

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JULY 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, 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 Allor, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

**SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Mike Grulke, Head of the Juvenile Probation Department, presented some positive news about the Juvenile Probation Department programs including SAYPA, Decisions to Actions and Intensive Probation. Judge Robert Butts stated that the Juvenile Probation Department would not be the same without Mr. Grulke. Judge Butts passed around a photograph of some recent SAYPA program graduates. Chris Ackerman, Director of the SAYPA Program, presented an update on the SAYPA program. He stated that they focus the program to support and train SAYPA students to be successful with both academics and behavior. Megan Fenlon, Case Worker for the SAYPA Program, presented information on the SAYPA Summer Program geared towards training SAYPA students to gain workforce skills in cooperation with community organizations. Commissioner Gauthier stated that he worked with some of the SAYPA Summer Program students at the Cheboygan History Center and that he was impressed with the kids and the program. Commissioner Wallace asked what geographic area that SAYPA mainly serves. Mr. Ackerman stated that the students are from all over Cheboygan County. Judge Butts stated that since the implementation of all three previously mentioned programs, the number of out-of-home placements have gone down significantly. Charles Brown, Coordinator for the From Decisions to Actions Program, presented an update on the From Decisions to Actions Program. Mr. Brown stated that the program has been successful because it focuses on working with students and their parents. Mr. Brown stated that the program is supported by volunteer mentors for the students. Commissioner Wallace asked where the program is held and how students get into the program. Mr. Brown stated that the program is 10 weeks long, that it is held at the Inverness Academy and that referrals come from the Juvenile Probation Department, Child Protective Services, and Community Mental Health. Commissioner Allor asked if the parents meet separately from the students. Mr. Brown stated that it involves both – parents have sessions with students working on communication and they have sessions separate from students in order to discuss the students. Commissioner Gauthier commented that the benefits of the program will reach beyond graduation because these same students will be parents one day too. Commissioner Gauthier asked Mr. Brown if he has enough mentors for the program. Mr. Brown stated that they can never have enough mentors. Judge Butts stated that there is a lot of food donated so that it makes potluck meals available before the From Decisions to Actions classes. Judge Butts also stated that at the end of the program, families are supposed to make a family statement and that a lot of the time they find there is an increase in communication in their families because of the program. He thanked the Board for supporting the programs.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – July 28, 2015

Commissioner Redmond, on behalf of the Board and the citizens of Cheboygan County, thanked everyone for their presentations and their efforts in all of the Juvenile Probation programs.

John Bruning, Administrative Health Officer for District No. 4 Health Department, presented a health services update for the District No. 4 Health Department. Mr. Bruning stated that the Health Department provides administrative services, environmental health services and personal healthcare services. Karen Nowicki-Compeau, District No. 4 Health Department Coordinator, presented an update on the personal healthcare services offered through the department including WIC, jail health support, hearing and vision screenings for school age children, immunizations, family planning, women cancer screening, children's special health care services, maternal infant health program, communicable disease program, and Girls on the Run. Commissioner Gauthier asked about the prevalence of HIV cases in Cheboygan County. Ms. Nowicki-Compeau stated that there are low incidents of HIV in the county but high incidents of Hepatitis C which she prospectively attributed to an increase in heroin use through needle sharing. Commissioner Gauthier stated that he heard that Tuberculosis is making a comeback. Ms. Nowicki-Compeau stated that she has not heard that or seen evidence of that. Commissioner Gauthier asked if it's true that Cheboygan County has the highest vaccination waiver rate in the state. Ms. Nowicki-Compeau confirmed that as true and said that the State of Michigan is trying to make it less convenient to waive vaccination requirements by requiring waiver education. Commissioner Gauthier asked about a front page story in the Cheboygan Tribune from a citizen who claimed vaccinations are linked to autism. Mr. Bruning affirmed that there is no scientific evidence supporting any link between vaccinations and autism. Commissioner Wallace asked if there was a noticeable difference in the ages of people with sexually transmitted diseases. Ms. Nowicki-Compeau stated that it has stayed relatively the same over time – people in their twenties and people in their fifties and sixties. Commissioner Redmond thanked Mr. Bruning and Ms. Nowicki-Compeau for the presentation and thanked Mr. Bruning specifically for his service to District No. 4 Health Department as he has submitted his resignation.

Dallas Hyde, Director of Cheboygan Life Support Systems, presented a Cheboygan Life Support services update. Mr. Hyde reported that Cheboygan Life Support Systems recently underwent a large change as they have been contracted to do billing and management services for several surrounding area life support programs. Mr. Hyde stated that they hired a part-time billing person to absorb the excess workload. He said CLSS have a 10-year capital improvement plan in place which sets up for the replacement of an ambulance truck every 18 months. Mr. Hyde spoke to the amount of emergency trips that are from Cheboygan to Petoskey and Gaylord. He said t with the increase in mileage that there may be a need to change the capital improvement plan to replace a truck every 12 months. Mr. Hyde stated that Cheboygan Life Support Systems is doing very well and is fiscally responsible. Commissioner Wallace asked Mr. Hyde to explain how the paramedics decide what hospital to take a patient to. Mr. Hyde explained that there is a transportation matrix based on the illness that guides the paramedics where to go and that the transportation matrix is protocol approved by the State of Michigan. Commissioner Redmond asked what happens if a patient requests to go to a specific hospital. Mr. Hyde stated that the paramedics will take people directly to a specific hospital but it depends on the situation. Commissioner Allor asked Mr. Hyde to explain the subscription program. He explained its procedures and benefits of the subscription program. Mr. Hyde stated that the Cheboygan area generally does not take full advantage of the program despite his advertising efforts and that Cheboygan Life Support Services generally breaks even from it. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Hyde if he has noticed an increase in funds due to the affordable care act. Mr. Hyde stated that he has not noticed an increase but rather a decrease in reimbursements from commercial insurance companies. Commissioner Redmond thanked Mr. Hyde for his presentation and service.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Lawson provided an update on the Equalization Director contract. He stated that the county is unable to carry forward with the contract agreement based on legal counsel opinion.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – July 28, 2015**

Mr. Lawson stated that Ms. Eaton has submitted her resignation from her position as Equalization Director effective August 28, 2015. Mr. Lawson stated that a plan is needed for the Equalization Department. Commissioner Redmond stated that qualified Equalization Directors are hard to find at this time. Administrator Lawson stated that the county building security doors are active and that employees should be using their identification cards for entry. He said that the public is only to enter from the Main Street entrance through the security door. There is temporary signage directing the public to the front entrance and he is looking for improvement feedback before permanent signs are made. Commissioner Gouine asked about a tray with a conveyer belt at the front entrance security door for metal items to go through and people to bring in. Commissioner Gouine stated he had trouble getting in with his IPad. Commissioner Allor stated that it may be worthwhile to contact legislators to make them aware of the shortage of equalization directors throughout the state. Mr. Lawson stated that the requirements to become a Level 4 Equalization Director is a good curriculum but it takes a long time to get through the program.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Carl Muscott, a citizen of Tuscarora Township, stated that it was unfortunate that there weren't more members of the public present to hear about the successes of the SAYPA program. Mr. Muscott stated that there should be an item slide through tray at the security door to the county building.

Undersheriff Tim Cook stated that Cheboygan County Sheriff Department Dispatch can monitor the security door. Undersheriff Cook stated that the door is not to prohibit the public from entering but to act as a deterrent to people considering violence.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Matelski stated that the Waverly Township recycling bins need to be sandblasted and repainted. Mr. Lawson stated that there is funding available to refurbish the bins.

Commissioner Gauthier stated that the Governor's Petroleum Safety Task Force Report is now available and that it indicates that Pipeline 5's life is going to be terminated at some point.

Commissioner Wallace stated that Charlie Brown is very good at what he does.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

---

Amber Libby  
Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds

---

Pete Redmond  
Chairperson