

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 24, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson Tony Matelski at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chris Brown, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace and Robert Bolinger.

ABSENT: None

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott thanked the Board of Commissioners for holding the informational meeting regarding the Meijer Project. There was an outstanding attendance and he hoped that the Board of Commissioners would keep the public updated on what is going on with the negotiations. He shared a copy of his article entitled, "In Cheboygan County it's 'déjà vu all over again'" from the Cheboygan Daily Tribune regarding the security doors. Today he watched five (5) people, including one of them carrying an infant carrier, who tried to enter the building at once. They have to go out and then come back in one at a time in order to get in. This is a continuing problem and things could be done better. Emmet County is hardening their offices by limiting access to individual offices and installing bullet proof glass in doors. Also they are supplying bars to put on the doors in case of a lock down. The best that can be done is to supply a safe and secure environment for everybody here.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Prosecuting Attorney Daryl Vizina introduced himself and his Staff. He stated that there has been a lot of turnover in the last year, but particularly in the last couple months. Kim Chimner started working in the office in December 2016. She is handling the juvenile cases, such as abuse and neglect in Probate Court and works primarily with Melissa Goodrich. Melissa Goodrich came from Presque Isle County in September 2016. She is an attorney and is handling most of the sexual assault cases and any abuse or neglect cases that come in from the Department of Human Services. Celeste Charboneau who has worked in Kim's position, but now works as the Crime Victim's Rights Coordinator for the past month in a half replacing Peg Mills who retired effective December 1, 2016. Peg had worked in the Prosecutor's Office for 25 years prior to him being newly elected

and an additional eight (8) years under his employment. Lori Spray has worked as the new office manager since July 4, 2016. Assistant Prosecutor Fred Feleppa replaced Tony Damiano who retired in September 2016. In October 2016, Fred moved up into the Chief Assistant Prosecutor position. He stated that in the past six or seven months, they have had five of the seven staff members that are either new, or at new positions.

District Forester Brittany VanderWall introduced herself and stated that she serves both Cheboygan and Presque Isle County as County Forester with her home district in Presque Isle County. She gives private land owners assistance in Conservation Forestry, which could be accessing their property value, helping them figure out a timber harvest, or if they have a problem with pests or diseases, a solution to banishing or preventing them, or any forest education regarding their property. Her position is funded by the state through grant funding and she has held this position since October 2014. Graduated from Michigan Technical University in May 2014 with her bachelors in forestry, a minor in ecology and is pursuing her masters degree. Also, she was recently elected as state chair of the Michigan Tree Farms program. A primary service she provided for the county was creating a new website cdcheboygan.org to assist land owners in forestry management. It can be accessed it at any time to request assistance. A tree sale is done every year with information that can be digitally retrieved and then sign up for the tree sale. She has worked with the Straits Area Audubon Society in putting on several workshops such as “How to grow your own mushrooms” last fall in Forest Township, with the UAW facility on Black Lake with some forest management of their properties, and involved in the Earth Week Plus program educating students at the Cheboygan Area High School. Notices were sent out with the tax bills advising homeowners of her services. She has met with all of the township officials and local Farm Bureau members introducing and explaining what she has to offer. The services that she provides are completely free to everyone in the conservation district. Discussion held.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson reported that the County has received one application from Benton Township for the loan program for two project areas. Staff will be providing a packet for review to the Millage Appropriations Committee and a recommendation will be given to the Board at the February 14, 2017 meeting. He will be attending a meeting in Lansing on Thursday with the Airport Authority Board to talk about their fire building and other issues with the aeronautics division. The CCE 911 Board is reviewing the original 911 Agreement to identify what updates are needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Wallace reported that at a Board Appointments and Procedures Meeting two potential candidates were interviewed to fill the vacancies on the Planning Commission. Discussion was held on the interviewees and reappointments.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace seconded by Commissioner Brown to reappoint Michael Kavanaugh and John Jazdyk to the Cheboygan County Planning Commission for a two year term effective December 15, 2016 thru December 15, 2018. Motion Carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace seconded Commissioner Gouine to reappoint Pete Redmond to the Cheboygan County Waterways Commission for a three year term effective April 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2019. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace seconded by Commissioner Bolinger to appoint Keith Ginop to the Cheboygan County Fair Board for a two year term effective January 9, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2018. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Commissioner Wallace read the list of Planning Commission Board members along with their terms. He explained that they are on track now with staggering the terms.

NEW BUSINESS - None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Administrator Jeff Lawson stated that the Board of Commissioners started talking about the security of the building in approximately 2012 regarding scanning and patrolling the building entries. Discussion was held for a couple of years and then cameras were installed in 2014 along with the door monitoring equipment and door passes that are being used. The county looked at bank security systems, which is the system that is used today. It is distributed by DEBOLD Company, which is built by a company out of Colorado. There was also another firm out of Florida that was looked at with similar technology. The primary reason why we choose the technology that we have today is that it is the newest technology in scanning people through a secured port and the cost effectiveness. He stated that the security door system has been operational since August of 2015. The system was installed pursuant to directives from the State of Michigan to provide security for the courts as well as the need to provide security measures for public and staff within the building. This system was selected and has been utilized in many commercial and governmental facilities across the country. It is designed to operate primarily without staff, but can also be designed to be staffed. The system is designed to provide a secured area before entering the building. It also provides ballistic protection without exposing any staff or public within the building to a potential threat. This is superior to open scan systems, which allows direct access to a facility while scans occur placing employees and the public at potential risk.

Discussion has occurred to identify how the system could be more customer friendly when metal is detected by the system. Currently, when metal is detected a Correction Officer communicates by speaker providing directions to the public to return metal to vehicles or proceed to the Sheriff's Department's entry for scanning. An alternative design that could be implemented is to place a scanning tray within the entry with

additional cameras to providing the public an option not to return to their vehicles. This would require staff to manually activate the door for each entry and would likely lead to additional staff in the control room to accomplish scans efficiently. A second configuration would be to station an employee at the system in a secured ballistic area to communicate to the public and be able to inspect items through a secured port. This would require entry and exit reconfiguration.

Sheriff Clarmont provided an overview of general building security. In public places such as courthouses, federal buildings or any kind of governments buildings are soft targets. As a public official, it is our job to secure the safety of individuals coming into the building to do business and the employees that work here. He agreed with the timeline of 2014 as to when they started looking seriously at spending money to upgrade the security of this county building. Nothing is perfect. The security in place is merely a deterrent. The reasoning is if you deter those individuals that would commit these types of crimes from entry, they will leave. If entry is too difficult, the bad guys go where to the entry that is easier. Most public buildings in the metro areas are even prohibiting cell phones on entry because of security reasons. When we looked at different options around the State of what was available, we looked at the cost effectiveness. There were not many options available. The purpose of the door is not for the convenience of the persons seeking entry. He explained that one way to improve entry is by posting a person there to do individual screenings or install a full body scanner. The cost versus the benefit needs to be weighed. Sheriff Clarmont did not recommend removing the door.

Chairman Matelski stated that the Board is fully committed to the security system, contrary to the press and citizens reports. The building security is of prime importance. Maybe modifications could be done either to the equipment or other implementations. Need recommendations for types of changes versus costs.

Sheriff Clarmont stated that most courthouses hire a part time person to scan citizens at the point of entry. It could be done on selected days/hours or as necessary. He would need to hire a new employee and have a background check done. This new employee who would report and work under the direction of the Sheriff Department. There could be a plan put in place, review the plan, and modify it as needed. Another suggestion would be to modify the door to have the people put their items in a tray for separate screening. This all takes time and lessens the effect of the electronic scanner. Someone would need to be physically there to do the scanning. The settings could be modified on what is allowed to pass thru.

Commissioner Sangster asked if the citizens could be educated better with more signs in the parking lot and at the approach of the building, which is more cost effective. Citizens tend to be more upset during bad weather or during winter time. If you lessen the impact of the people, they will be less upset. He suggested placing a bench in order to sit down and change their shoes.

Commissioner Brown stated that he has had the opportunity to sit and watch it and it is impossible to educate everyone. Most people don't frequent the building on a regular basis. The visitors are most affected are the citizens that come to this building only once or twice in ten (10) years to pay tickets, etc.... Regular visitors know about the access limitations and plan for it.

Commissioner Matelski stated that they need to figure out what days of the week the traffic volume is heavier. He suggested that maybe the Sheriff and Administrator could figure it out. There is a need to improve on what is already in place because they are not going backwards.

Sheriff Clarmont stated that at peak times, adjustments have been made. For example, on days that there is jury selection, each juror is sent a map along with their jury summons stating which door they are to use. There is also a deputy there ready to scan them with a wand, which expedites the process. He explained that the problem is they don't read the notice and try to go through the front door. If the Board's decision is to man it, then somebody will be out there part time. But if the Board is going to take some time to figure out when peak time is, can it be programmed to count? As soon as you put someone out there at certain hours, visitors coming in at different times and having a problem will question it. It is very hard to nail down.

Administrator Lawson stated that the door has limitations as to what mode it is operating in. It's not as simple as reprogramming it by hitting a one button switch, which would have to be factored in. Once it is in manual mode, a person has to override the system, which also has its own risks involved. If a person is going to be stationed there, we would have to reconfigure the entry and put a port there, so the control would need to be removed from the control center upstairs to a face to face control center. This person would be behind a protective barrier, have access to allow items to be put into that area for review, and the scanner would be placed at its full capacity. At that time, this person is overriding the system and it is not operated by the computer. However, once this person reviews the items and scans everyone, there are issues with that system as well.

Commissioner Wallace stated that the Sheriff and Administrator has heard the concerns and asked them to get together and see if they could do anything under reasonable limits to improve it for the consumer.

Commissioner Matelski asked the Sheriff and Administrator to review a people count, any alternate ideas, and report back to the board.

Sheriff Clarmont stated that if the board wants to do anything, there would be costs involved. To expedite this plan, his recommendation is to put a part time person there to start with and then research the concerns from that point versus a modification to the entire system.

Commissioner Wallace stated they don't know which direction they want to take this. He wants to know if there is any way to improve it from the complaints received so far.

Administrator Lawson stated that he would put the numbers together, do further research, and bring it back to the Board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Muscott commented on the door issue. There seems to be no Plan B when it is broke down, which was to simply prop the door open with no security at all. He suggested that Sheriff Clarmont come up with a Plan B when the door is down. A Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017. He explained that people are buying cottages and homes on the lakes for the express purpose of rental incomes and the current Ordinance to enforce transient rentals is vague and doesn't address it.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Motion by Commissioner Brown seconded by Commissioner Wallace to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:41a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Anthony M. Matelski
Chairperson