Agenda Items and Director's Report 4/15/15
 - 8. Cheboygan County Fair Board – 2/2/15
 - 9. Cheboygan City Council – 3/24/15 & 4/14/15
 - 10. Planning Commission Meeting – 3/18/15 & 4/1/15
 - 11. ZBA – 3/25/15

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

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CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Mullett Township, stated the recent raises given to a county employee has generated lots of discussion within the community.

SCHEDULED VISITORS – None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Finance Director Kari Kortz presented the revenue and expenditures report for the General Fund for the month ended March 31, 2015. She reported total year-to-date revenue of \$708,544.61, or 6.05% of budget, compared to \$645,060.73, or 5.7% of budget last year at the same time. Ms. Kortz reported expenditures year-to-date of \$2,457,454.86 or 20.99% of budget, compared to \$2,511,575.77, or 22.21%, last year as of the end March. Ms. Kortz presented the Cash Summary Report for March 2015. Commissioner Gouine asked for clarification about the Inverness Sewer Project fund cash balance. Ms. Kortz clarified that the fund doesn't carry a significant cash balance because it is a flow through for payments. Ms. Kortz presented the Quarterly Fund Balance Report as of March 31, 2015. She stated that pre-audit ending balances as of March 31, 2015 would be \$21,769,601. Ms. Kortz presented the Summary of Expenses by Category Report as of March 31, 2015. Commissioner Gauthier commented that the percentage of budget allocated to wages and fringes has decreased slightly in response to previous citizen comment.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson updated the Board on several projects. Mr. Lawson stated that the contract language for the Senior Citizen Center septic project is being sent to Legal Counsel and that they will be asking for approval of that contract at the May 26 Committee of the Whole meeting so that the contractor may begin working in June. Mr. Lawson stated that the permits are being prepared for the footing and foundation for the Humane Society project and construction will begin soon. He stated that informational signage plans will be presented to county building employees with temporary signs being used initially. He reported that once the new security door is installed, the public will need to be directed to enter through the front of the building and temporary signs will be posted to allow time for public feedback before permanent signs are purchased. Mr. Lawson stated that a memo will be prepared this week identifying which county employees are responsible for carrying out certain human resource functions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Brown attended an Elected Officials meeting and stated that several of his district townships have finalized their budgets and Mackinaw City is headed into a busy season.

Commissioner Wallace attended a Youth Task Force meeting and an Elected Officials meeting.

Commissioner Allor attended a Forest Township meeting, a Cheboygan County Council on Aging meeting, an LEPC meeting, a Walker Township meeting, a North Country Community Mental Health meeting, a District No. 4 Health Department meeting, an Elected Officials meeting, and a Northern Michigan Counties Association meeting. Commissioner Allor stated that Forest Township is very focused on creating a park behind the township center.

Commissioner Gauthier attended a City Council meeting, a Port Commission meeting, the Otsego Memorial Medical Center ground breaking ceremony in Indian River, a NEMCSA meeting, an Elected Officials meeting. Commissioner Gauthier stated that there is a Board Appointments and Procedures Committee meeting on May 14, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. and they will be reviewing applicants for the vacant County Road Commission position. Commissioner Allor asked for confirmation that an ad was placed in the paper for the position. Commissioner Gauthier affirmed and stated that nine applications had been received and the number of applications is still growing. Commissioner Gauthier stated they hope to have a recommendation to bring to the Board at the Finance Business meeting in June. Commissioner Redmond stated that the person chosen for the position would be appointed until the next General Election in November 2016.. Commissioner Matelski asked Legal Counsel if the Board Appointments and Procedures Committee can consider regional factors in weighing applicants to get representation from

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around the county. Legal Counsel stated there are no districts with regard to the County Road Commission but the Committee may use whatever factors they deem appropriate to serve the best interests of the county in weighing applicants excluding suspect classifications like age, race, or religion.

Commissioner Gouine attended two township board meetings, an Elected Officials meeting and a Fair Board meeting.

Commissioner Matelski attended an Elected Officials meeting, two township board meetings, a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, a Waterways Commission meeting, two Road Commission meetings and a Planning Commission meeting

Commissioner Redmond attended a Waterways Commission meeting, a Tax Allocation Board meeting, a District No. 4 Health Board meeting, a Straits Regional Ride meeting, a SANE meeting, an Elected Officials meeting, a MAC Conference, and the McLaren Business Forum.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Bradley, CCE 9-1-1 Director, briefly outlined telephone service changes affecting 9-1-1 since the inception of CCE. Mr. Bradley presented a recommendation from the CCE Board recommending the adoption of a resolution and approval of a Letter of Agency to change 9-1-1 providers for CCE Central Dispatch from AT&T to Peninsula Fiber Network LLC. Mr. Bradley said the change is needed due to the changes in telephone network technologies and will be paid for through the use of Technical Surcharge Funds available through the State of Michigan that is currently being collected.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Brown to adopt Cheboygan County Resolution 15-05 regarding a change in 9-1-1 phone service provider to Peninsula Fiber Network LLC and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Letter of Agency. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Scott McNeil, County Planner, presented Zoning Ordinance Amendment #126 concerning the rezoning of property in the plat of the Village of Legrand to Residential Development District from Mixed Residential District and Lake and Stream Protection District.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to adopt the following Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance Amendment #126 in connection to the rezoning of the Plat of the Village of Legrand from D-MR (Mixed Residential Development District) and P-LS (Lake Protection District) to D-RS (Residential Development District):

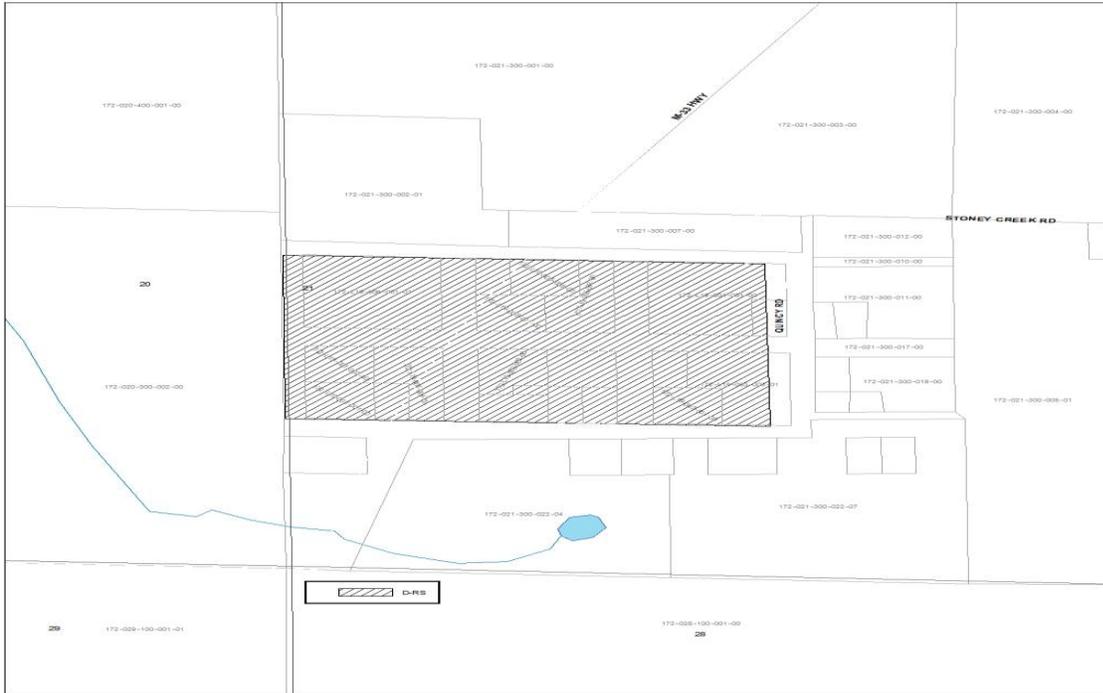
Zoning Ordinance Amendment #126

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHEBOYGAN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 200 THE COUNTY OF CHEBOYGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Section 3.9.1.

The zoning map incorporated into the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 by Section 3.9.1 is hereby amended to rezone the property located in Koehler Township, Cheboygan County from Lake and Stream Protection (P-LS) and Mixed Residential Development District (D-MR) to Residential Development District (D-RS) and described as follows: The entire Plat of Village of Legrand.

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Section 2. Severability.

If any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, said declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective eight (8) days after being published in a newspaper of general circulation within the County.

The Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners hereby incorporates into this record all planning commission public hearing minutes and all documents submitted to the planning commission in connection with its consideration of the rezoning and the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts as its own the findings made by the Cheboygan County Planning Commission at its meeting on January 7, 2015 on the rezoning factors considered by the Planning Commission on the rezoning. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Mr. McNeil presented Zoning Ordinance Amendment #127 regarding the removal of all references to Mixed Residential Development Districts from the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance #200 as the above action will create for no property to be any longer zoned as Mixed Residential.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown to adopt the following Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance Amendment #127 based on Planning Commission recommendation of approval:
Zoning Ordinance Amendment # 127

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHEBOYGAN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 200 TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO THE MIXED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (D-MR) ZONING DISTRICT.

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Section 1. Amendment of Section 3.6.4.3.

Section 3.6.4.3. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to replace read in its entirety as follows:

3.6.4.3. Junkyards, salvage yards and places for storage, wrecking, dismantling and disposing of industrial, agricultural and automotive vehicles, powered and non-powered, and other junk and refuse materials must be located in completely enclosed buildings or have open junk or storage yards or areas entirely enclosed by an obscuring eight (8) foot high wall, fence or green belt. Junk and salvage yard facilities shall be located not less than two hundred feet (200) feet from any Residential Development (D-RS) District or Lake and Stream Protection District (P-LS) and not less than one hundred (100) feet from any other district.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 3.7.1.

Section 3.7.1. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

3.7.1. All outdoor lighting used for illumination of any premises, within the Residential Development (D-RS), Lake and Stream Protection (P-LS) and Natural Rivers Protection (P-NR) zoning districts, shall be shielded to prevent glare.

Section 3. Amendment of Section 3.8.1.

Section 3.8.1. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

3.8.1. This ordinance establishes the following zoning districts in Cheboygan County.

Development Districts

- D-RS Residential
- D-CM Commercial
- D-LI Light Industrial
- D-GI General Industrial
- D-RC Rural Character/Country Living

Management District

- M-AF Agriculture & Forestry

Protection Districts

- P-LS Lake and Stream
- P-NR Natural Rivers
- P-RC Resource Conservation

Village Center Districts

- D-VC Village Center
- VC-IR Village Center Indian River
- VC-IR-O Village Center Indian River Overlay
- VC-T Village Center Topinabee
- VC-T-O Village Center Topinabee Overlay
- VC-T-RO Village Center Topinabee Residential Overlay

Section 4. Repeal of provisions of Article 5

The provisions of Article 5 of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby repealed in its entirety and shall be reserved for future use.

Section 5. Amendment of section 6.2.

Section 6.2. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to add Sections 6.2.24. through 6.2.29. which shall read in their entirety as follows:

- 6.2.24. Multiple family housing.
- 6.2.25. Nurseries and day care centers for children.
- 6.2.26. Elderly housing, nursing and convalescent homes.
- 6.2.27. Boarding and lodging houses.
- 6.2.28. Medical clinics and doctor's offices.
- 6.2.29. Private storage buildings, subject to the requirements of Section 17.23

Section 6. Amendment of section 6.2.1

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Section 6.2.1. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

6.2.1. Any use permitted in the D-RS, Residential Development District.

Section 7. Amendment of section 6.4.2

Section 6.4.2. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

6.4.2. When adjacent to a Residential Development District (D-RS), Rural Character/Country Living District (D-RC), Lake and Stream Protection District (P-LS), or Natural Rivers Protection District (P-NR), uses described in Sections 6.2. and 6.3. shall be located not less than fifty (50) feet distant from any of these zones and shall require a green belt, wall or concealing fence in accordance with Section 17.18.

Section 8. Amendment of section 7.4.2

Section 7.4.2. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

7.4.2. When adjacent to a Residential Development District (D-RS), Rural Character Country Living District (D-RC), Lake and Stream Protection District (P-LS), or Natural Rivers Protection District (P-NR), uses described in Sections 7.2. and 7.3. shall be located not less than seventy five (75) feet distant from any of these zones and shall require a green belt, wall or concealing fence in accordance with Section 17.18.

Section 9. Amendment of section 8.4.2

Section 8.4.2. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

8.4.2. When adjacent to a Residential Development District (D-RS), Rural Character Country Living District (D-RC), Lake and Stream Protection District (P-LS), or Natural Rivers Protection District (P-NR), uses described in Sections 8.2. and 8.3. shall be located not less than seventy five (75) feet distant from any of these zones and shall require a green belt, wall or concealing fence in accordance with Section 17.18.

Section 10. Amendment of Section 17.1.

Section 17.1. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to remove the following row:

		Minimum Floor Area	Minimum Building Width	Min. Lot Size		Min. Yard Setbacks (feet)			Maximum Height of Structures
Zoning District		Sq. ft.	Feet	Area (Sq.ft.)	Width (ft.)	Front	Sides	Rear	Feet
<u>D-MR</u>	<u>Mixed Residential Development</u>	720 ^D	No Min	12,000 ^D	75 ^D	30	8	12	35

Section 11. Amendment of section 17.13.

Section 17.13. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as

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follows:

17.13.3. Wireless communication facilities may be permitted after a public hearing by special use permit, approved for locations in the Residential Development District (D-RS), subject to the following conditions and findings:

Section 12. Amendment of section 17.16.a.

Section 17.16.a. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

a. The commercial kennel building(s) and all associated dog enclosures must be located at least five hundred (500) feet from any Residential (D-RS) and Protection Lake and Stream (P-LS) zoning district boundary. This section shall apply only for commercial kennels located in the Rural Character/Country Living (D-RC) and Agriculture and Forestry Management (M-AF) zoning districts.

Section 13. Amendment of section 17.18.2.

Section 17.18.2. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

17.18.2. For nonresidential uses, except farms, which abut a permitted residential area, or which are adjacent to a Residential or Lake and Stream Protection District, greenbelts, walls or fences shall be provided as follows. These requirements do not apply whenever the use is more than two hundred (200) feet from any adjacent Residential or Lake and Stream Protection District Boundary.

Specific Nonresidential Uses Requiring Greenbelts, Walls or Fence	Greenbelt, Wall or Fence Height At Property Line	Protective	Screening or Obscuring
Drive-in Restaurants, gasoline stations & vehicle repair	6 Feet	X	X
Institutional and school playground	6 Feet	X	
Parking lot accessory to nonresidential uses	6 Feet		X
Hospital and Funeral Home service entrances	6 Feet		X
Utility buildings and substations	6 Feet	X	
Open storage areas larger than 200 square feet	6 Feet		X
Junk Yards	8 Feet	X	X

Section 14. Amendment of section 17.23.1.

Section 17.23.1. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

17.23.1 STANDARDS

The following standards apply to private storage buildings and uses in the Residential (D-RS), Rural Character/Country Living (D-RC) and Lake and Stream Protection (P-LS) zoning districts. Private storage buildings that are allowed in other zoning districts do not have to abide by this section, but must follow all other applicable standards.

Section 15. Amendment of section 17.24.3.

Section 17.24.3. of the Cheboygan County Zoning Ordinance No. 200 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

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3. Minimum Lot Area

The Child Caring Institution shall be located on a lot meeting the following applicable minimum lot area requirements:

- a. In the M-AF zoning district the minimum lot area shall be 2 acres or 4,000 square feet of lot area per resident, whichever is greater.
- b. In the D-CM zoning district the minimum lot area shall be 20,000 square feet or 3,000 square feet of lot area per resident, whichever is greater.

Section 16. Severability.

If any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, said declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 17. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective eight (8) days after being published in a newspaper of general circulation within the County.

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

Daryl Vizina, Cheboygan County Prosecuting Attorney, presented Amendment #5, Amendment #6, and Amendment #7 to the 2015 Wage and Salary Resolution. Prosecutor Vizina presented salary increases for the two assistant prosecutors and the office manager in his office. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity to be able to present this information, as this issue is very important to him, to his employees, to the law enforcement community and to the entire community. Prosecutor Vizina stated that this is a first time request from him regarding requesting money for increasing salaries in his office that he has presented to this Board and that he has come in under budget every year since he has been in office. He asked that the following be considered: (1) This is a first time request, (2) Public safety is a top priority for Cheboygan County, (3) Difficulty to fill each position, (4) Background and experience of his three employees, (5) Position Comparable information from neighboring counties, (6) Additional workload, (7) Budget comparable information from neighboring counties, (8) Character of his employees and (9) Talent of his employees. Prosecutor Vizina highlighted Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tony Damiano, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Aaron Gauthier and Office Manager Kim Barker under each of the aforementioned considerations. He stated that the Board decision should not be based on timing, politics or fear of upsetting others. Prosecutor Vizina stated that raising the compensation for these three employees would be the right, fair and just thing to do. He asked that each individual request be looked at and decision be made based on merits.

Commissioner Gouine asked Prosecutor Vizina if any of his three employees being considered are under contract. Prosecutor Vizina stated that they are all salaried employees. Commissioner Matelski asked Prosecutor Vizina why he has never come before the Board with this information before now if his employees are so unfairly compensated. Prosecutor Vizina stated he has presented this information multiple times to the County Administrator, and was advised that it was not the right time to present such a request and that the money wasn't there. Prosecutor Vizina stated that he was trying to be a team player. Commissioner Brown stated that he understands that we have a very strong Prosecutor's Office in Cheboygan County and that if Cheboygan County is going to honor its mission statement to provide the best service that it can't be done with second rate employees with second rate pay. Prosecutor Vizina acknowledged that this is a tough decision for the Board, and asked that each of his employees be considered based on the merits of his request.

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adopt Amendment #5 to the 2015 Wage and Salary Resolution Non-Union General Employees #14-021 to be effective May 13, 2015; an amendment relative to raising the salary of Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tony Damiano to \$76,000 annually, and authorize the Chairperson to sign and approve the necessary budget adjustment. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 2 no (Commissioner Matelski and Commissioner Gouine) and 0 absent.

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Prosecutor Vizina clarified that the structure of his salary requests was discussed in his office with his employees and was determined as appropriate and fair prior to making the proposals. Commissioner Wallace asked Prosecutor Vizina if he thought of setting a pay scale for the raise in salary request for Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Aaron Gauthier and increasing the salary slower versus all at once. Prosecutor Vizina stated that he had not previously considered that as an option but that Mr. Gauthier handles the largest caseload within the court system. Commissioner Redmond asked Prosecutor Vizina if he would be flexible to adjusting the salary request. Prosecutor Vizina stated he would consider a change to his request but he feels his request is reasonable.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to adopt Amendment #6 with a change to the 2015 Wage and Salary Resolution Non-Union General Employees #14-021 to be effective May 13, 2015; an amendment relative to raising the salary of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Aaron Gauthier to \$68,000 annually, and authorize the Chairperson to sign and approve the necessary budget adjustment. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 4 yes, 3 no (Commissioner Allor, Commissioner Gouine, and Commissioner Matelski) and 0 absent.

Commissioner Allor asked for clarification regarding contradictory comparable information. Prosecutor Vizina clarified that the letter from the Chippewa Prosecuting Attorney was to clarify that the employee used by the Finance Director Kari Kortz as comparable is not an office manager and that the salary of the employee at \$14.00 per hour does not fairly compare to an Office Manager position.

Commissioner Matelski questioned whether Ms. Barker should make more than the Chief Deputy positions in the Clerk and Treasurer's offices, who make \$20.24 per hour. Prosecutor Vizina stated that he is requesting more than a rate of \$20.24 because Ms. Barker has more experience than the employees in the Deputy positions.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adopt Amendment #7 with a change to the 2015 Wage and Salary Resolution Non-Union General Employees #14-021 to be effective May 13, 2015; an amendment relative to raising the salary of Office Manager Kim Barker to \$20.24 per hour, and authorize the Chairperson to sign and approve the necessary budget adjustment. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 1 no (Commissioner Allor) and 0 absent.

Prosecutor Vizina thanked the Board.

Administrator Lawson presented the transfer of ownership of the logo and tagline associated with Indian River and the Cheboygan County Sense of Place to Tuscarora Township.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the agreement with Tuscarora Township transferring ownership of the associated logo, tagline and webpage(s). Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented a purchase policy revision – Sole Vendor Listing 300-2A.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Allor to adopt the revised Sole Vendor Listing 300-2A to become effective May 12, 2015. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Lawson presented a Fairgrounds Usage Agreement regarding the Cheboygan County Fire Association.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the fairgrounds lease agreement for May 15 – 17, 2015 with the Cheboygan County Fire Association as presented and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement. Discussion was held. Commissioner Allor asked if it is necessary to include the note regarding a waiver of liability forms to the agreement. Legal Counsel stated that he does not see a need for that. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

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Administrator Lawson presented Resolution 15-06 regarding North County Community Mental Health Authority. Administrator Lawson noted that Antrim and Kalkaska may have an issue with the resolution but he was not aware what the issue might be. Commissioner Allor stated that it was necessary for all six counties to agree before the changes can take effect.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to adopt Cheboygan County Resolution 15-06 First Amendment to Amended and Restated Enabling Resolution to Form North County Community Mental Health Authority and authorize the Chairperson to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rich Jankoviak, a citizen of Inverness Township, asked why the Cheboygan Tribune doesn't publish detailed reports of the Commissioner meetings like the Straitsland Resorter publication out of Indian River does. He expressed concern about not having a deadline in the newspaper ad for the open position on the County Road Commission Board. Commissioner Gauthier stated that the position is open until filled.

Stephenie Jacobson, a citizen of Inverness Township, addressed the Board. She said there has been a lot of talk about salary but we have to remember that total compensation for an employee goes far beyond the salary. She referenced a study done in 2011 by the Mackinaw Center entitled "Benefits and Balance" that puts public sector benefits in line with private sector counterparts. She stated that private sector employers spend less than public sector employers on their employees. She stated that for example, the average benefits for a public sector employee for a full family are about \$14,000/year and the private sector has an approximate \$11,000/year and that there is also a large difference in retirements as we don't see much defined benefit in the private sector as they are unsustainable and underfunded. She stated that there are other perks to being a public sector employee over a private sector employee and that everyone here in the County Building voluntarily took the public positions and most people get a government job and stay in it. She stated that job security that public sector employees have should be a perk that is considered when everyone comes marching in here for raises. She expects to see many more employees over the next few meetings making a case for a raise.

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Mullett Township, stated that Mr. Vizina presented his case well and he doesn't think that any other individuals who have received raises recently can justify their raises. He appreciated that everyone voted with their mind and their heart and independently. He stated that he thinks that what Stephenie Jacobsen says applies because government jobs have certain tenure and that normally you have a job for life unless you're a real screw-up.

Janet Vance, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, stated that on behalf of the citizens of Cheboygan County, especially those who are struggling financially, she respectfully requests a wage and salary resolution to establish raises for all those taxpayers. She stated that recently several county wide millages have been passed even though our county has a huge income disparity compared to the neighboring counties of Emmet and Charlevoix. She stated that a recent article comparing the counties, Cheboygan County was described as "poverty in paradise". She stated that it seems as though it is quickly becoming a fact that county employees are the highest paid within the county and that could be a dangerous precedent. She stated that she would like to remind the commissioners that it is not their money that they are giving away but it is indeed real money and the money was given to them by those who have to make real sacrifices to fill the county coffers. And she stated that there are many people who work behind the scenes to make the commissioner's jobs efficient and effective and the raises that they have recently given out give the appearance of rewarding just their inner circle. And she asked what incentive county departments have to be fiscally responsible, such as the Sheriff's Department, when you turn around and give those same dollars out in exorbitant wage increases.

Mike Shaw, submitted a letter of intent to the commissioner board packets regarding veterans in the United States. Mr. Shaw stated that 60 veterans committed suicide in the US during the time of the Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Redmond stated that the Board just received his letter that morning.

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gauthier stated that he has been a proponent of raising minimum wage for a long time and he agrees with Janet Vance that the people in Cheboygan County should receive a raise.

Commissioner Wallace stated that the Board is very conscious of what an employee costs and that most of the people on the Board are lay people who own businesses or work.

Commissioner Brown stated that he appreciates comments and supports transparency in government. He stated that he disagrees with Carl Muscott's comment about government employees having a job for life because a new elected official could come into a department and clean house regardless of tenure.

Commissioner Matelski commented on the snow in Marquette, Michigan.

Commissioner Allor stated that with having wage and salary resolutions today it would benefit the board to have a written policy regarding review of wage and salary increase requests at budget time. Commissioner Allor stated that the board cannot be reviewing raises at every meeting. Commissioner Redmond stated he would work on a plan with Administrator Lawson. Commissioner Brown stated that the efficiency of the process to review wage and salary requests is not the best but maybe the requests could be grouped by quarter. Commissioner Redmond stated that part of why Administrator Lawson and Finance Director Kortz are here is to address these issues. Administrator Lawson said generally wages and salaries are analyzed at budget time, but as the county came out of recession, wages were identified as behind in the region. Administrator Lawson stated that the county has reserves and where we are at right now is looking at which departments are behind. Commissioner Brown stated that the longer the county waits, the farther the spread gets. Administrator Lawson stated that they will begin reviewing very soon and that the county was one of the first to change the health care system to place more choice on the employee and the costs are capped for employee benefit costs. He also stated that the county has taken steps to keep long term liabilities in check.

Commissioner Matelski asked if there was any new information regarding the Fairground property. Commissioner Gouine stated that the Fair Board is leaning towards taking over the Fair themselves but that they need more information from Administrator Lawson to see if it's feasible before they make a decision. Discussion was held regarding the fair.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Matelski to adjourn this meeting to the call of the chair. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson