

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 25, 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 Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski and John Wallace.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Ellen Tryban and Steve Warfield

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

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the agenda pulling Item 6 A. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Executive Director, Sarah Kile of Northeast Michigan 211 presented the 2-1-1, which is available statewide. Cheboygan County is part of a 23 county region that serves the northeast and central section of the lower peninsula from the Straits to as far south as the thumb. In 2019, the Cheboygan County Report showed that there were 198 contacts and 27 web searches with a third of those relating to assistance with utilities. The program is asking for contributions from the county. The total Cheboygan County contribution would be approximately \$4,000. Ms. Kile stated that the United Way is paying for approximately half. Michigan, 2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember telephone number that connects people in need with people who can help – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Michigan Public Service Commissioner (MPSC) approved a request to include Cheboygan County. Cheboygan County will be able to dial 2-1-1 instead of 800-636-4211. Phone companies have put into motion the change of routing calls through 2-1-1. For more information on community resources dial 2-1-1. Or, visit www.211.org. Commissioners took no action on this request.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the Marina Project. The Engineer has completed plans and specifications for final approval by Michigan Waterways Staff. The project is expected to be advertised for bid by the end of March.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the County Building Repairs. MacMillan Associates, the structural engineer for the project will be on site Friday, February 28 to complete their field work to develop plans and specification for the repair project. Plans and specifications are scheduled to be completed by the first week of April with the project being advertised by mid - April.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on other repairs in the County Building. Contractors are here this week replacing air conditioning units so that they are ready for the summer.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the Indigent Defense Meeting Room. The County's Indigent Defense compliance plan identifies the need for additional meeting room space for clients and their attorneys. Space has been identified within the current District Court courtroom to construct a 7'x11' meeting room to meet this need. The estimated construction cost for this space is \$12,500. Funding for this project is provided by the State Indigent Defense Funds.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented on Grant Letters of Support. Staff has received a request from The Village of Mackinaw City's Park and Recreation Board to provide a letter of support for their efforts to obtain a grant for technical assistance by the National Park Service to complete a comprehensive trail plan. A request from Emmet County has also been received to provide a letter of support to obtain funding for signage and educational material to reduce contamination at recycling drop off sites.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Treasurer Buffy Weldon's State Land Bank – Demolition Grant. The State Land Bank is offering \$250,000 in demolition grants. She would like to apply for \$20,000 or less for demo of a burned structure on North C Street from the last round of Foreclosures. This structure had a fire on April 1, 2016 and will need to be removed so the property can be "debris free" for the next Foreclosure Auction. This will be scheduled for approval at the March 10th meeting.

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on the 2020 Census. Staff has put some information on the County website. He also asked the press to get some information out to the public on some of the key dates coming up such as March 2020 – Census invitations are mailed to households; April – July 2020 – Reminder letters/postcards are sent if no response is received; July 2020 – Self-response deadline; December 31, 2020 – Census Bureau delivers the count to the President and March 2021 – States receive official count. This is very critical to get the word out in the next couple of months that citizens will be seeing information from the Census Bureau. The 2020 Census will count everyone who lives in the United States as of April 1, 2020. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and informs how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years. To learn more, please visit www.becountedmi2020.com.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the 2020 Veterans Affairs Agency's (MVAA) County Training Reimbursement. Application for the MVAA County Training Reimbursement requires a Board signature. The 2020 Annual Spring Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC) training is being held in Frankenmuth, Michigan on April 14 – April 17th. This is required training for both County Veteran Service Officers to get their required CEU's to maintain accreditation. The Counties must apply for the reimbursement of all costs after training is complete. Since the training is covered at no cost to the County via this grant, the training is not reflected in the current budget. The initial application must be sent to MVAA via regional coordinator no less than 30 days prior to training.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Sangster, to approve submittal of MVAA Reimbursement Application, authorize Board Chair to sign necessary Agreements and authorize any necessary budget adjustments. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no, and 2 absent.

Chairman John Wallace presented the Resolution #20-04 Support Passage of Legislation to Adopt 4-Year Terms for County Commissioners. This Resolution supports the adoption of House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners within Michigan.

Motion by Commissioner Newman. Motion not seconded. Motion failed.

Discussion was held on waiting until there was a full board since it involved everyone on the board. This matter was placed on the county commissioner's agenda, after the resolution of support by Kalkaska County was pulled from the consent agenda by Commissioner Newman at the Board's February 11th meeting. At the February 11th meeting, it was the consensus of the board to show their support for the expansion of the commissioner's terms of office to four years. Staff was asked to put it back on the agenda for the next Finance Business meeting.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the purchase of three (3) vehicles. The county requested sealed bids from vehicle dealers for the purchase of three (3) 2020 four-wheel/AWD drive SUVs comparable to a Ford Escape-S, Jeep Compass Sport or Chevrolet Equinox to compare to State MI Deal pricing. The County received bids from five companies

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to award the purchase of two (2) 2020 Jeep Compass Sport 4x4's for \$21,249.00 each to Fernelius Auto Group and the purchase of one (1) 2020 Chevrolet Trax to Wheeler Chevrolet for \$19,440.00 and authorize the Chair to sign purchase agreements and any necessary budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the Budget Adjustment-Transfer < \$25,000 and/or Request for Use of Carried Forward Fund Equity. The County Budget Adoption and Amendment Policy states that any budget adjustment greater than \$25,000 be approved by the Board of Commissioners. It has also been practice that the Board reviews all requests for use of fund balance. Based on these criteria, the following budget adjustments require Board Review:

The MIDC FY20 grant was approved this past month; however, the 2020 County budget didn't reflect the unexpended amount from the MIDC FY19 grant. The Michigan Indigent Defense commission reduced the State Grant amount by \$57,208 of unspent funds from the prior year. This budget adjustment decreases the State Grant revenue line item and increases the Fund Equity revenue line item by \$57,208.

When the 2020 budget was originally adopted the amount of the Homemaker contract was budgeted in the wrong line item number. This budget adjustment decreases the Consultant/Individual Provider expenditure line item and increases the Contractual Services expenditure line item by \$50,501.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to approve the inter-department budget transfers, no additional appropriations (from 259-400 to 259-400 in the amount of \$57,208 and from 292-670 to 292-670 in the amount of \$50,501). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Wallace asked Treasurer Weldon about the house that burnt. Treasurer Weldon stated that it was on last year’s foreclosure sale; it burnt in 2016 and has been sitting there a long time. This house is a two story home with a taller crawl space not necessarily a basement with the top floor burned out.

Commissioner Gouine asked Treasurer Weldon what the City of Cheboygan was going to do once they had a blight ordinance and had a burnt house like this. Treasurer Weldon stated that she would like to do was to have some type of policy or resolution where the County of Cheboygan and the City of Cheboygan had a partnership. So when something like this happens, the costs can be shared. There were other counties that have done this and she is working on this.

Commissioner Wallace commented that the Board needs to schedule an Elected Officials Meeting and a Committee of the Whole Planning Session. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the Committee of the Whole Planning Session on April 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. with the place TBD. Administrative Secretary, Kathy Morrow stated that she generally sends out an email with “All The Dates” to see what everyone has available. Then once she receives them back, she narrows the dates down with a deadline of April 24th.

Commissioner Sangster commented that it has been approximately one year ago since the topic came up for the County to look at a resolution regarding solar energy. The Board asked the Planning Commission to take a look at that and it looks like they have done that and was getting closer to holding a Public Hearing. He shared a site plan from Orion Renewable Energy Group LLC with the Board dated February 20, 2020. Grant Township Supervisor, Gil Archambo commented that an open house was held at the Library.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sangster commented that Alcona Health Advisory Board was working to offer the “Stepping Up Initiative” to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the jails and to start this conversation regionally.

Commissioner Gouine attended a Planning Commission meeting and reported that they are working on changing just the size of the signs and not the whole sign ordinance.

Commissioner Wallace commented on the Michigan Works Northeast Consortium Manager’s Report for February 2020, the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments Newsletters of October 19 through December 2019, the Aging Program on what’s available in the county and a notice from Tuscarora Township on wanting to expand their DDA to include the Marina Park Project that was handed out.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent. Meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson of Board of Commissioners