

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
July 23, 2013**

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, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** None

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

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** - None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator Jeff Lawson provided updates on the following items: The Road Commission wishes to refund the 2004 MDOT bonds sold by Cheboygan County to Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds. A resolution requesting the County to authorize the refunding will be coming from the Road Commission at an upcoming meeting. In regards to the Fairground Restroom Project, the three bids received all were in excess of \$70,000, the estimated cost in the budget for this is \$50,800. After review with the architect, the project will proceed with the County serving as the general contractor; county staff performing the removal of the partitions and plumbing fixtures in the building; materials purchased by the County directly from suppliers; and three quotes sought from contractors completing each project component. The project is proposed to begin near the end of August 2013. As part of the Sense of Place Project, webpages for the Aloha, Topinabee and Wolverine were developed. The County plans to release the ownership and content management of these sites to each community. This will be coming before the Board at a future meeting. The Community Development Department will begin work on gathering information and assessments for the Inland Waterway Heritage Water Trail with NEMCOG and Emmet County staff within the next couple of weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Development Director Steve Schnell presented Resolution 13-14 USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Pre-Application and Application. Commissioner Matelski asked if there have been any applicants for the aforementioned grant funding. Mr. Schnell confirmed that there are individuals who have applied and are on a waiting list.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Matelski to adopt the following Cheboygan County Resolution, authorize the Chairperson to sign the pre-application documents for the 2013 USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant and all other required documentation after review by Finance Director and authorize the Community Development

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Director to submit the necessary documents using the grants.gov online grant management system:

**Resolution No. 13-14  
2013 USDA Rural Development  
Housing Preservation Grant Pre-Application & Application**

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County is interested in the continuing efforts to improve housing conditions for its low and very low income residents, and;

**WHEREAS**, said Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners intends to apply for \$15,000 in USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant funds, and;

**WHEREAS**, said County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign said application and required forms,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the pre-application and application for funding through the USDA Rural Development, Housing Preservation Grant.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Community Development Director Steve Schnell presented Resolution 13-15 for the 2012 Michigan State Housing Development Authority Community Development Block Grant Application, noting this is a two year grant allocation project. Commissioner Gauthier inquired as to the history of repayment on loans distributed through the aforementioned grant. Mr. Schnell stated that it has been mostly consistent although there has been some loans forgiven pursuant to the County's policy. Commissioner Redmond inquired as to the total amount of money that would be available to the County housing program, including the two allocations previously mentioned. Mr. Schnell verified that the two allocations are the only money the department is budgeting for at this time, a total of \$190,000 between the two grants. Discussion was held regarding funding sources from project variability, applicant income level and project income from mortgages as being opportunities for other funding sources as well as grants. Commissioner Socha commended Steve Schnell and the Finance Director for taking on the added duties involved with the housing program.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Gouine to approve Cheboygan County Resolution, authorize the Chairperson to sign the grant application documents and submit using the OPAL online grant management system, the application for the 2012 Michigan State Housing Development Authority Community Development Block Grant – Housing Resource Fund and all other required documentation for the grant after review by legal counsel and by the Finance Director:

**Resolution No. 13-15  
2012 Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
Community Development Block Grant Application**

**WHEREAS**, Cheboygan County is interested in the continuing efforts to improve housing conditions for its low and very low income residents, and;

**WHEREAS**, said Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners intends to apply for \$175,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and;

**WHEREAS**, said County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign said application and required forms,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners authorizes preparation and submittal of the application for funding through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Community Development Block Grant program.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Commissioner Gouine noted that Dave’s Place and Consumers Energy received letters from the Community Development department regarding a zoning ordinance violation. Consumers Energy is considering moving their operations to East Jordan. Administrator Lawson stated that the issue comes down to a special use permit, but since it has been going on since 1982 it may be grandfathered in. The administrator will discuss this matter with the Community Development Department and report back.

Commissioner Matelski stated that the Department of Energy had recently issued 100 pages of resolution concerning ceiling fans. He stated that the Department of Energy is attempting to regulate the number of ceiling fans in residential homes in the country. Additionally, he stated that a nuclear power plant reduced power on the east coast because the water available was too warm to cool them. He expressed concern over the risk of electricity black outs as a consequence.

Commissioner Wallace stated that the CCE Board of Directors will be turning a long standing wrecker truck issue over to the local jurisdictions to determine which wrecker company to contact when needed. It will no longer be on a rotation basis. He also noted the federally required narrow banding for radio communications has had a negative effect on emergency response radio transmission. As a result, there may be a need to utilize funds from the capital equipment funds for CCE 9-1-1 to increase radio coverage.

Commissioner Redmond reported on the July 15<sup>th</sup> Fair Board meeting. Along with Commissioner Redmond, Administrator Lawson and Finance Director Kari Kortz were also in attendance to answer questions. Commissioner Redmond reported that a lot of questions were answered at the meeting. Information provided by Civil Counsel was presented to the Fair Board. There was about a 50/50 mix in attendance at the meeting relative to old and new members of the Fair Board. The meeting seemed to have gone well. Commissioner Redmond reported that on August 10<sup>th</sup>, the County Marina will be having an anniversary party beginning at 1:00 p.m., with a pig roast at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Wallace expressed thanks to Finance Director Kari Kortz for being fiduciary for CCE 9-1-1.

Commissioner Socha noted that the Burt Lake Trail dedication is scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Lawson stated that the Planning Commission has reviewed the Master Plan and it is ready to be sent to the Commissioners for review. He said he plans to get the Master Plan draft to each board member for review, with discussion to be held at the August Committee of the Whole Meeting. Commissioner Socha stated that the Board of Commissioners does not approve or disapprove the Master Plan, as the Planning Commission has the final approval.

Commissioner Socha distributed copies of a confidential attorney/client privileged legal opinion from Attorney Bryan Graham on whether the county board can legally waive building department fees for nonprofit organizations.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

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Mary Ellen Tryban  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson