

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
February 25, 2014**

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, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** Commissioner John Wallace (excused)

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Wallace).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Stephanie Jacobsen, a citizen of Inverness Township, addressed the Board regarding the Great Up North marketing alliance initiative (G.U.N.). She expressed her personal opposition of the G.U.N. group and its desire to use taxpayer money for funding. Commissioner Socha stated that marketing the county to attract visitors is a good thing, but should not be at taxpayer expense, rather area chambers and tourist bureaus should be engaged for funding. She said that the Board of Commissioners have not allocated funds to G.U.N.

Paula Paolino, a Burt Township resident, and owner of Paula's Café in Indian River, thanked Commissioner Socha for her comments and expressed her opposition to the G.U.N. group as well.

Janet Vance, a resident of Tuscarora Township, commented on the bad condition of many roads in the county and how there is no funding to replace aged equipment. She expressed confusion as to why the airport is receiving a runway re-pavement but there is no money to replace road commission equipment. Commissioner Socha explained that the airport received aviation grant funding with a low match for the project. Ms. Vance expressed personal disappointment with the cost of the Master Plan development and lack of accountability for those costs. Commissioner Socha said the costs of the Master Plan development could be compiled and Finance Director Kortz said she would get that information together.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Allor to request that the County Administrator send correspondence advising the Great Up North Marketing Alliance, Inc. that it is the position of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners that taxpayers' monies will not be allocated or expended for their marketing project and th Board acknowledges that there will not be a Board appointee to this alliance. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries with 5 yes, 1 no (Commissioner Gauthier), and 1 absent (Commissioner Wallace).

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

County Prosecuting Attorney Daryl Vizina presented the 2013 Annual Report for his office. Prosecutor Vizina thanked the Board for their decision to grant raises to all of his staff and himself. He reviewed and highlighted his report stating that his office authorized 208 felony cases in 2013, consistent with previous years. The Prosecuting Attorney's office handled 1,156 cases total in 2013, also consistent with previous years. The total caseload figure does not include the number of Child Support/Paternity Establishment cases handled within the office. There were

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several important cases processed in 2013 including People v. Bauers (Child Abuse), People v. Hanson (CSC), People v. Brasseur (CSC), and People v. Garrison. Prosecutor Vizina reported that 47.2% of the caseload are drug or alcohol felonies, 25.7% are property crimes, 11.9% are sex crimes, and 7.1% are crimes against person. Prosecutor Vizina reported how economically beneficial and time savings the installation of the Polycom system has been in the District and Circuit courts. He stated that his office has lost a part time clerical position, the Domestic Violence Prosecutor position, and the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Prosecutor over the last year. He said there is a lot of concern regarding the loss of the S.A.N.E. Prosecutor because of the late-night service and excessive search warrants. Prosecutor Vizina said in light of losing the domestic violence prosecutor and the SANE prosecutor, and looking ahead it may be necessary at some point to request that on-call compensation, which was eliminated several years, be reinstated. Chairperson Socha advised him to meet with the County Administrator and Finance Director if the need for additional funding or re-instating overtime compensation for on-call hours for the Prosecutor and the Assistant Prosecutors becomes evident. Prosecutor Vizina stated he would like to first see how time management develops as the elimination of the S.A.N.E. Prosecutor is relative recent before he requests additional funding. Sheriff Dale Clarmont commended Prosecutor Vizina and his office staff for their efficiency, professionalism and responsiveness to the law enforcement officers of this county. Chairperson Socha also commended Prosecutor Vizina for offering to pick up the caseload from the S.A.N.E. Prosecutor. Prosecutor Vizina commented that his office is at its lowest staffing level in over two decades but has remained progressive and efficient despite the decrease in staff because of the use of technology. Prosecutor Vizina expressed how much a new county website could provide in efforts to streamline services through his office and to continue to do more, with less.

Community Corrections Case Manager for Cheboygan County, Marie Frick, and Community Corrections Program Director Gina Theriault presented the NEMCOG Community Corrections report. Ms. Frick reported that Community Corrections acts as an alternative to incarceration for low-risk, non-assaultive offenders and also coordinates treatment and placement. Ms. Frick stated that the G.E.D. program is offered in the jail and G.E.D. completion rates have been notable. Ms. Theriault stated the dynamics of the offenders has changed dramatically with a substantial increase in drug and alcohol offenses. Ms. Theriault stated that the focus has shifted from using the inmates as work crews to providing more education and rehabilitation services. Commissioner Matelski asked if because of the changes in government healthcare if there will be additional funding available for health services. Ms. Theriault stated that there will be health care coverage for inmates in need of medical services. Commissioner Allor asked about the costs incurred with the privatization of the G.E.D. program for Community Corrections. Ms. Theriault stated that any additional costs are absorbed by the Community Corrections program because they felt that is an important part of the program for the inmates. Chairperson Socha clarified for the Board that the \$48/day savings reported in the Community Corrections presentation is actually closer to \$20/day because fixed costs have to be compensated for. Sheriff Clarmont clarified the more realistic figure is closer to \$20/day and added that the completion of a G.E.D. for inmates are an incalculable savings for those who leave jail more educated than when they came in. Ms. Frick stated that she contacts non-profit organizations when she has referral inmates for the program.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson reported the following: Community Development Director Steve Schnell has been asked to serve on the Michigan Works Work Force Development Board. The County Building's easement with Glen's grocery store has expired so a request for a temporary extension will be coming forward in the near future. A need for a long term easement will need to be addressed this summer after engineer inspection.

Civil Counsel has been working on issues regarding the ownership and chain of title of the fairground property, The findings of his work will be presented at the next Board meeting along with his recommendations to correct flaws in the title of the property.

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**OLD BUSINESS** – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented a request for an equipment purchase using the State of Michigan FY2011 Operation Stonegarden Grant. This is for an infrared spotlight to assist in the search and rescue or apprehension of individuals. There is no financial impact on the county.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to accept the Sheriff's recommendation and to approve the purchase of 4 NOPTIC PSV-1000 spotlight mounted thermal imagers with required hardware from KERIF Night Vision out of Las Vegas, Nevada at the bid price of \$15,129 from the FY2011 State of Michigan Operation Stonegarden grant, authorize the Chairperson to sign any forthcoming required documentation and also authorize necessary budget adjustments. Discussion was held about a question of privacy invasion with the infrared spotlight and how far the vision goes. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented a budget adjustment transfer in the amount of \$2,127 for District Court relative to the Magistrate's on-call time that was miscalculated for 2013. For 2014 a transfer from the Carried Forward Fund Equity to On Call and Fringe in the amount of \$1,225 and Amendment #4 to the 2014 Salary & Wage Resolution –General Employees. Relative to the Circuit Court a budget adjustment transfer from the Carried Forward Fund Equity expenditure line item to the Full Time and Fringe expenditure line items in the total amount of \$962.

**Motion** by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Matelski to approve the inter-department budget transfers that were provided and to adopt Amendment #4 to the Cheboygan County 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution #13-027 General Employees. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Finance Director Kortz presented a Raise Revenue and Expenditures for Fund 101 Dept. 228 in the amount of \$12,500 from Fund Equity to System Replacement/Equipment for copiers

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to approve the budget adjustments to raise revenue and expenditures for \$12,500 in 2014 in the line items provided. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairperson Socha stated that Commissioner Wallace's wife is in intensive care.

Commissioner Redmond distributed evaluation packets to each Board member for the annual evaluation of the County Administrator. He stated that the evaluations are to be returned by March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Commissioner Gauthier offered membership forms to anyone interested in the 100 Club. This group exists to fund raise in order to provide financial support to emergency personnel injured or killed in the line of duty.

Commissioner Matelski stated there was an article written in the newspaper about the raises given to the elected officials. He stated he was approached regarding the differences in pay between the two female elected officials and the male elected officials, and why the prosecutor makes more than the sheriff. He requested a list from Finance Director Kari Kortz of the total cost of each individual elected official.

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Commissioner Allor stated she spoke with the IT Director regarding the iPads and creating a “General Information” folder that will allow the Commissioners to share documents more easily.

Chairperson Socha stated that the G.U.N. group is currently using the Great Up North website as the county is not using it. County Administrator Lawson recommended transferring the Great Up North primary website to the Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to transfer the Great Up North primary website to the Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

County Treasurer Linda Cronan commented on the information contained on the motherboards of the County’s old copy machines that could be accessed. Finance Director Kari Kortz stated that William’s Office Equipment clears the information from the County’s old copy machines. Chairperson Socha asked for verification of that process. County Administrator Lawson stated that the copy units are most likely refurbished so the machines have to be cleared.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson