

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OCTOBER 28, 2014**

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, John Wallace, Tony Matelski, and Sue Allor.

**Absent:** None

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

Commissioner Socha opened the public hearing for the CDBG Grant Application for Cross Culvert Replacement.

One citizen asked if the grant is applicable to paved roads. Commissioner Socha stated the grant is for a portion of costs associated with the replacement of cross culverts that were damaged from the severe low temperatures last winter.

Commissioner Socha closed the public hearing at 9:35 a.m.

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Debra Borman expressed concern about the Cheboygan County Council on Aging. She stated a group has attempted to make the CCCOA Board accountable but have not been successful. She requested that the Board of Commissioners would fill a couple of the open positions on the CCCOA Board. Commissioner Socha clarified that Commissioners cannot sit on the CCCOA Board because it would be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Gauthier asked who the Chairperson of the nominating committee for the CCCOA Board was. Ms. Borman stated she didn't know. Commissioner Allor stated that a nominating committee has recently been established but she is not sure who the members of that committee are.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Commissioner Socha presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Matt Hellens, IT Director for Cheboygan County. Matt thanked the board for the opportunity to work here for the past 8 years and stated he would miss the people he has worked with.

Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner Cam Cavitt presented the 2014 annual report. Cheboygan County currently has no legally established drainage districts and does not assess any fees or special assessments for drainage on its citizens. He stated he received inquiries from citizens in the agricultural community and in a neighborhood association about the process of establishing a county drainage district. These types of projects could improve neighborhood storm water runoff and allow county agricultural field's better drainage. Commissioners Socha and Allor both thanked Mr. Cavitt for his report.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Lawson expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff for Matt Hellens. Mr. Lawson stated that Dave Berg would be promoted to interim IT Director while the position is posted and he will be eligible to apply for the position.

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Administrator Lawson stated that he, along with the Sheriff and Undersheriff, plan to travel to Lansing to see a security entrance system in place similar to the one being considered for the County Building.

Administrator Lawson stated that Wilkinson received the lowest quote for clearing and grading at the Humane Society and the contract was awarded to them in the amount of \$7500. He also noted requests for proposals for Civil Counsel services and audit services are being sought.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion** by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier to adopt Cheboygan County Resolution 14-24 authorizing a submission of the CDBG Grant Application for Cross Culvert Replacement, authorize the Chairperson to sign all grant documents associated with the application and the execution and authorize the Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director to process any necessary budget adjustments to receive and distribute the grant funding and the County Administrator will serve as the grant administrator and the primary contact person. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

### **BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

A preliminary 2015 Budget Was provided to each commissioner prior to this meeting for their review. Finance Director Kari Kortz stated there looks to be an increase of \$106,000 in the tax revenue base next year. The restricted fund is showing a decrease of \$420,000. The Prosecuting Attorney has received an increase in the grant amount for the Victim's Rights position such that the county can recoup fringe benefits. Revenues are fairly static from last year. The focus changed to expenditures. Ms. Kortz discussed several per diems being recalculated due to an increase in per diem amounts. Commissioner Socha asked why there is a change in contractual obligations. Ms. Kortz stated that competency hearings are not being funded through the Child Care Grant so the county budget increased to compensate. Ms. Kortz stated that copy machines need to be budgeted for in 2015. Ms. Kortz discussed changes to the E-grams system utilized by the Prosecutor's office. Ms. Kortz discussed changes to the Treasurer's salary line. The maintenance department has requested funding for a snow blower four-wheeler. The Sheriff's department has requested two new SUV's for 2015. Ms. Kortz discussed an additional account created for the savings from the changes in the health insurance plan. Commissioner Allor asked about the gasoline line item. Ms. Kortz stated that use has decreased; more gas efficient vehicles are being used. Ms. Kortz stated that Animal Control asked for a 6% increase but they will receive a 3% increase. Commissioner Wallace asked if the Humane Society is under contract and what the contract budget is for. Administrator Lawson stated that it is determined annually. Ms. Kortz stated that District No. 4 Health has asked for a 3.61% increase but she is not sure what is built into that request at this time. Commissioner Redmond asked what this Board would consider for a District No. 4 Health Board increase. Commissioner Socha stated that the Board would like more information from District No. 4 Health on what the proposed changes are. Discussion was held. Ms. Kortz stated that a decrease in salary for the Veteran's Department is not an actual decrease they are just not paying for two people at once as was the case during the transition earlier this year. Commissioner Matelski asked if finance has received a final revenue number from the fair. Ms. Kortz stated that the fair board had not cashed a \$50,000 check. Discussion was held. Ms. Kortz stated that the airport has requested \$80,000 and that is recommended to the Board. Ms. Kortz stated that there is a \$140,000 reduction in the child care fund which equates to a \$280,000 savings. She stated that she has a contingency line built into the budget for payments from the State of Michigan that come in throughout November and December.

Ms. Kortz stated that the current expenditures for 2014 total \$11,348,188 and recommended expenditures for 2015 are \$11,351,967; expenditures would only be increasing by 0.03% or \$1,779.

Discussion was held regarding fee increases being presented with the fee resolution. Administrator Lawson mentioned the possibility of user fees for household hazardous waste disposal. Budget discussion to be continued at the November Committee of the Whole meeting.

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Socha stated that she appreciates the iPad updates.

Commissioner Socha discussed a Tip of the Mitt Watershed Report and asked if the Board would support writing a letter to the Governor invoking the state power over Enbridge. She read a letter from, the City of Mackinac Island. There was general Board consensus to move forward to have the Administrator research this and draft a letter of support.

Commissioner Matelski stated that in the Shopper's Fair there was notification about a change in the drop off of hazardous waste at the Fairgrounds to only one Wednesday of the month in the winter time. Administrator Lawson confirmed that is correct.

Administrator Lawson stated that there will be several Glide Path health insurance meetings on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. for the new health insurance roll-out.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to adjourn the meeting to the call of the chair at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson