

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 30, 2010**

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 Socha, Makima, Redmond, Page, Wallace and Bolinger

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Mushlock

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

Chairperson Socha said the floor would be opened for public comment on the housing matter following the NEMAH presentation and Board discussion on this matter.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

CEO of Northeast Michigan Affordable Housing (NEMAH) Al West addressed the Board regarding the County's housing program. NEMAH, a state certified Community Housing Development Organization as well as a Community Development Corporation, has been in existence for over ten years serving an eleven county region. NEMAH currently operates housing programs in Presque Isle and Ogemaw counties at no cost to those counties, being paid only by the administration dollars that are allowed to be earned by the programs and services it administers. Mr. West said other MSHDA programs are utilized for leverage funding which results in MSHDA's dollars going farther. Detailed information was provided on the structure, experience and program statistics of NEMAH. Michelle LaBar, Presque Isle County Home Improvement Program Director and Foreclosure Program Manager; Lee Ann Fischer, Ogemaw County Home Improvement Program Director and Well Program Director; and David Farmer, Director of Construction were present to help answer question. Mr. West said he does the majoring of grant writing for NEMAH and county funds would not be used to operate the office. Local administrative staff and local contractors would be used by NEMAH. If the Board desires to keep the Housing Commission in place that would be workable. Carrie Carlson currently represents Cheboygan County on the NEMAH Board of Directors. Much discussion was held and many questions addressed. Administrator Overton said housing programs vary greatly in the various counties with little if any direction from the state. He said every county pretty has some type of a housing program and either has a non-profit running it or a part time employee running it. No other county uses tax dollars to fund housing, but only grant administration money, the exception was this year Antrim did contribute \$20,000. In Otsego the full time employee does both Housing and Veterans and does not utilize local tax dollars, but uses administrative grant money. The County's cost for the current Housing Department is approximately \$75,000 annually.

Housing Director Shar Grawey stated under the current Housing Department structure leverage funds have been utilized and the department has participated in many of the same programs NEMAH does. Ms. Grawey noted the importance of serving the needy residents of this county and keeping the staffing local. Chairperson Socha that is the Board's intent and to be able to increase the number of residents served at no cost to local taxpayers.

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**BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented a budget summary report by department with calculations through October 31, 2010. Also presented was a color coded budget spreadsheet by line item on changes made since the September 28, 2010 budget meeting for review and discussion. The current 2011 budget totals \$10,336,352, a decrease of just over one million dollars from 2010. At this point \$118,886 from the Tax Revolving Fund would be required to balance the budget. Administrator Overton said plans to present an operational report on the SAYPA program in the near future. Ms. Kortz said she will continue to work on Child Care, LEPC and Office of Emergency Management. Chairperson Socha thanked all those who worked on the budget in any way.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – Commissioner-elect Tony Matelski asked for a list of acronyms used in county government.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Redmond commented that there appears to be a chance of movement in the legislature regarding road commissioner districts according to MAC; and urged everyone to call the legislators.

Treasurer Linda Cronan said the County Building Christmas Luncheon will be December 10<sup>th</sup>. This year it is a potluck and everyone is encouraged to bring a door prize.

Commissioner Makima reported receiving a letter from a county resident who had received a certificate of appreciation from the County Drain Commissioner on receiving an award from the Chamber of Commerce. The writer had questions regarding why the drain commissioner would do this and the taxpayers having to pay for it.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson