

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
August 25, 2015**

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Lurie of Tuscarora Township and President of the Grand View Beach Association addressed the Board about a proposed land development application that was submitted to the Cheboygan County Planning Commission. Mr. Lurie stated that Larry and Betsy Hansen have proposed to develop land on Grandview Beach Road for a commercial mental health facility. He stated that the issue is a commercial facility being proposed in a long established residential area doesn't comply with zoning laws. Mr. Lurie views the development as a substantial change in lifestyle for the area.

Roger Harris, a citizen of Tuscarora Township and resident of Grandview Beach Road, addressed the Board regarding the commercial medical facility development proposal on Grandview Beach road and the filing of a lawsuit against Cheboygan County. Mr. Harris stated that the Planning Commission and Community Development staff has tried to help the Hansen's complete their application. He stated that the lawsuit contains a number of inaccuracies including claiming that the facility would not require a license but LARA would require licensing unless determined otherwise. He said that the zoning and planning processes shouldn't be able to be circumvented by an attorney filing lawsuit.

Dave Campbell, a resident of Tuscarora Township on Grandview Beach Road, addressed the Board regarding reasons why he thinks Larry and Betsy Hansen have filed a lawsuit against the county. Mr. Campbell stated that the attorney hired by Larry Hansen advertises on his website that he specializes in Fair Housing Act and ADA lawsuits regarding municipality zoning violations. Mr. Campbell wants to make sure the land use laws and processes are enforced here. He said that developer of a commercial mental health facility should go through application to the planning commission and not be approved as a result of bullying.

Commissioner Redmond stated that the Board understands that there is a major concern coming from the residents of Grandview Beach Road. Administrator Lawson said that Cheboygan County has received the lawsuit information from the Hansen's and it is currently being reviewed by the County's legal counsel.

Sheriff Clarmont addressed the Board to publicly thank Tony and Roberta Matelski for yet another donation to the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit. The Sheriff said that Taser, one of the current dogs in the Canine Unit, is ready to retire at nearly ten-years old. Deputy Matt LaCross has purchased a puppy to begin training for service. Commissioner

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Redmond thanked Commissioner Matelski and Roberta on behalf of the Board and the citizens of Cheboygan County.

SCHEDULED VISITORS

Kosrae Harman RN, Program Manager for Thunder Bay Community Health Services, presented a report on the Thunder Bay Community Health Services and a new school-based health center set to open within the Cheboygan Intermediate School. Ms. Harman stated that there is currently an Onaway-based site that has been in operation for six years and has been successful. She said the school-based health center will not see adults because of grant requirements. Ms. Harman stated that the center will provide primary care services, well-child exams, immunizations, oral and dental screenings, lab services, behavioral health counseling and other services. Ms. Harman stated that the idea with a school-based health centers in Cheboygan is to tailor the center to the needs of the students in this district. Ms. Harman stated that the program will be open all year round and that it is not the aim of the program to take over the care of a Primary Care provider. Ms. Harman stated that no student will be turned away from access to care because of their inability to pay.

Steven Meno, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health Services for Thunder Bay Community Health Services, introduced the behavioral services to be offered at the new Cheboygan Intermediate school-based health center. Dr. Meno stated that students who are 14 years of age and older can consent to certain confidential health services.

Commissioner Wallace asked Dr. Meno about confidentiality with students. Dr. Meno stated that students who are 14 years of age or older can consent to treatment and it would not be reported to parents or insurance companies. He said that they don't have a lot of kids doing this but typically confidentiality issues are related to sex, pregnancy or drug abuse. Dr. Meno stated that students are encouraged to talk to parents because that is where the most help is going to come from. Commissioner Allor asked about a school-based center in the Wolverine area. Dr. Meno stated that they are working on it. Commissioner Allor asked if there are situations where the health center staff would need to report to parents about a child's health care even though the child had signed their own confidentiality consent form. Dr. Meno stated that there are certain points where we have to report to an outside agency including instances of sexual abuse or adult abuse. Ms. Harman clarified that the confidentiality consent forms that students can sign states that the provider may notify parent or guardian for certain situations and that the health center works closely with school administration. Commissioner Matelski asked for confirmation that a 14 year old can legally consent to confidentiality. Dr. Meno affirmed that there is a law that gives adolescents the right to seek certain services confidentially. Dr. Meno stated that they want to provide a resource to students and teach them to be responsible and take ownership of their healthcare. Commissioner Gauthier asked if there was a school-based center in Alpena. Dr. Meno stated that there is not one. Commissioner Gauthier asked if the Onaway school-based health center has been successful. Dr. Meno stated they have seen excellent results and have made a positive impact. Commissioner Gauthier commended the program.

Treasurer Linda Cronan asked Dr. Meno about a situation involving a special needs child with an Individualized Educational Plan and if the school-based health center would help with the enforcement of that IEP. Dr. Meno said that the school-based health center works closely with administration and if the parent signs the special needs child up for services that they would work with administration.

Prosecutor Daryl Vizina stated that he met with the school-based health center team twice last week and he was very impressed with the facility at the middle school. Prosecutor Vizina stated that he is encouraged with the presence of this new mental and emotional health component being added to support adolescents and that it is a very big benefit to the Cheboygan youth population. The Prosecutor encouraged everyone to check out the new facility and that it has far exceeded expectations of what he thought the program was going to encompass.

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Commissioner Redmond thanked Ms. Harman and Dr. Meno for their presentation. Judge Butts thanked Ms. Harman, Dr. Meno and the rest of the school-based health center team for this program and stated that he is very excited about the services that are going to be offered to Cheboygan youth. Commissioner Redmond stated that the Board has tried to identify the types of health services this community needs; and said that the press has done a very good job of telling the story of all of the services available in the county.

Steve Schnell, Community Development Director, presented the 2014 Community Development Annual Report. Mr. Schnell stated that the department has done well with providing more services with fewer resources and the staff has been cross-training in order to do and learn more about what each other does. Mr. Schnell gave an overview of all the facets of the Community Development department and their progress in 2014. Mr. Schnell introduced Matt Cronk, Building Official for Cheboygan County, and complimented Mr. Cronk on his ability to enforce complicated code regulations and still be a friendly asset to the department. Mr. Cronk stated that there has been a healthy growth in the number of building permits issued and an increase in construction value for projects. Mr. Cronk gave an overview of the Building Safety department.

Commissioner Redmond thanked them for the report. Commissioner Gouine complimented Mr. Schnell and Mr. Cronk on a job well done. Commissioner Brown stated that he personally deals with building departments in southern parts of Michigan and that Cheboygan County Building Department is the best. He said that the Cheboygan County Building Department has solutions for problems and that the timeliness of inspections is phenomenal. Commissioner Gauthier asked if funding for the housing program will be problematic in the future. Mr. Schnell stated that the structure of funding has recently changed, and that it is a competitive grant program now. Commissioner Brown asked about the signage changes regarding zoning. Mr. Schnell said changes have to do with content neutrality and that you shouldn't have to read the sign to determine how you are going to regulate it. Mr. Schnell stated that there will need to be some loosening with zoning regulations for signs but he is not sure of the specifics at this time. Commissioner Allor asked if townships all have recreation plans. Mr. Schnell stated that he was not sure. Commissioner Allor asked about customer satisfaction data from the Community Development Department. Mr. Schnell stated that the department will be gathering that, most likely through a survey, but that it is tough to ascertain with land use situations.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, thanked Commissioner Matelski and Roberta Matelski for their contribution to the Sheriff's Department. He said that Planning and Zoning issues are some of the most serious issues that Cheboygan County faces.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wallace asked Dave Lurie to submit correspondence to the Board with signatures on it. He also commented there are safety concerns with sign placement.

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Commissioner Matelski commented on an article on record breaking amounts of ice on the Great Lakes and that it is contradictory to the concept of global warming. Commissioner Gauthier stated that the globe is a larger expanse than that of just Cheboygan County.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Amber Libby
Cheboygan County Chief Deputy Clerk/Register

Pete Redmond
Chairperson