

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 28, 2016**

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

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Chris Brown, 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.

Commissioner Redmond removed Item 10 *Board Planning Session* from the Agenda.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented Mike Charboneau with the Alverno Fire Chief Service Award for his many years of service as Chief and Fireman. Sheriff Clarmont also recognized Mike Charboneau for his dedication to the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team. He served on the search and rescue team since its inception in 2014 retiring this year. Commissioner Redmond thanked Mr. Charboneau for his service on behalf of the citizens of Cheboygan County.

Community Development Director Steve Schnell presented the 2015 Annual Community Development Report. He noted the work outlined in the report demonstrates the hard work of the people in his department. Mr. Schnell stated that he has seen positive development in his department and throughout the community in the last year. He noted that there has been a 45% increase in residential additions and a 242% increase in commercial construction. Mr. Schnell stated that regarding the Housing program, 100% of grant income was expended and even some of the program income was expended for home rehabilitation projects and emergency repairs. Mr. Schnell noted that the Housing program has seen applications from a lot of low income families noting currently there are 195 people on the waiting list for assistance. Mr. Schnell told the Board that the main source of grant funding for the Housing program is being eliminated and will stop at the end of 2017. The need in the community has not stopped so the department is seeking alternative sources of funding and partnerships with other funding units. Mr. Schnell commented on the activities of the Planning Commission in 2015, including Heritage Cove and the County capital improvement plan. Mr. Schnell stated that there has been a slight increase in zoning permits. Mr. Schnell commented on the new computer web mapping capabilities. Building Official Matt Cronk presented information regarding building safety in 2015. Mr. Cronk stated that residential construction value in the County has seen a 97% increase since 2012. He stated that commercial construction value in the County has shown even stronger growth with an increase of 500% since 2013. He noted that the department has engaged in a lot of efficiencies like doing more than one type of inspection at one visit. He said it is a building department priority to educate the building community about changes in the codes enforced by the department and encourage pre-building meeting to identify potential issues.

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Commissioner Allor inquired as to Matt Cronk's certifications needed as Building Official. Mr. Schnell responded that Mr. Cronk has the certifications he needs as Building Official and that he has more licensures as Building Official as well as continuing education. Commissioner Gauthier asked what the trend for building permits looks like in 2016. Mr. Cronk responded that at this time the department is already exceeding last year. Commissioner Matelski asked if it is federal or state funding that was being eliminated for the Housing program by the end of 2017. Mr. Schnell responded that it is federal funding funneled through the State of Michigan Housing Authority and the state-level receipt of the funding is changing regarding the allocation of the funding. Discussion was held. Commissioner Brown complemented the Community Development Department and staff and noted that with big capital projects occurring in the near future, the Department should be proactive to continue the level of customer service they provide. Commissioner Gauthier requested for the Community Development Department to keep the Board aware of opportunities to partner with other Housing Programs. Mr. Schnell responded that they are looking into available partnerships and packaging projects.

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented the 2015 Annual Sheriff's Department Report. Sheriff Clarmont stated that in 2015, the actual expenditures of the Department came in \$168,000 (4.7%) below the requested budget of \$3.577 million. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the out-of-county boarding fees are down because the jail is at capacity with an in-county inmate population. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the Work Release capacity is at about 75% higher than last year. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the jail revenues were \$344,622, grant funding and donation revenue was \$208,641, and other assorted revenues produced total revenues for the jail of \$558,247 in 2015. Sheriff Clarmont stated the expenditures of the Department in 2015 were \$3.409 million. Sheriff Clarmont noted that as a result of the Work Crew Program and the combination of the meals, labor and participation fees paid from it, the Department saw a net savings of 215 bed spaces and \$12,014. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the road patrol stats include a log of approximately 13,000 calls and arrests took a 4% decrease which he attributes to the presence of the County law enforcement throughout the community. Sheriff Clarmont addressed other notable facets of the department in 2015. Sheriff Clarmont stated that Sheriff's Department Canine Unit grew in 2015 by another canine and another officer thanks to the generosity of Tony and Roberta Matelski. Sheriff Clarmont commented on the positive effectiveness of the health services contract between the jail and DHHS. Commissioner Allor asked Sheriff Clarmont if the canine building searches conducted in 2015 were strictly for locating people in buildings or did it also include situations like canine searching of lockers in schools. Sheriff Clarmont stated that building searches were conducted for various reasons when the Department received a request for the canine to go into a building and search. He noted school searching via canine is separate from the building searches figure reported in the Annual Report.

Commissioner Matelski asked Sheriff Clarmont about a Jail Division Revenues Social Security Finder's Fee line in the report. Sheriff Clarmont stated that Sheriff's Department staff discovered several years ago that if someone comes to jail they are no longer entitled to Social Security Disability under federal law if they are receiving it and if the jailing institution reports that the jailed individual receiving Social Security Disability payments is housed in jail, the federal government will remit a "finder's fee" to the jailing institution per individual. Commissioner Brown asked Sheriff Clarmont about the success rate of the canine unit searchings' through buildings and/or schools. Sheriff Clarmont stated that has demonstrated an approximate 95% success rate that the canines alert and locate drugs and 100% success rates for when the canines alert and locate people. Commissioner Gauthier asked Sheriff Clarmont what practice the Cheboygan County Jail engages in, that surrounding counties do not, to keep this County Jail's inmate health expenses far lower than other counties. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the biggest difference between Cheboygan and other counties is the corroboration contract with Health Department for health services and the second biggest is furloughing of inmates for health purposes. Commissioner Gauthier asked how the arrest rates in 2015 were cyclical. Sheriff Clarmont stated that the arrest rates are going down cyclically based on the effect that the economy has on crime rates and because the economy was stronger in 2015 than in previous years, the arrest rates decreased.

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Commissioner Wallace asked Sheriff Clarmont if there is a difference in the jail population based on the weather (i.e. in the winter time there are more inmates). Sheriff Clarmont responded that they use to see fluctuations like that but not so much anymore as most of the jail populations are there as a result of drugs.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Lawson stated the work crew provided through the Sheriff’s Department in the remodeling work being done at the Women’s Resource Center in the Doris E. Reid Building, may take longer, but is very cost effective for county capital projects and it offers assistance to the County Building Maintenance workers.

Mr. Lawson said grant funding for the Housing Program has been discussed for several years. He noted people should emphasize and remind their legislators and state officials how important housing programs are throughout the State, but especially in Northern Michigan. This shift in funding has been happening for several years. The administrator said that ten applications for a Plan Review Enforcement Officer position have been received, but only two of the applicants are fully qualified..

Administrator Lawson stated that Request for Proposals for the Sheriff’s Department are to go out to architects this week and to get a preliminary estimate on kitchen design and the possibility of adding a few jail cells and equipment storage. He said the schools are auctioning off some kitchen equipment but that some of the equipment was too old for the jail’s needs.

Administrator Lawson stated there are still contractors at the Animal Shelter and the Senior Center working and the County has Request for Proposals out for carpet at the DHHS building.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chuck Leady, a citizen of Benton Township, stated that he was interested in knowing if the Community Development Department could produce a paper county map with latitude/longitude coordinates on it. He also noted that it would be an esthetical improvement to bury the power lines that are viewable downtown.

John Kurczewski, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, asked if there was any way to have a proposal in front of the Board to approve a resolution that Cheboygan County supports the analog meters. Commissioner Redmond responded that the issue is under review by the Board and that Mr. Kurczewski may leave a contact phone number with the Administrator’s office if the issue comes before the Board for decision.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gauthier offered tickets for the upcoming County Democratic Fundraiser.

Commissioner Gouine commented that he saw Chief Jones and asked him about the radio system used by 9-1-1 and emergency and law enforcement. Mr. Gouine said Chief Jones said that he doesn’t have trouble with reception in town but that the other departments do and that the

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narrow banding is getting smaller and will be in need of another system. Commissioner Wallace stated that updating to the 800 megahertz system has been considered for some time, however, cost of it is a deterrent. Sheriff Clarmont said his department uses 800 megahertz for backup. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Matelski commented that some communities – like Grand Marais and Munising – are having an issue accommodating an influx of tourism.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Mary Ellen Tryban
County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson