

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
September 24, 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 Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Stephenie Jacobson, a resident of Inverness Township, addressed the Board regarding questions raised at the last Finance/Business Board meeting regarding the Cheboygan County Council on Aging. Ms. Jacobson commended the members of the Millage Appropriation Committee for raising questions about the budgetary information provided by the CCCOA. Ms. Jacobson addressed her concern regarding a future senior millage increase request as a citizen. Commissioner Socha requested a copy of her public comment statement in order for the Board to address her specific questions. Commissioner Socha specified that the allocated amount of senior millage is not set until all aforementioned contingencies have been met.

~~Gina~~ *Janet (correction 10-8-13 met)* Vance, a resident of Tuscarora Township, also addressed the Board regarding the same topic. Ms. Vance commented on what she referred to as "stamp-gate"; an incident that had occurred with a previous Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner for using county-funded stamps for his personal political publications. She noted that this type of conduct is not taken lightly with prosecuting agencies. Ms. Vance encouraged the Board to continue investigating the CCCOA.

Commissioner Socha clarified that Cheboygan County currently contracts with three non-profit organizations to provide senior services funds from the Senior Millage, and any other non-profit organizations could apply for a portion of the Senior Millage. She noted that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioner's oversight comes into play regarding the Senior Millage allocation and making sure the appropriations and the requests are accurate.

Paula Paolino, a resident of Burt Township, questioned the Board of Commissioners as to why the Board of Commissioner's meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Socha responded that the Board has attempted to change meeting times in the past, and that there was not a positive effect on meeting attendance for doing so. Additionally, most resources for the Board meetings require staff that work during the day and paying employees overtime to facilitate meetings is an extra expenditure for the county. Commissioner Wallace stated that the Board has even tried to move meetings to different locations in the County to help with attendance, but it did not help with attendance.

Ralph Pruder, a resident of Tuscarora Township, addressed the Board regarding his concern over the Veterans Pier project bid in Tuscarora Township awarded to Gordy Frasier. Mr. Pruder asked the Board to require and request an audit of the funds for the project. Mr. Pruder stated that in June 2010, the fund balance was approximately \$1500, in June 2011, the fund balance

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was approximately \$3401, in June 2012, the fund balance was approximately \$28,000 and at the end of June 2013, the fund balance was approximately \$500,000 and the DNR Trust Fund Grant has been secured. Mr. Pruder stated that he has made the same request of Tuscarora Township but that his request has ignored. Commissioner Socha stated that the County has no jurisdiction or authority over another elected body, such as the Tuscarora Township Board. She stated that Mr. Pruder, as a citizen, would have to deal with the Tuscarora Township Board or even possibly a funding source in order to have an audit done.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS - None

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Kari Kortz, Finance Director, requested the approval of payment for the airport hangar door project. There are two bills needing to be paid totaling \$13,368.13. The funds are available in the approved 2013 budget. Approval is needed for payments over \$10,000.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier, to approve the two payments for the hangar door project at the Cheboygan County Airport in the amount of \$13,368.13. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Socha commented on an article in a recent “On Law” publication. The article commends Attorney Hader as a Michigan “rising star” attorney. Attorney Hader has been staff attorney for the Board of Commissioners at times. Commissioner Socha noted how well Attorney Hader is doing.

Commissioner Allor commented regarding a lawsuit filed by the Mackinac Center against the City of Westland for the amount that Westland is charging for FOIA requests. Westland charges a \$5 fee to begin the FOIA process and \$1 per page charge for copies. There is an issue with the \$5 initiation fee and the \$1 per page charge. Commissioner Socha noted that there is legislation in Lansing suggesting to reduce that \$1 per page fee charged, down to a 10 cent per page fee.

Commissioner Wallace commented to the public audience members that he is very confident in the current sitting Board of Commissioners. He noted that a major responsibility of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners is to fund and provide services for the County in the best interest of the taxpayers through wise spending.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Amber Libby
Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds

Linda Socha
Chairperson