

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
May 25, 2010**

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 Socha, Makima, Redmond, Mushlock, Page, Wallace and Bolinger

ABSENT: None

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Tony Matelski advised that representatives from the UAW will be attending the next meeting of the Waverly Township Board. He said the UAW once again has appealed the property taxes and are seeking a huge reduction in taxable values.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Patti Spinella, SNAP-Ed Instructor at MSU Extension addressed the board regarding the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). She said this program has been available in the county since 2003. The program has helped many low income families and seniors with tax preparation and electronic filing at no cost to them. The IRS, MSU Extension and United Way along with many volunteers work together to make this valuable program available in Cheboygan County. VITA's continuing goal is to help working families and seniors find tax credits that might be missed. This program brings real dollars into the community by helping those who need it most. In 2009, 662 returns were completed resulting in a total amount of returns of \$608,272.

Community Development Director Steve Schnell and Building Official Kevan Flory presented the 2009 annual report for the Community Development Department. The in-depth report was on each of the three divisions of the department: Planning & Zoning, Building Safety and Geographic Information Systems. A copy of the report is available in the County Clerks Office or the Community Development Department. Chairperson Socha said that reports like this can be released to the public following a presentation of the report to the Board of Commissioners.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Selina Chevalier, a resident of the City of Cheboygan, addressed the board regarding the height of the recycling bin for cardboard. She recently fell attempting to place cardboard in the bin. She suffered a sprained ankle, sprained wrist and broken arm as a result of that fall. Ms. Chevalier suggested a set for stairs, similar to those at the hospital's recycling bin be purchased. Administrator Overton said when this bin was first purchased the height was brought to his attention. At that time a lower opening was made in the bin, but once it's full the lower opening is no longer accessible. He said a better solution will be sought.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Bolinger said he was in Lansing yesterday and the state is still seeking county court equity funds.

Commissioner Page said it appears more optimistic on broadband as round two of grants may be approved for middle mile if a need can be shown. He said the Broadband Co-op is at an advocacy

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stage still re-examining what should be done with the Co-op. Chairperson Socha said there may be a three county meeting with Merit regarding broadband.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Page, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson