

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
January 26, 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.

Chairperson Socha said usually committee of the whole meetings are limited to matters for discussion, however, there are two action items included on the agenda, Item 6C Employers Supporting Guard and Reserve and Item 8A Sheriff Department Byrne Jag Grant, and possibly action may be taken on the EDC Strategic Plan and AFSCME Union Negotiations.

Motion by Commissioner Mushlock, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to approve the agenda with possible added action items. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – George Lewis, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church, sought clarification regarding fairground property, particularly use and sale of alcohol on the property recently purchased by the County on the North side of Lincoln Avenue. Chairperson Socha advised that a new fairgrounds policy is in the works, but not complete yet. She said to date the board has supported no alcohol on the south side of the street, but that could change and will be addressed in the new policy. She said the Ministerial Association would be advised when the policy is addressed, but as of now alcohol would be allowed on the property on the north side of the road.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chairperson Socha read the Certificates of Appreciates which were prepared for the following retiring board members: Fred Weeks, Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation; Michael Donovan, Cheboygan County Road Commission; Ed Ginop, Keith Ginop, and Cora Sue Burr, Cheboygan County Fair.

Kathy Bricker thanked the Board Commissioners and advised April 22nd will be the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. She has been working with numerous organizations and companies to involve youngsters in the outdoors. She said this year Earth Week will be April 14th thru April 22nd. There will be with numerous demonstrations being held at the library, topics to include local and healthy foods, recycling, and energy conservation. She said Dave Barrons, meteorologist, will be speaking on weather, there also will be various onsite tours, nature appreciation and art and community action. She asked for other ideas and volunteers for the events. The new issue of the recycling newsletter was distributed.

Pete Pellas from Employers Supporting the Guard and Reserve addressed the Board seeking support from the Board. He said employers can take an important step toward ensuring the availability and readiness of our National Guard and Reserve forces by participating with the ESGR. Active support for employees who voluntarily participate in their community-based defense force is vital to the nation. A short video was shown. Mr. Pellas requested support from the Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Clarmont said the ESGR has been ready to help and is a great organization that goes above and beyond.

Motion by Commissioner Page, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to adopt the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve, as read by Chairperson Socha, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

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IS Manager Matt Hellens presented a preview of the new county website. Using a laptop computer and a projector he navigated through the site's features. Mr. Hellens said the former site was difficult to find specific items on and the new site is more attractive and user friendly.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff Clarmont requested approval to submit the 2010 Byrne JAG Equipment grant. He said this grant is a 90/10 matching grant and will be used to purchase the Integrated PalmScan Capture Upgrade provided by ID Networks. This will bring the Sheriff Department Jail in compliance with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The grant total is \$16,160 with 10% match funding of \$1,616, which has already been approved in the 2010 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to allow the Cheboygan County Sheriff Department to submit the 2010 Byrne JAG Equipment Grant for purchase of the Integrated PalmScan Capture Upgrade provided by ID Networks in the amount of \$16,160 and authorize the Chairperson to sign the grant and all other required documents relative to this grant. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Discussion was held as to whether the chairperson could delegate her authority to sign these grants that have short deadlines. The finance director will look into this for more discussion at a later date.

Sheriff Clarmont reported he held the Rapid Response training for the first time in the Cheboygan Schools. He suggested that another Rapid Response training exercise be held for the County Building sometime this year.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Community Development Director Steve Schnell presented for discussion the Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation's Strategic Plan. He reviewed the strategic planning process, including the public meetings, and vision and mission statements of the EDC. He said the EDC Strategic Plan was adopted in September of 2009 by the EDC Board after a series of very successful public meetings. The EDC selected the following seven action items around which action committees will be formed: Create a coordinated branding message. Create a natural asset inventory and sustainable economic development opportunities utilizing natural assets. Support Local industry clusters. Explore local financing opportunities, Support expansion of entrepreneurial support services, support expansion of broad band, and Promote and expand the use of Brownfield program. Discussion held. Commissioner Bolinger said Emmet County has really been selling their tourism and this county must do the same. He pointed out the elk herds as a possible tourist attraction. Commissioner Page said the Little Traverse Conservancy should be included; and commented on a program on satellite of wacky wild festivals and suggested sometime of signature festival for Cheboygan County. Commissioner Wallace asked if EDC has tried to get all economic groups together. Mr. Schnell said there are huge opportunities to work together. Chairperson Socha said we have to determine how to work with each other, not only compete with each other. She pointed out the low percentage of bachelor degrees held by those 25 years old and older in this county. She requested a resolution of support for the Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation Strategic Plan be drafted for next meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Makima there would be H1N1 shots available at the Inland Lakes High School on February 9, 2010 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. He also said free radon kits are available at the Health Department.

Commission Page commented that if snowbirds complete the census information out of state they are counted in that state and this costs the State of Michigan \$1,000 per person, and also has an effect on

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the congressional districts. He also talked about the numerous census jobs that will be available. These jobs pay \$11.25 per hour plus mileage. Commissioner Page also advised that NEMCSA programs have money available for weatherization and heating assistance for those who qualify. He said perhaps this could be noted on the county's website. He said the MI Choice program's, the program to assist seniors in remaining in their home rather than going to a nursing home, budget was increased because the state saves money through these programs. Commissioner Page said that next year will be looking at 20% cuts in funding for state programs. Chairperson Socha said that is only one of many anticipated cuts for 2011. She said the county will be faced with many financial issues as well. Commissioner Page said regarding broadband, he talked with Congressman Stupak's office and was told the MERIT program was the big winner with about 33 million targeted for broadband on the west side of the state. He said the Northern Michigan Broadband Cooperative did not hear any news, which could be a bad sign. He said the co-op may be going back to 12 counties from the current 21 counties and will participate in next level of grants.

Chairperson Socha said that weather spotting training will be held March 1st at the Cheboygan Library; and on April 19th at 2 p.m. C.C.E. Emergency Management training will be held to reinforce the role of county commissioners in emergency management

Commissioner Wallace said that Richard Sangster, Mayor of the City of Cheboygan, was appointed as a representative on the C.C.E. 9-1-1 Executive Board. Chairperson Socha said she heard a concern that Cheboygan County may not have adequate equipment for a backup system for 9-1-1.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to go into closed session, following a ten minute break, pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(c) for a strategy session connected with the negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement with Michigan Council 25, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Local 1325.06. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Went into closed session at 12:00 p.m. and returned to open session at 12:37 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Mushlock, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to approve the addendum to the agreement with the AFSCME Union Council 25, Local 1325.06 which states "The current contract has been extended for an additional year from 1-1-10 through 12-31-10. In conjunction with the contract extension, a 2% across-the-board pay increase, retroactive to 1-1-10, will be awarded to the membership (reference Schedule "A" dated January 2010)". A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson