

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
November 26, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Linda Socha, 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.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Patrick Cudney, MSU-E District Coordinator, presented the MSU-E Annual Report. District 3 is responsible for nine counties, including Cheboygan. Mr. Cudney noted that there were a total of 4,189 Cheboygan County citizens who have been involved in MSU-E sponsored clubs and programs.

Leigh Ann Theunick, 4-H & Youth Program Coordinator, introduced members of the FAST-trackers 4-H club. Carl Franzon was one of the FAST-trackers club leaders and council president for the Cheboygan County 4-H. Some of the highlights of the club include science, robotics, rabbits, horticulture, health & fitness, outdoor education, expressive arts, entrepreneurship, creative writing, leadership, community service and food nutrition. The club helps youth members set goals in these areas. Several youths spoke on their projects completed and personal goals made through the club. Commissioner Socha commended the program and the participants.

James DeDecker, an agriculture educator with MSU-E based in Presque Isle County, spoke on the Cover Crop workshop and field day, as well as the MSU-E Master Gardeners program. There were 12 Cheboygan County residents recertified as Master Gardner's in 2012.

Melanie Chiodini, 4-H & Youth Educator, spoke on the MSU-E STEM programs and specifically the 4-H ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Teacher Workshops and the 4-H Discovery Camp. Commissioner Socha thanked and commended Ms. Chiodini and her team for these programs.

Patty Spinella, SNAP-Ed Program Instructor, spoke on a Cooking Matters for Teens class for 8 students from the SAYPA program, Senior Project FRESH program, and the Show Me Nutrition program with students from East and West Elementary.

Michelle Jarvie, Food Safety Educator, spoke on the Food Safety Education programs available including a Cottage Food Law class and a Cooking for Crowds.

Ann Chastain, MSU-E Leadership and Community Engagement, spoke on the Greening Michigan Education programs, including specifically a Facilitative Leadership program and state-wide program delivery.

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Andy Hayes, Community Prosperity with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, spoke on their long standing partnership with MSU-E and aspects regarding programs providing assistance to entrepreneurs, CEC (Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities) program, and facilitating community planning.

Mary McTevia, Office Manager for MSU-E, spoke on the office workings and the 2013 printed Plat Book, CD-ROM and smart phone application.

Patrick Cudney, MSU-E District Coordinator, spoke on an “Enviro-weather station” to be established at North Central Michigan College, the purpose for passing Cottage Food Law for local production and sale and the Farm Bill stalled at the federal government level and SNAP. Mr. Cudney thanked the Board for the time to present their annual report.

Commissioner Matelski commended Mr. Cudney and the entire MSU-E staff for everything they do. Commissioner Socha thanked everyone for coming and noted the many programs and resources available through MSU-E provides strong rationale to continue support.

Alexis Kaczynski, Director of North Country Community Mental Health, the six county public mental health agency serving Cheboygan County, addressed the Board. She stated that North Country Community Mental Health operated with a \$40.5 million dollar budget for 2013, 82% of which was funded by Medicaid. In 2012, they served approximately 4,100 people. There was a major change for North Country Community Mental Health for their managed care structure due to the State of Michigan reducing the number of regions from 18 to 10. This made it so that North Country Community Mental Health will become a participant in a larger region with 21 counties and the new model will have a new entity to handle the new Medicaid contract. Prior to this change, North Country Community Mental Health handled the Medicaid contract. Ms. Kaczynski stated that the care provided to consumers will not be affected. Another major change occurring for North Country Community Mental Health comes with the passage of the Poleski Bills, this will force the integration of the management of substance use disorder services with the management of mental health services which are generally prepaid in-patient health plans. The result of this is that NMSAS will no longer exist and the coordinating services NMSAS provided will now be provided by the regional entity which serves as the prepaid in-patient health plans. Ms. Kaczynski stated that continuing to provide substance abuse disorder services in this transition is paramount. Discussion was held regarding the aforementioned consolidation.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Lawson’s written report included the following items: Fairground Restroom Project - Maintenance crews are currently installing siding on the exterior of the building. The tile contractor had prepped the walls to begin tile installation. Marina Dredging Project - The contractor is removing dredge material from the marina basin. Animal Shelter Parking Lot Project – The contract is currently completing excavation for placement of the gravel base.

Commissioner Redmond asked about the concrete steps on the South Side of the County Building. Administrator Lawson stated that the cement is now curing.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to adopt the following Cheboygan County Resolution: **RESOLUTION 13-25**

“RESOLVED that the County of Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, Michigan does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement Addendum as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the County does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

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1. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records, and to make them available to the Department for auditing at reasonable times.
2. To dredge the facility and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of the said Agreement Addendum.
3. To comply with any and all terms of the said Agreement Addendum including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of the Resolution.”

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Allor to go into closed session at the request of the county administrator on behalf of the county, a party to a collective bargaining agreement with all unions who are actively engaged in contract negotiations with those unions, pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268(c). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 11:26 A.M.

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 12:15 P.M.

Cheboygan County Airport Authority – Administrator Lawson stated that the notable revenue deficiencies include decreased jet fuel sales and court costs due to issues. Commissioner Socha contended that there is an economic benefit for the County from the airport. She stated that the airport board is very dedicated and has done an excellent job on maintaining the airport. The lawsuit the airport is involved in has been putting financial stress on the airport at no fault of the airport board. Finance Director Kortz stated that there are items that will dissipate regarding fees from the lawsuit. The airport board has increased rates and added fees for parking. Ms. Kortz has suggested increasing rent paid by Straits Regional Ride. She stated the Airport Authority originally asked for \$80,000 but suggested appropriating \$75,000, with \$60,000 up front and the remaining \$15,000 held based on need. This was the consensus of the Board.

Cheboygan County Fair – Commissioner Socha requested that the line item be states as “Per Diem” not “Salaries” for Directors. Commissioner Redmond stated that the Fair Board wants to go back to 14 directors as they have been working short with only 13 directors for some time. This increase in directors would add \$600 to the aforementioned line item. Commissioner Redmond also noted that the MGT of America Corp. allocated cost of \$30,648 is the biggest single expense of the fair. He stated in addition to 13 meetings annually, the fair directors are expected to work many hours daily during fair week, in addition to many hours before and after fair week without any additional compensation other than the \$600 annually. Some directors even provide equipment needed for various projects and shows on the grounds. Administrator Lawson stated that the fair is a county activity and is an important way to look at from a budgetary standpoint. Commissioner Socha said the amount the fair is short this year is because of the cost allocation, and stated that it is important to realize the value of volunteers. Administrator Lawson noted that the county has put money into improving the fair and the fairgrounds over the last few years. The fair and the fairgrounds are essentially the only recreational activity expense the county has. There is going to be a need for volunteerism in order to continue to improve fair facilities and provide services. Lengthy discussion was held.

County Treasurer Linda Cronan noted that the cost allocation to MGT is for the entire year, while the Fair Board and budget are only responsible for about a 3 week period. Administrator Lawson

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stated that the allocation is not taking away from the Fair Board – the only reason it is charged as it is essentially because the fund could make money. Ms. Kortz stated that \$600 from the now eliminated Queen Pageant could be added to Per Diem line item in order to pay for the additional fair director.

The Board reviewed the Goals and Objectives for County Departments. Discussion was held on printing and mailing of tax statements in the Equalization Department.

Commissioner Socha stated that there could be an advantage to joining the North West Michigan Council of Governments as an associate member. The Board consensus was to pursue associate membership.

Commissioner Socha said that she had a concern about the number of goals for the Maintenance Department. Administrator Lawson stated that he tries to utilize the skill sets we have in the Maintenance Department and that this is a continuation of that. Commissioner Socha was also concerned with wording in several sections of the Goals and Objectives that could potentially be misconstrued.

Ms. Kortz said that if she finds any errors that she will correct them. She asked if she could provide the same information as last year and was told to do so.

Commissioner Socha stated that the Public Hearing for the 2014 County Budget is to be held at 9:30 A.M. at the December 10, 2013 Finance/Business meeting.

Commissioner Socha stated that the commercial fees charged in the Building Safety Department are low in comparison to other counties.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Clerk/Register of Deeds

Linda Socha
Chairperson