

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
May 24, 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.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

John Kurczewski of Indian River addressed the Board regarding “smart” meters being used by utility companies to replace analog meters. He presented a list of forty-three counties, townships, villages and cities that have gone on record opposing digital “smart” meters. As a result of these digital meters many people have experienced extreme sensitivity to the new meters. The sensitivity can cause serious health problems and is a growing problem. Mr. Kurczewski said currently a bill in the State House would allow the public to have a choice in the type of meter installed on their home. He said he sent a packet of information to this board on this subject. He asked that a resolution be adopted by the Board of Commissioners at least urging the legislature to approve the “choice” bill. He provided sample copies of resolutions adopted by other entities/.

Robert Kennedy of Alcona County, a Democrat candidate for District 106th State Representative seat introduced himself to the Board.

Jim McKindles, Jamie Chimner and Nancy Shoots all spoke against smart meters.

SCHEDULED VISITORS

A certificate of appreciation was presented by Chairman Redmond to Dan Frazier for his service on the Cheboygan County Fair Board.

A certificate of appreciation was given post humorously to Don Spray for many years of service on the Cheboygan County Fair Board. Chairman Redmond said, Don played a large part in the community and the Fair Board. Don’s wife, Sally, was unable to attend, so the plaque was accepted by Sally’s sister, Terry Drake.

Honorable Judge Maria Barton presented the 2015 Annual Report for the 89th District Court. Judge Barton briefly reviewed the report and highlighted several areas. For 2015 the 89th District Court once again came in under budget and\ is meeting or exceeding most guidelines specified by the Michigan Supreme Court. Judge Barton noted the Court achieved many significant accomplishments last year. Last year the Court’s revenue was \$919,370, up almost \$210,000 from 2014. The increase in revenue is believed to be due to an increase in increase in traffic civil infraction cases as well as criminal and traffic misdemeanor cases. The Sobriety Court continued to be a success. The Sobriety Court Program saved approximately \$78,300 in 2015. Commissioner Redmond thanked Judge Barton for a very good and detailed report.

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Circuit Court Judge Scott Pavlich presented the annual report for the 53rd Circuit Court. He reported that the number of Circuit Court cases filed in 2015 once again declined. Showing a 9% decrease in criminal filings from 2014 to 2015, while civil filings decreased by about 3%. There were only four jury trials conducted in 2015 in Circuit Court, all were criminal. Total collections decreased by about 2% in 2015. The net operating cost was increased by about \$8,000, with the expenditures for the year being almost \$18,000 under budget. During 2015, drug court admitted 14 new participants, saw 5 successful graduations and 4 unsuccessful terminations. The current drug court population at the end of last year was 22. The program saved the County approximately 1,000 days of jail incarceration. Judge Pavlich reported the third annual public satisfaction survey was conducted last year by all four courts in the County. Public feedback was very positive. Judge Pavlich said that drug crimes have gone through the roof since he first became Judge. Commissioner Redmond thanked Judge Pavlich for his time and excellent report.

County Treasurer Linda Cronan presented the 2015 report for her department. She reviewed 2015 accomplishments which included a reduction in staff; established work area for passports and daily cash out; received update tax data regularly from the townships, villages and city; entered into an agreement with LexisNexis to aid in homestead audit and returned mail; completed PRE Audit and bill denied properties; 9,262 number of receipts; processed credit/debit card payments; stayed within budget; and hosted the 2015 second foreclosure auction. Key 2016 Initiatives included: contract to have 41 tax roll books scanned, burned to DVD and microfilmed; contract with BS&A to get live tax information online; update County Fair bookkeeping system to County BS&A system; establish new credit card system at County Marina; host 2016 second foreclosure auction; continue to establish payment plans for taxpayers to avoid foreclosures; continue to look for cost reductions and stay within budget; establish direct withdrawals from taxpayers' bank accounts for tax payments; and use appropriate media to advertise the requirement for all dogs to have licenses. Treasurer Cronan noted three Issues/Challenges for 2016 as: delinquent tax income; recycle reconciliation and collection enforcement; and low interest income. The report also included various reports of columnar figures showing the 2011-2015 accounting of various functions handled by the department. Commissioner Redmond thanked Treasurer Cronan for the detailed report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson stated at the June 14th meeting there will be a resolution to approve a proposal to renew the ambulance millage on the August 2, 2016 Primary ballot. He reported he has been doing some research on the County Economic Development Corporation appointments. It appears there are two vacancies on the EDC. The EDC members with terms expiring in 2017 are Bob Andrews, Jim Granger and Dawn Bodnar; term expiring 2018 Tony Matelski; term expiring 2019 Matt Friday; and term expiring 2020 Sue Allor. Also clarification is needed on Chris Brown replacing Steve Schnell with term expiring September 30, 2017. Discussion held.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, the Chairperson has authority to sign a letter of recommendation to NEMCSA on behalf of the Cheboygan County Council on Aging allowing this grant proposal to be submitted by the due date of June 7, 2016. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Gouine, to approve the Cheboygan County Drug Court Bryne JAG Grant Application, and all future forthcoming

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documentation after review and approval by the Finance Director and legal counsel, if applicable. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adopt Amendment #4 to the 2016 Salary and Wage Resolution #16-01 – Non-union General Employees 89th District Court to be effective June 1, 2016, authorize the chair to sign and approve the necessary budget adjustments. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 4 yes, 3 no (Commissioners Gouine, Matelski and Allor) and 0 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jim McKindles commented on the smart meters. He said that Jamie Chimner was very debilitated after the smart meter was put on her house. They personally removed the meter and their electricity was shut off now for several months, her health has improved greatly.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gouine commented that contractors were glad about cross training in Building Safety, but complained about not being able to get a permit if Regina is not there.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Mary Ellen Tryban
County Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson