

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 25, 2018**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairperson John Wallace at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Karen Johnson, Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta 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

Karen Lagerman citizen of Benton Township commented on the M-33 gravel pit noise. She gave a history of the ownership and questioned what could be done to stop the noise and traffic. Commissioner Wallace suggested that she meet with the administrator.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MSU-E District Coordinator Adam Koivisto introduced himself to the Board. He stated he is housed out of the Charlevoix County Office, but covers all of the offices for MSU-E. He encouraged the Board to contact him regarding any issues that they would like MSU-E to work on for the County or any issues that they currently do programming on and were trying to schedule.

Honorable Judge Maria Barton presented the 2017 Annual Report for the 89th District Court and outlined how her court is saving money for the county. In 2017, District Court decreased their budget by \$8,000 from 2016 and still came in under budget by approximately \$18,000. Every year District Court has come in under budget, saving the county about \$250,000 by managing their finances. One of the ways the court is saving money is through the use of the Polycom system. Whenever they can, they use the Polycom to handle cases. This year they were able to save \$5,300 using this method to hold their hearings. She explained that District Court uses the Polycom when there is a prisoner in another county rather than having the Sheriff's Department run down and pick up the person and bring them back to the jail. Not only is this a cost savings to the county, but it enables the Sheriff's Department to keep their deputies in the county, patrolling and investigating cases, rather than having to leave the county to pick someone up for court. In the last year, District Court has also been very efficient with their case flow management. District Court is required to keep track of its statistics for the State of Michigan to show how efficient they are being. When looking at the number of cases that come into the court and comparing it to the cases that are cleared, the court are clearing 100% of their cases. Also District Court is meeting all of the guidelines set in place by the Michigan Supreme Court, except for one, which is the preliminary examination of each case scheduled within 14

days of the offense occurring. She explained that District Court has never met this because she felt it was an unreasonable time guideline. The revenue that was brought to the court this past year has decreased slightly as compared to 2016 and was down around \$33,000. This is most likely due to the number of cases that generate revenue to the court such as the civil infractions and criminal cases, which were down from the previous year. Monies that is accessed in 2017, was not necessarily collected until 2018, 2019 or 2020. The Sobriety Court within the 89th District currently has 16 active participants in the program. There was a savings to the county of approximately \$23,000 for having people participate in this program rather than spending time in jail due to substance abuse. Revenue generated from the Sobriety Court, the cost to the people in the program was approximately \$6,300. The expenses for the program last year were \$5,400 and the budget was \$12,000. District Court runs the Sobriety Court without any additional funding from the county, state or federal grants, and all programming is done in-house, with the help of Harbor Hall. She stated that the mission of the District Court is to help substance abusers achieve sobriety by providing a structural framework, helping them to be successful and facilitate change in addictive behaviors. She was proud of managing their budget well and being fiscally responsible. Commissioner Matelski congratulated her on saving the county money.

SAYPA Director Juvenile Officer Maria Hesselink presented the 2017 Annual Report for SAYPA. From October 1, 2017 to the present, SAYPA has served approximately 24 youths through the program resulting in 13 successful case closers to date. The remaining youths are either continuing towards completion or are poised to transition out of the program and into the school of their choice. This spring, they had one (1) former SAYPA youth graduate that got their high school diploma from Inverness Academy. The overall recidivism rate of SAYPA students for this past year was approximately 8%. Out of home placement is extremely costly to the county and one of the primary goals of the SAYPA program is to keep youths in the community and avoid this costly out of home placement. Depending on the level of necessary supervision and treatment, the cost of placement is between \$120 and \$695 or more daily for just one juvenile. This equates to approximately \$44,000 per year on the low end and about \$250,000 or more on the high end of the spectrum per youth annually. In the SAYPA program, 92% of youths attending during this time period avoided out of home placement. These are kids that would be placed in lockup facilities or a residential home if it was not for the opportunity to attend the SAYPA program. SAYPA has been able to save quite a bit to the county. Also SAYPA has been working closely with DHHS youth in the SAYPA program recently as an alternative to placement to reduce the potential cost to the county. SAYPA utilized SRR for the transport of juveniles to and from school for the summer program. This year they served 24 youths countywide with an average of ten (10) riders per school day. The SAYPA Bus Aide Position adopted in 2016 has been a really great addition to the program. A new aide was hired this year to replace Miss Judy who took another position in August. Since implementing the bus aide the number of behavior issues from the past has decreased during transportation with no incidents in the 2017-2018 school years. SAYPA continues to have a positive working relationship with SRR. At the start of the 2017-2018 school years, SAYPA was award the Bryne Grant, which fully covered From Decisions to Actions Program and also allowed them to hire a full time SAYPA class room monitor whose main focus is to help youths in the class room setting to correct behaviors and improve academic performance. The monitor was also capable of running the program in her absence, which allowed her to fulfill her duties outside of the school. She has applied for the Bryne Grant again this year in the amount of \$61,500, which would continue to fund the FTTA program as well as continue with the class room monitor position, if received. Each year, SAYPA conducts a nine (9) week summer program. Youths are taken into the community for volunteer work and service which builds character, provides discipline, instills pride to these youths and gets them out into the community. The youths have

a good time and the community appreciates it. This also teaches them some job skills. Projects completed in 2018 included maintaining the Hospice House gardens, assisted the Grand Traverse Conservatory with their new boardwalk project, maintaining the stretch of highway for the adopt the road program, painting the boardwalk overlook at Gordon Turner Park, weeding sidewalks downtown, creating and placement of signs at the community garden, maintaining two (2) recycling locations, refinishing the art room floor at the Wolverine Community School and extensive work at the Fairgrounds for preparation for Fair week as well as well as cleanup after the Fair. The SAYPA program makes such a positive impact in the community. It builds relationships with local organizations and fosters a good repour between the court and the community. This school year SAYPA will continue life skill training sessions, continue substance abuse and job preparedness classes. Also this year, they will be offering moral recognition therapy, art therapy, martial arts and fitness academy and a longer cooking matter nutrients class. Commissioner Sangster stated he appreciated her work.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Jeff Lawson gave an update on a few items. He stated there were a couple of requests for proposals coming in this week for the jail security system to control the doors and intercoms within the jail as well as installing additional cameras to the new and renovated jail areas. Also a mechanic bid for the animal shelter and an Inmate Food Service contract bid, which was coming in on Thursday. As far as the jail and storage building projects, there was a paving delay. The operating engineers for road paving in the State of Michigan are in a labor impasse and this would likely delay the paving of our projects. If this dispute goes on for very long, gravel will be placed in those areas where needed until next spring.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Director James Manko presented Budget Adjustments – Inter-budget Transfers – Payroll Related. The following inter-budget transfer is requesting a transfer to personal services (payroll) line items: 1) a position in the Prosecutor's Office has become vacant as of September 20, 2018. This has resulted in an opening, which is being advertised for. The position is not expected to be filled until October 8, 2018 or thereafter. The Prosecutor has requested to transfer the savings of \$2,073 resulting from the vacancy from full-time to overtime and fringe to allow the other departmental staff additional hours to keep up with the work load and train the new employee. This budget adjustment decreases the Full-Time expenditure line item and increases the Overtime and Fringe expenditure line items by a total of \$2,073; 2) Straits Regional Ride has three (3) bus driver vacancies that will need to be filled. In order to maintain adequate coverage of the bus routes, staff will have to be rotated around until new bus drivers are hired as follows: move part-time swing driver/part-time office to full-time swing driver and move part-time dispatcher to full-time dispatcher. It was determined that available budget in full-time dispatcher pay classification is insufficient and needs to be adjusted. This budget adjustment decreased Part-Time Dispatchers and Full-Time other Administrative and increases Full-Time Dispatchers expenditure line items by a total of \$7,560.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to approve the inter-department budget transfers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Financial Director James Manko presented the 2018 Salary & Wage - Non-Union General Employees #17-009 – Amendment #8 Straits Regional Ride Full-Time Dispatcher Wage. The original 2018 Salary & Wage Resolution approved on October 10, 2017, listed a part-time dispatcher wage rate of \$11.75 per hour, but did not provide wage rate of a full-time dispatcher. Due to three vacancies, staff will be rotated around to maintain adequate coverage for the bus routes. The plan is to move the part-time dispatcher to full-time dispatcher at a rate of \$13.50 per hour. Discussion was held on wages and benefits.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Sangster, to adopt Amendment #8 to the 2018 Salary & Wage Resolution – Non-Union General Employee #17-009 to be effective September 26, 2018 and authorize the Chair to sign. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

BOARD MEMBER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Civil Counsel, Peter Wendling commented that it has been a while since the county has updated their SWMP, which was supposed to be updated every five (5) years. It had not been looked at until a zoning issue come up at the beginning of last year. He referred to a letter that he had written regarding a review of the plan and how applicable it would be when this came to Planning and Zoning as to land usage relating to the disposal of, transfer of or storage of solid wastes. It turned out that it wasn't particularly helpful at that point. He outlined the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment.

Administrator Jeff Lawson stated NEMCOG has suggested developing a draft platform language concerning the Board of Commissioner's amendment topics to provide to the SWPC that will provide direction and also allow NEMCOG to develop a quote for their planning costs.

Discussion by the Board of Commissioners continued on the amendment of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Commissioner Wallace stated that it was the consensus of the Board to move ahead with the establishment of the Solid Waste Management Committee. Commissioner Johnson accepted to be a member on the SWPC regardless of if she was a County Commissioner or she could be a member at-large. Administrator Lawson clarified the formation.

Civil Counsel, Peter Wendling recited the main points to be discussed as follows: How to process new requests for Type A or B transfer stations related to definition, siting, approval and number; whether to license solid waste haulers and enforcement and limit the location of future transfer stations to industrial park areas. The amendment process should also verify existing solid waste disposal facilities and review the fees for siting facilities. NEMCOG would be the planning agency and they would go through with the amendment process. A letter to NEMCOG would contain the focus points discussed today.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to continue with NEMCOG as the planning agency, get a contract bid and send a letter of understating with the focus points as discussed today. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Louis Vallance citizen of Grant Township and city property owner questioned on how to get the Drain Commissioner, Cam Cavitt to do his job regarding taking care of the designated drains in the county before winter arrives. He stated he is getting conflicting information from the City and the Drain Commissioner, so he decided to bring this issue to the county. Administrator Lawson commented that they have talked in the past and he would look into the drain situation. As far as drains in the County, there are not any legal county drains in Cheboygan County. The process of maintaining drains goes back to the jurisdictions that would have control over them. This might be where some of the conflicting information is coming from between the units.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gouine commented that the Drain Commissioner, Cam Cavitt organized the ditch on M-23 between the lake to be brushed out, so maybe it is plugged in again. Since the county was going to have a challenge getting the pavement done this year, he suggested going back to the architect's original plan to just patch it in for the winter. He suggested checking with Spierling or Xtreme Asphaltting to complete the pavement, especially along the roadway.

Commissioner Newman commented that he was very disappointed with the results of the meeting with District #4 Health Department and was not able to come to a consensus on how to resolve the issues. He stated that they have lost two (2) nurses here in Cheboygan County. One of the nurses was providing services to the jail at a great cost savings. He questioned when maintenance was going to cut the grass at the Gold Front. Administrator Lawson stated that it has already been cut a couple of times.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Board of Commissioner for moving the SWMP forward and hopefully keeping it on track.

Finance Director James Manko updated the Board on reviewing the 2019 Budget and the Salary & Wage Resolution process time line. It was scheduled for Tuesday, October 9th, but would be postponed until the union contracts have been finalized.

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Sangster, to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson