

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
April 28, 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, John Wallace, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** None

Commissioner Redmond asked everyone in attendance to stand in a moment of silence for Donald Spray. Donald Spray was a very active member of the community who passed away Thursday, April 23, 2015. He served for many years on both the Cheboygan County Road Commission and the Cheboygan County Fair Board in addition to many other community organizations.

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**

Bud Darnell, a citizen of Benton Township, commended McLaren Northern Michigan on their success in Cheboygan and publicly thanked them for providing more services.

Cheboygan County Treasurer Linda Cronan addressed the Board about recognizing her staff for a perfect site score received by her office from the passport administration.

Trudy Lofgren, a citizen of the City of Cheboygan and President of the Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Board to say she was thankful for the McLaren Hospital in the area.

Stephenie Jacobson, a citizen of Inverness Township, presented petitions compiled by the local Tea Party group opposing the Cheboygan County Master Plan.

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Mullett Township, commented about the Cheboygan Economic Development Corporation and against a recent letter to the editor from the Cheboygan Tribune that was critical of Cheboygan County.

Jim McKindles, a citizen of Presque Isle County, addressed the Board to express his opposition to the use of grant money for businesses and parks and asked the Board to limit their use of grants.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

David Zechman, President and CEO of McLaren Northern Michigan presented a services update on McLaren Northern Michigan. Mr. Zechman introduced Susan Reed and Shari Schultz. Mr. Zechman provided a brochure of health care services offered in the Cheboygan area. Mr. Zechman commented on the Emergency Department, Outpatient Services, Imaging Services, a new Urology provider, the 420 employees working for McLaren Northern Michigan in this community and potential future challenges to McLaren Northern Michigan.

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Commissioner Gauthier thanked Mr. Zechman and asked about comparing a decrease in the number of uninsured people to the forecasted decrease in medical reimbursement mentioned by Mr. Zechman as a future challenge to McLaren. Mr. Zechman stated that there has been a decrease in the number of uninsured people and the number of people in the Charity Care program has also decreased.

Commissioner Gauthier asked about adding Oncology and overnight observation bed services. Mr. Zechman stated that the cost of medical drugs have gone up significantly, especially oncology drugs and market demand has to be present to warrant maintaining a supply. There are a low number of patients requiring the services. Mr. Zechman stated that they are corroborating to provide transportation and lodging service to Petoskey for oncology patients. Mr. Zechman stated that it is undetermined whether McLaren will be providing overnight observation bed service in the future.

Commissioner Gauthier asked Mr. Zechman if McLaren has eliminated the possibility of ever having an acute care facility in Cheboygan. Mr. Zechman affirmed and stated that it is not sustainable.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Zechman what facilities McLaren Northern Michigan have in place in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan at this time. Mr. Zechman stated that support and cardiology services are provided to hospitals there.

Commissioner Wallace asked about remodeling of the Emergency Department in Cheboygan. Mr. Zechman stated that a remodeling is a possibility.

A citizen from the audience asked everyone to read an article entitled "American's Bitter Pill".

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None**

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Equalization Director Janice Eaton presented the 2015 Equalization Report. The report consists of columnar figures and charts showing the assessed values from the individual townships and city, the county equalized values, and the ratio for each class of property by unit.

The recommended County equalized value of real property for 2015 was \$1,602,975,273; the recommended County equalized value of personal property for 2015 was \$59,641,950; with the total recommended County equalized value of \$1,662,617,223. This represents a 2.79% increase in equalized overall value compared to 2014 values.

**Motion** by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adopt the 2015 Cheboygan County Equalization report as presented reflecting a County Equalized Value for Real Property of \$1,602,975,273 and Personal Property of \$59,641,950 for a total 2015 County Equalized Value of \$1,662,617,223. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – None**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Brown stated that he received notification from Drain Commissioner Cam Cavitt that the letter sent to MDOT regarding the US-23 Bridge Project created a conference call to take place on Thursday.

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Commissioner Wallace commented on the executive boards of Michigan Works and Northeast Michigan Council of Government and consolidation.

Commissioner Gauthier reiterated his concern regarding health care and asked the Board members to be watchful of community needs for access to health care.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 A.M.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

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Pete Redmond  
Chairperson