

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
September 22, 2015**

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

Roll called and a quorum present.

**Present:** Commissioners Chris Brown, Bruce Gauthier, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

**Absent:** Commissioner Pete Redmond (excused)

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 1 absent (Commissioner Redmond).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Patrick Monette, a citizen of Tuscarora Township from the Grand View Beach area, expressed his concern about a proposed mental illness treatment facility in the Grand View Beach area. Larry and Betsy Hansen, the developer have been trying to bypass planning and zoning procedural requirements. Mr. Monette stated that he is the next door neighbor to Larry Hansen and that any development would affect him significantly. Mr. Monette requested the Board of Commissioners to do everything in their power to force the Hansen's to go through the proper planning and zoning channels for commercial land development. Mr. Monette presented petitions signed by residents in the area, to convince the Board of Commissioners to do everything they can to insure the proposal for the facility goes through the same zoning process as all other land developments in the County.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS**

Jennifer Berkey, Interim District 14 Coordinator for MSU Extension, presented the 2014-2015 Annual Report. Ms. Berkey introduced Lisa Anderson, the new District 14 Coordinator which includes Cheboygan County. Ms. Anderson will be housed at the Otsego County MSU-E office. Ms. Berkey introduced the other personnel from the Cheboygan County MSU-E office.

Leigh Ann Theunick, Cheboygan County 4-H Program Coordinator for MSU Extension, presented information on 4-H and Youth Development programs in Cheboygan County that took place in 2014-2015. She said she tried to expand the 4-H program throughout the County. Ms. Theunick stated that there were 733 youth participants in 4-H programs for 2014-2015.

Patti Spinella, Nutrition Program Instructor for MSU Extension in Cheboygan County. Ms. Spinella presented information on various health and nutrition programs in Cheboygan County, including Project Fresh. She reported during 2014-2105

Kylie Rymanowicz, Early Childhood Educator for MSU Extension, presented information on various early childhood development and family programs in Cheboygan County that took place in 2014-2015. Commissioner Wallace asked Ms. Rymanowicz if they instruct parents on their relationship with children. Ms. Rymanowicz affirmed.

Discussion was held. Commissioner Gauthier asked Ms. Anderson which counties are included in her new District 14. Ms. Anderson stated that the district includes Alpena, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Emmett, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Commissioner Gauthier

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asked Ms. Rymanowicz if she is currently holding classes. Ms. Rymanowicz stated she started a new class last night. Commissioner Wallace stated that MSU Extension should have someone on the Board for Northeast Michigan Consortium and NEMCOG. Jennifer Berkey said she will present that to her administrative board at their meeting in two weeks. Commissioner Allor asked Jennifer Berkey about ISLAND (Institute for Sustainable Living Art and Natural Design) being relocated to Petoskey, Michigan. Ms. Berkey stated that transition has to do with their small farm conference. Commissioner Allor asked Patti Spinella a question about Project Fresh. Ms. Spinella explained that there are two parts to Project Fresh – the WIC component for young families enrolled in WIC funded by the state and the senior citizen side funded through local communities and the state. Commissioner Allor asked Leigh Ann Theunick about the underwater vehicle project. Ms. Theunick said the Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Building was held in April of 2015 with 84 youth participating in the 3 day event. She said three youth expressed interest in developing an ROV Competition Team.

Judge Robert Butts presented the 2014 Annual Probate/Family Court report. He thanked the MSU-E team for all the programs they provide for all the youth in the County and their ties with Probate Court. He noted that statistic wise the numbers are generally the same from year to year but noted some increase last year in juvenile delinquency and abuse and neglect. Any adjustments to the department budgets were made by the finance department. His report focused on his staff of which he is very proud. The employees of the Probate Court have a total of 188 years of experience. Judge Butts reviewed the tenure and job duties for each employee.

Discussion was held. Commissioner Gauthier thanked Judge Butts and his staff for the programs provided by the Probate Court. Commissioner Wallace commented about the organizational chart for Probate Court being out of date. Judge Butts stated that it was included for illustrative purposes of the changes in Probate Court structure in the 1980's. Commissioner Brown commended Judge Butts and his staff for their commitment and the longevity and service of the Probate Court employees. Commissioner Matelski asked if juvenile delinquency issues are generally genetic or learned behavior. Judge Butts stated he couldn't speak to genetics but it's probably more learned behavior. Commissioner Allor asked about changes in the amount of new case filings in this annual report compared to previous years. The Judge indicated that the number of case filings naturally ebbs and flows but it has basically stayed consistent overall. Judge Butts stated that divorces with minor children dropped significantly in 2014.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None**

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

**BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – None**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wallace wanted to provide an update on the Grandview Beach lawsuit for those in attendance. Commissioner Wallace provided an acronym list to the Board.

Commissioner Brown stated that on October 3, 2015 there will be an ATV/side-by-side crossing of the Mackinaw Bridge. He stated that there are currently 1,500 participants registered for the event.

Commissioner Matelski commented on the letter from the Prosecutor requesting a meeting with the Board of Commissioners on October 15, 2015. Commissioner Allor stated that it is a request at this point. Commissioner Brown said that a meeting isn't happening because the process

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hasn't been completed. Administrator Lawson stated that Prosecutor Vizina has requested a meeting after speaking with Board Chairperson Pete Redmond. Administrator Lawson said that elected officials can have a meeting without the Board in attendance. Commissioner Allor said the memo makes it sound like there is an elected officials meeting scheduled. Commissioner Brown stated that he was under the impression that Prosecutor Vizina requested a meeting but that the Board is not going to have one. Administrator Lawson stated that the Chairperson of the Board can call a public meeting but it would take the additional support of three other Board members. Administrator Lawson stated there are opportunities within the budget process for elected officials to ask questions or if they disagree with recommendations from administration they have an opportunity to do that. Commissioner Brown asked if the Board is doing anything different in this budget process than they have in the past. Administrator Lawson stated that it has been consistent.

Commissioner Wallace commented about the ease of issuing arrest warrants electronically.

Commissioner Matelski stated at a township meeting someone commented that they brought old computers to the Fairgrounds to be disposed of but were turned away. Ultimately they were charged \$25 to dispose of them at Republic. Commissioner Matelski stated that citizens are confused about what they can dispose of and when they are charged. Administrator Lawson stated that the Board can come up with a fee schedule for disposing items with the county recycling program. Commissioner Matelski asked if the Fair Board is still interested in taking complete control of the Fair and fairgrounds. Administrator Lawson said he believes the Fair Board plans to request county representatives to attend a Fair Board meeting to discuss the matter. Commissioner Gouine said that insurance and liability are a concern. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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Amber Libby  
Cheboygan County Chief Deputy Clerk/Register

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Pete Redmond  
Chairperson