

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

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 Linda Socha, Bruce Gauthier, Cal Gouine, Pete Redmond, Tony Matelski, and Sue Allor.

Absent: Commissioner Wallace (excused)

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

Commissioner Socha requested Item 6-B *Cheboygan County Sheriff Department Citizenship Award to Douglas Thornton*; Item 6-C *Retirement Certificate of Appreciation for Undersheriff Mike Newman* and Item 6-D *Judge Robert Butts – Probate-Family Court 2013 Annual Report* be moved up immediately following Approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Socha stated that *Citizen Comment* would then come after *Judge Robert Butts – Probate-Family Court 2013 Annual Report*.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Allor, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented a Citizen Award to Douglas Thornton for his assistance in helping to locate a toddler with the Cheboygan County Sheriff Department Search and Rescue Team. Sheriff Dale Clarmont thanked Mr. Thornton for his efforts in locating the toddler. Commissioner Socha, on behalf of the citizens of Cheboygan County and the Board of Commissioners also thanked Mr. Thornton.

Sheriff Dale Clarmont presented a Retirement Certificate of Appreciation for Undersheriff Mike Newman for his 37 years of service to the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Newman was the longest serving deputy and undersheriff in the history of the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Dale Clarmont thanked Mr. Newman for his dedication to law enforcement and to the citizens of Cheboygan County. Commissioner Socha presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Undersheriff Newman on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and thanked him for his service. Sheriff Clarmont read a story written by Jodi Beauchamp, Administrative Assistant at the Sheriff's Department for Mr. Newman. Undersheriff Newman spoke thanking all.

Commissioner Matelski and Roberta Matelski presented a check for \$10,000 to Mary Talaski for the Humane Society Building Fund. Commissioner Socha, on behalf of the citizens of Cheboygan County, thanked Tony and Roberta Matelski for their generous donation.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Honorable Judge Roberts Butts presented the Probate-Family Court 2013 Annual Report. Judge Butts reported that the Probate case filings saw a large increase in 2013. Commissioner Socha asked Judge Butts if he was aware why the Probate case filings have increased. Judge Butts was not sure of a specific reason. Commissioner Allor asked why the juvenile case load has decreased. Judge Butts stated that it may be due to the decrease in juvenile behavioral intervention programs and a general decrease in population in the area. Commissioner Matelski asked Judge Butts about needing a bus monitor for the SAYPA kids. Judge Butts agreed that while a bus monitor may be needed at this time, it likely won't be a permanent necessity and he appreciated it being approved this year. Commissioner Socha thanked Judge Butts.

Tim Mason presented the 2013 Annual Recycling Report. Commissioner Matelski asked if recycling was still charging \$20 per household for recycling and if this was enough revenue for recycling. Mr. Mason

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reported that 5 new recycling bins were purchased in 2013 so it inflated the capital expense budget. Finance Director Kari Kortz confirmed that there is still a fund balance in recycling.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Kerry Wieber, DNR Forest Land Administrator, presented information on DNR PILT (Payment in Lieu of Tax) payments. Scott Whitcomb, Unit Manager for the Pigeon River State Forest, presented information regarding Resolution 14-17 Supporting DNR Land Acquisition of two parcels of property in Forest Township. He stated both parcels have been on the market for over a year and are forty acre parcels. Commissioner Socha asked if there was a cabin on either parcel. Mr. Whitcomb stated there are cabins on both parcels, and they will look at all options, but most likely the cabins will be demolished. County Treasurer Linda Cronan asked if the taxable value of the parcels will be determined by the local assessor or by the state. Ms. Wieber stated that due to a recent statutory change, the taxable value will be determined by the State Department of Treasury and then the local assessor can input if the amount is inappropriate based on comparable property data or other sources. Discussion was held regarding harvesting of trees on these parcels.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Matelski to adopt Cheboygan County Resolution 14-17:

Local Support for DNR Land Acquisition

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners support the Department of Natural Resources efforts to acquire two 40-acre parcels located in the Pigeon River County State Forest. The first parcel (232-016-400-014-00) located in the south east corner of Section 16 T 33 N-R01E and the second parcel (232-025-100-001-00) located in the north west corner of Section 25 T 33 N-R01E, both in Forest Township, Cheboygan County Michigan; and

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that Cheboygan County is *not* committing to any obligations; financial or otherwise.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Cheboygan County hereby supports the Department of Natural Resources efforts to acquire two 40-acre parcels located in the Pigeon River County State Forest. The first parcel (232-016-400-014-00) located in the south east corner of Section 16 T 33 N-R01E and the second parcel (232-025-100-001-00) located in the northwest corner of Section 25 T 33 N-R01E, both in Forest Township, Cheboygan County Michigan.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Redmond provided a District No. 4 Health Board meeting correspondence regarding the budget to Commissioners.

Commissioner Redmond noted the County Road Commission Clerk has concern with the motion regarding the compensation package, specifically the MERS retirement employer percentage rate for the Road Commission, approved by this board. Finance Director Kari Kortz clarified MERS sets the employer contribution rate based on many different aspects for each entity. She said the road commission is underfunded compared to us so that is why their employer contribution rate is higher than ours. The

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Road Commission will continue to contribute based on the required contribution rate established by their actuarial evaluation.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to adjourn the meeting to the call of the chair at 11:15 a.m. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Linda Socha
Chairperson