

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 22, 2018**

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 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Karen Johnson, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski, John Wallace and Robert Bolinger

ABSENT: None

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jerry Lang citizen of Inverness Township and retired State Police Officer commented on an article "It's time to clean things up" that ran in the Cheboygan Daily newspaper on May 11, 2018 and was written by Matt Friday. A copy was handed out to the Board of Commissioners. He stated that this article was right on. If we were out enjoying a nice ride in this wonderful County of Cheboygan, one cannot help to observe that in many places where trash had accumulated in yards, broken windows in homes covered in cardboard, lawns unmowed and basically junk all over in plain sight. Cheboygan County needs a blight ordinance and the County needs it now. Each township has a person on their Board and this person could be entitled to issue a written warning to violators for the first time and maybe a second or third notice could have a fine, which would be increased for each time for each visit incurred. There was no need to have junk all over their yards. Most of us live in this area because it is a beautiful area. Let's not trash it up. He stated that he hoped somewhere down the line something could be done.

Carl Muscott citizen of Tuscarora Township commented on the proposal on the agenda from Mackinaw City Planning Commission. He commended them in taking some initiative on getting some of the local governments involved, but he felt the representation was too broad and there wasn't a fair representation of votes. He discouraged the Board of Commissioner to become involved.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MSU-E, Government and Public Policy Educator, Lindsey Gardner introduced herself to the Board of Commissioners. Her focus was on land use and community leadership. This position was new to Cheboygan County. She was looking forward to working with the Board of Commissioners. Originally she was from the Detroit area and moved here in February. She received a bachelor's degree in Human and Organizational Development and a master's degree in Community Development from Vanderbilt University. She has worked for a number of non-profit organizations addressing such issues as preserving affordable housing, creating job opportunities for people with disabilities, developing urban farming, increasing access to continuing education and public education reform. As the Government and Public Policy

Educator, she would bring the latest resources, research and training from the campus of MSU-E to the residents and to the local officials. She was part of a State wide work team that included certified planners, attorneys, experts in tax, and finance governance as well as other educators in food systems, natural resources, entrepreneurship and tourism. So if community issues arise here in Cheboygan, she could help get the resources, training or find the right people that would help respond to them. There were three separate programs that could be brought to Cheboygan County with one being training on planning and zoning for solar ordinances and she has been working with Mr. Lawson to make sure that the Board had all of the information needed. Another one was the New Commissioner's School a/k/a County Commissioner Workshop, which was being offered in Gaylord this year and MSU-E was partnering with the Michigan Association of Counties. Thirdly, the Citizen Planner Program was a flagship program for land use decision makers as well as residents to learn how to make planning and zoning decisions to better the community. She stated that if there were other areas of interests or issues that the Board was facing here in Cheboygan County, she would be happy to provide any education and coordinate with Mr. Lawson to bring that program to the Board and the residents of this County.

Department of Defense-Guard Reserve, Peter Pallas & Albert Janutolo gave a presentation about why it was important to retain and hire a Guard and Reserve. The guard brings to the table as a viable hard working employee. Mr. Pallas handed out a sheet listing the "Top Ten Reasons to Hire Members of the Guard and Reserve." Half of the military today are Guard and Reserves. The active duty force was less prior to WWII. The country relies on the Guard and Reserve to project the military influence around the world. Both of them work for the Department of Defense and also a program called Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Program. Mr. Janutolo stated that their main issue was to gain and retain active support from all public and private employers for the women and men of the Guard and Reserves. They educate the employers on the Guard and Reserves rights and their responsibilities to the employees. They also try to mediate any conflicts that might arise. This program was founded in 1972 by an executive order and they work directly with the Department of Defense. The ESGR Program employment initiatives partner with State and Federal Agencies to enhance employment opportunities for Guard and Reserve members. An employer can find employees through the MI Talent Bank or Job Fair website. The employer outreach was to educate employers about the Guard and Reserve and any of the components that were under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which was established in 1994. The Military Outreach was another branch that they supported. Briefings were held for personnel annually. This afternoon they were at the Alpena International Guards in Alpena giving a briefing to approximately 75 troops and their commanders about their rights if they were deployed, how much time they have to get back to work once their deployment was over with and also to ensure them of different things that they should take care of if they were on a pre-deployed notice. How to take care of their own personal matters and when they return, how to go about reacquiring their jobs. This was done annually throughout the State of Michigan. The military outreach also did an annual briefing to redeploy and post deployment military people. Through the summer months, Camp Grayling Days was held and this year it was on August 14th. It was a full day at Camp Grayling and this gives the employers an opportunity to see what the guard members actually do for the training. The Guard and Reserves have to go through the same training as a regular soldier did and they were held at the same standards. Mr. Pallas invited the Board of Commissioners for the Camp Grayling Days on August. 14th. It was a full day of activities with breakfast at the Officers Club, MRE's for lunch out in the field and on the range and bring them back for dinner at the Officers Club to finish the evening.

Mackinaw City Planning Commission, Ron Dye presented a proposal to the Board of Commissioners to participate in the creation of “The Straits of Mackinac Enhancement Corporation”. The Mackinaw City Planning Commission believes that this committee would allow for greater regional cooperation among the governmental leadership of the Straits of Mackinac to improve health, recreation, transportation, education, economic development, and environmental management for the betterment of all the citizens of the Straits of Mackinac. This wasn’t a new idea. These exist all over the country. Most of these committees go out and try to raise money to help with things that were already going on. These were not established to help plan with any old organizations that already exist to become a governmental body. It was there to help what was already going on. An example of one that was started back in the early 80’s in Indianapolis was called “White River State Park Commission.” This commission raised money to help organizations for example to help rebuild the Indianapolis Zoo. The goal was to be more efficient at raising money. It was not to plan or take over, but to make what you already had better. It was a way to have an organization in place when an opportunity came along.

Commissioner Sangster commented that he would like to proceed with caution and follow this because he would hate to lose a seat on this Board. He would like to get more information and continue to be informed.

District Forester Brittany VanderWall introduced herself and stated that she serves both Cheboygan and Presque Isle County as County Forester with her home district in Presque Isle County. Ms. VanderWall stated that she didn’t have much of a presentation, but if the Board wanted the numbers, they could find them in the Michigan Forestry Assistance Program 2017 Annual Report. Essentially, there were 20 foresters that served 50 counties in the State of Michigan. She gives private land owners assistance in Conservation Forestry, which could be accessing their property value, helping them figure out a timber harvest, or if they have a problem with pests or diseases, a solution to banishing or preventing them, or any forest education regarding their property. As far as updates, she serves locally, was the State Chair of the Michigan Tree Farm Committee and she was also the Vice Chair for the State Societies of American Foresters for the Michigan chapter. She was just elected to the National Committee for Advisory for the American Forestry Foundations. Assistance was provided on all channels with a lot of walks and workshops.

Commissioner Gouine stated that the tick population has increased substantially. Ms. VanderWall suggested to use pyrethrum and this would keep them away. It could be purchased at any garden shops. Don’t put it on clothes that you like to wear inside, but maybe a particular pair of pants that you exclusively wear in the woods. Longer growing seasons makes for a larger tick population. She suggested keeping the grass in your yards and the woods mowed. Also to be sure to give yourself a tick check.

Lt. Ken Mills presented the SANE 2017 Annual Report. The 2017 annual report contained a great deal of statistical data that gave a quick glance of SANE’s activity for the year and contained highlights of some of their significant cases and drugs seized along with drug arrests/tiers; forfeitures/seizures. SANE does public affairs by sending out a monthly RX Report to over 500 pharmacies and physicians’ offices in Northern Michigan that highlighted the names of subjects who was arrested by SANE for illegally selling prescription drugs. SANE maintains a high clearance rate of around 90% in drug cases year after year. The clearance rate was based on cases that resulted in arrests. This reflects the high quality of cases that SANE detectives put together, which resulted in the arrests of drug dealers in the communities they serve. Presentations by SANE were down compared to previous years. Maps were given showing total drug arrests by team and zip codes.

In 2017, SANE had a new office built, which had created a much better working environment for SANE personnel and would serve SANE well for years to come. The new office and the work done by the team could not have been accomplished without the great support they received from the law enforcement community and the community members they serve.

CCE-911 Director Pam Woodbury introduced herself as the new Director for CCE-911 and gave a history of her background. She wanted the Board to be able to put a face to the name and also to let the Board know that they could contact her anytime when they needed anything. There had been great strides made in the past month in a half since she had been here with moving the 800 MHz project forward and with working on revising the original agreement, which formed the Tri-County Emergency Service Center. A reminder was given about the annual Tri-County Meeting, which was scheduled for tomorrow at Noon to be held at the Headlands in Mackinaw City and she was excited to see everyone there. There will be an 800 MHz presentation given along with talks about the Calm Agreement Revision and it would be a chance for all three counties to have some good discussions. Discussion was held on the number of staff employed, turnover of staff, rate of pay, over time due to vacations, the difficult issues of the job and the benefits of the 800 MHz radio system.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported at the Planning Commission's May 16, 2018 meeting the commission reviewed draft language concerning solar regulations and provided input for language modifications. The Planning Commission would continue work to move toward scheduling a public hearing in the future. Commissioner Sangster questioned if the Solar Company would require Planning and Zoning to produce a contract language of who would be buying their power. Supervisor of Grant Township Gil Archambo commented that the Solar Company would not build until all of the power has been sold before they would proceed and selling the power would not be a problem.

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that the Jail Contractor had finished installation of underground work, the geo-foam system and was in the process of pouring the footings and foundation of the addition. Due to ground water issues, a change order was approved in the amount of \$3,189.00 to place 3" of limestone as a base layer under the geo-foam pursuant to the recommendation of the soils engineer. He noted that staff has authorization to approve up to \$25,000 in change orders for projects. If they start approaching that number, then he would let the Board know. He was expecting one other change order because the contractor found a drain that was draining into a storm sewer line and it should be draining through the sanitary system line not through a separator. The colors chosen for the storage building were Sahara tan on the side walls and burnished slate on the roof. The contractors would be ordering the steel building and site work should start in the next couple of weeks.

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported as part of the 800 MHz Radio Project, and amendment to the Interlocal agreement creating the 911 Central Dispatch Authority of Lower Michigan had been completed by the legal counsels of CCE-911 and the Counties. The amendment restates the articles of incorporation to reaffirm the legal basis for incorporation confirm the commonly used name of CCE-911 Central Dispatch Authority, clarify its powers and limitations. There were no changes to the board make up. The agreement did place new provisions that require CCE-911 to submit their budget to the counties for review by August 31 each year and required any increase in the budget for operational or capital projects above the CPI to be approved by the Counties before adoption by CCE-911. The percentage cost each units pays for operational

cost had not changed. This document would be discussed at the CCE-911's Tri-County meeting to be held at the Headlands on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 12:00 P.M. All Board members were encouraged to attend. This item would be placed on the June 12, 2018 for adoption.

Each County would also need to discuss and finalize their approach to funding the 800 MHz radio project. The two ballot options for voter consideration were a millage vote or an increase in phone surcharge. At the Boards work session, discussion was held concerning a request to increase the phone surcharge for operational and capital needs on the November Ballot for voter consideration. Staff would prepare information concerning funding options for Board review at the June 12, 2018 meeting. One factor to consider was that the Act that permits for a surcharge to be placed on a phone bill was scheduled to sunset at the end of 2021. Although the bill was likely to be extended it was not certain at this time.

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that the County's Indigent Defense Plan had been approved by the MIDC. The County would have 180 days to implement the approved plan once funding was awarded.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

District Forester Brittany VanderWall stated that she likes her job and she would not like to lose it. This was the opinion of the County stating the Board valued the County resource. She was employed with the Conservation District, but the Michigan Department of Agriculture holds the grant and the funding comes from the general fund. The thought was that the Qualified Forest Program would fund the whole 20 forester grant program state wide and, hopefully, increase to cover more counties. Every year there were potential budget cuts. Resolution No. 18-06 opposing the Budget Reductions to the Qualified Forest Program was presented. The proposed budget cuts would result in 25% reduction referrals of management plans to the private sector, 25% reduction in yearly economic value referrals to the private sector, 25% reduction in Qualified Forest Program enrollments and Forestland Enhancement Fund Verifications.

Commissioner Sangster commented how much forestry was a huge important especially with the new mills and things happening in Grayling and he was concerned for the future.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to adopt

Resolution No. 18-06

Resolution Against Proposed Budget Reductions to the Qualified Forest Program

Whereas, Cheboygan County recognizes the importance of the Qualified Forest Program and the positive effects of the Forestry Assistance Program Foresters to the local economy and positive response of the public to the services offered by Forestry Assistance Program Foresters.

Whereas, the County of Cheboygan has been positively augmented by the presence of a Michigan Department of Agriculture funded Qualified Forest Program, Forestry Assistance Program Forester.

Whereas, the State of Michigan has proposed budget reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

Whereas, the County of Cheboygan is firmly opposed to any funding reduction that effects the quantity of Forestry Assistance Program Foresters.

Whereas, the County of Cheboygan is firmly opposed to any funding reductions to the Qualified Forest Program.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners is against the passage or enactment of budget reductions to the **Qualified Forest Program**.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Michigan State Senate the Michigan State House of Representatives, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.

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

Case Manager and Coordinator for the 53rd Circuit Court Drug Court Nicole Pawlowski presented the Drug Court – Approval of MDCGP and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Certification Application. Cheboygan County Drug Court desires to apply for grant funds to continue the Drug Court Program. The application/certification for these grants was due on June 1, 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to approve the submittal of the Cheboygan County Drug Court Grant/Certification Application, and all future forthcoming documentation after review and approval by the Finance Director, and Legal Counsel, if applicable. A roll call was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Administrator Jeff Lawson presented the MSHDA Blight Program Grant Amendment MBP-11-Removal of Gold Front Structures. He stated the County had requested and had been granted a grant term extension to 9/30/2018 to complete the project. Today, there was an engineer looking at the building and once he received his report, he would clarify the timeline and scheduled the removal. This extension would be a safety net rather than an actual necessity for the County.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Newman, to approve the MSHDA Blight Program Grant Amendment – Grant #MBP-11 and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Johnson stated that at the last Board meeting the Board requested the Staff to send a letter of nonsupport regarding the “Assessing Reform Proposal”. Administrator Lawson stated that the letter was sent out to State Representative Allor and Chatfield, Senator Schmidt and the Michigan Association of Counties. State Representative Allor stopped by and talked with them and she was making contact with the State concerning this. Staff would gather more information to see where the conversation was.

Commissioner Gouine stated that he had talked with Bill Crist over the weekend on the Smith Rapids. Mr. Crist has been a dredger forever and his father before him. He explained that there was a rock culvert. It was 4’ deep on each side, level on the bottom and approximately 200 yards long. This was where the bottle neck was. The water in the summertime was only 2’ deep. The citizens of Black Lake do not want it deeper in the middle, but would like it extended wider, which would increase the flow about a third. This was all rock and it would need to be drilled or blasted. There was a road right next to it that could be used to load out on. He knew the engineers would be looking at this. Commissioner Wallace commented that this was good information shared.

Commissioner Johnson addressed the solid waste management plan and wanted to get the Board discussing if they plan on moving forward and how they plan on moving forward to get some movement on this considering since there hasn't been any since last February. She suggested they go ahead and put the solid waste management plan committee together and start the process. Commissioner Sangster concurred that they needed to move forward with the solid waste management plan, but were they just doing this because of what was now happening. Commissioner Johnson stated that there was monies set aside in the budget of approximately \$7,000. There were some issues that had to be addressed because of it not being updated right along in order to accomplish the full task.

Administrator Lawson stated that NEMCOG was the agent that facilitated this in the past. A couple things would come into play here. The Board identified that an issue as far as citing transfer stations wasn't very clear. If the Board brings the conversation back open to amend the plan because this was something that needed to be corrected. The Board of Commissioners could identify a target area of what they want the committee to work on. The second thing was the Board talked about at the work session a couple weeks ago was the possibility of requiring the passing of an ordinance that would allow the County do some sort of licensing for haulers in the County. If these items were not identified, the scope of the solid waste management plan could get quite large and the intent might not be to open it that large. Another factor was the State through the Governor's Office was looking at the possibility of opening back up solid waste plans and renaming more based on recycling. Staff has received word that there was going to be grant funding available in the next year or two to help amend plans based on recycling and they will try to get more information. These were the three (3) areas to look at and he didn't think that there needed to be discussion on any changes as to where the waste goes for the County. Commissioner Sangster stated that he would like NEMCOG to facilitate this and come back with a workshop to identify a little bigger outline. Commissioner Johnson stated that having the committee put this together was a better strategy. There was input from individuals that actually worked in this area and they were the ones who were going to be mostly impacted by this. There was unanimous consensus of the Board to go ahead and reopen up the solid waste management plan for the committee to amend specific topics identified by the Board.

Commissioner Wallace reminded the Board about the list of priorities that didn't get discussed in the Planning Session.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Gil Archambo citizen of Grant Township commented on the Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting scheduled for June 6, 2018. He stated the Administrator stated there were two major topics on the agenda and if there was time, they would possibly talk about the solar ordinance. Administrator Lawson stated that it would be placed on the agenda, but he didn't know how long the Heritage Cove discussion would take. It was up to the Board Chair to decide. Commissioner Wallace stated that it was the Board of Commissioner's position to see that it was discussed as soon as possible.

Wendy Dixon citizen of Mullett Township commented that she spoke before the Board last September and the dam management in Cheboygan. She stated that Scott Swanson had written a newspaper article back in 2016 for the 'Straitland Resorter', which she took a lot of time and effort to look into because it was talking about it being a weather issue. She spent a lot of time at the DNR looking into what was going on with the gate management. She was very saddened to see that it had nothing to do with the weather. In September, the Board of Commissioner suggested that she stick with the DNR because this was their forte and the

Board didn't oversee this. The reason why she was coming back was Cheboygan County has three of the biggest lakes in Michigan and this watershed that all drains through Cheboygan is the highest water flow in the State. It's as though the DNR does not understand a lot of their procedures. The DNR response from the two letters that she had written stated that they were taking care of everything. For example there was a draw down procedure. In the fall by November 15th there was to be a 6" draw down. In the last 12 years, the DNR has not met the 6" draw down. It averaged 6.6" over with the high being 8.5" over. The lowest was 1.5" over. There were a lot of neat graphs in the DNR Office with some going back to 1969 with every one of them show the draw down incorrectly. There was no legal corridor, but the DNR has an Operational Agreement which was failing to be enforced. It was affecting the folks on Black Lake who just this spring saw their lake 2' over the lake level. Mullett Lake saw 10" over, Crooked Lake was 5" over and she had no idea about Burt Lake. The DNR needs to look at and follow their procedures. She would like to spend time and give the information to the Drain Commissioner and bring it back to the Board. Cheboygan County's Natural Resources need to be protected.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gouine asked who was in charge of the Alverno Dam draw down. He stated that the Alverno Dam was holding back water and he believed it was because the Mullett Lake was full and that created more water at the Klever Pond.

Commissioner Wallace stated that this was why the study would be helpful to see what was going on and then the Board could see what they could do about it.

Commissioner Sangster stated to just remember that there were two sides to every story and there were just as many complaints about the river being too low as the river being too high.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster seconded by Commissioner to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson