

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING SESSION
January 29, 2008**

The meeting was called to order in the meeting room on the third floor of Cheboygan Memorial Health Center by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Socha, Makima, Redmond, Mushlock, Page, and Bolinger, Administrator Overton, Clerk Tryban

Absent: Commissioner Wallace (excused)

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

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Chairperson Socha said the presentation on substance abuse issues in the County, requested by Commissioner Wallace, would be led by Prescription Drug Diversion Investigator Todd Ross of the Sheriff Department. Administrator Overton introduced Dean Soloman, Charlevoix County MSU Extension Director, the facilitator for the goals review and setting part of the meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

Investigator Ross introduced Detective Chuck Vondra of the Charlevoix County Sheriff Department and Dr. Shaney Scott. The Dr. Scott formerly worked in ER department at CMH, and now works in Urgent Care. Investigator Ross said the history of drugs dates back to 1898, prescription drugs started in 1951. Abuse of prescription drugs has increased steadily nationally since 1992. Michigan does not report drug overdose deaths. The majority of prescription drugs that are being abused in this county are from legitimate prescriptions. The State has a prescription drug monitoring computer program available, but not monitored. Representative Elsenheimer and Senator Allen have met with Ross and Vondra regarding the prescription drug problems; and a meeting with Attorney General Mike Cox is in the works. Inspector Ross said mandatory reporting by hospital staff of drug crimes was discussed with Representative Elsenheimer. However, current privacy laws regarding these cases prevent reporting drug overdoses or suspicious behavior. Opiates are common drugs being abused in this county. Detective Vondra commended the board for instituting the Prescription Drug Diversion position in Cheboygan County. Lt. Ken Mills from SANE and Prosecutor Mickey Castagne were in attendance for the presentation. Lt. Mills said the use cocaine had risen sharply, but since dropped some; see more crack now than in the past; heroin, marijuana, ecstasy; with marijuana, cocaine and prescription drugs being the most prevalent in this area. Discussion held regarding the new prescription drug card program the county is starting to implement. Chairperson Socha asked what more this board could do. Detective Vondra said Cheboygan County is leading the way and has been very proactive; noting that Todd Ross is a resource to many other area law enforcement groups. Prosecutor Castagne said typically drug courts are valuable for misdemeanor type cases, which are the majority of the cases in the county; but for other cases, such as SANE type cases, a drug court would probably not work for those types of people. Chairperson Socha said we are waiting to see how drug courts work in other counties, before implementing that here. She said this would be a good time to lobby for legislation to address the drug issues. Commissioner Bolinger said Ben Boden and Tom Hickson from MAC could be contacted. Detective Vondra said Representative Elsenheimer said language would have to be written within 6 weeks to be addressed this year. One matter discussed was a change to the mandate by HIPPA to allow reporting of drug overdoses; also prescription drug dispensing and

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identification for controlled substance prescriptions were discussed. Lt. Mills said Mackinac County hired a company to dispense drugs in that county jail, and has saved the county thousands of dollars. The Cheboygan Sheriffs Department has implemented a narcotic free jail.

Lunch was held from 11:45 a.m. until 12:20 p.m.

Following lunch, MSUE Director Dean Soloman began the review of the board's goals, by asking each commissioner to write headlines for the January 29, 2018 edition of the Cheboygan Daily Tribune that describes Cheboygan. Many of the responses reflected growth, both physical and economic.

Vision Statement – The County of Cheboygan will strengthen its position as a diverse, family-oriented community while promoting a higher quality of life, a safe environment, balanced growth and positive interaction of all citizens.

Mission Statement – Cheboygan County officials and staff efficiently provide public services in an ethical and courteous manner through responsible management of county resources.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the County's Vision and Mission Statements still reflect the Board's ideas.

When asked the following question, "What are the **critical issues** that Cheboygan County citizens are facing in 2008?", the board members' responses included: Lack of good paying jobs, Foreclosure of homes, Jail Expansion, County Space Expansion, Substance Abuse, Lack of Broadband/High Speed Internet, Health Care, Roads, Lakefront issues, Planning for growth and necessary infrastructure, Awareness of State and Federal Programs for Needy Families, Taxes, Health benefits, Senior Services/Care, Need more higher educational opportunities, Downturn of Overall Economy, Public Transportation, More for Young People to Do, More People need to go to Church.

Discussion on the various critical issues took place. Mr. Solomon said issues of county government were cited in previous goals and asked if there are any other of those types of issues. Recycling, and better communications with other governmental units were named.

How do we address these issues in 2008?

- ❖ Goals –The What and When
- ❖ Actions/Strategies – The How and Who
- ❖ Goals and actions should be:
 - Specific – Someone who was not involved in the process can understand the goals and actions.
- ❖ Measurable – We know when we are successful
- ❖ Achievable – We can actually do.

Review of 2006 goals:

- 1) Regional transportation system – **still should remain open to all options for transportation if this system is ineffective.**
- 2) Expanding county jail and office facilities – **need to keep this in goals, but rewrite.**
- 3) Job descriptions for all committees and boards and revise to include clear expectations – **Done**
- 4) Support and participate in cooperative efforts to mitigate substance abuse in Cheboygan County - **Chairperson Socha said Commissioner Wallace would like this goal to be the same and evaluate where we are.**

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- 5) Complete and update master plan for parks and recreation facilities – **Done**
- 6) Continue to support the EDC – **should be changed to economic development**
- 7) Continue to explore and incorporate technology that makes county government more efficient and effective for our citizens – **have made good progress in this area, but still keep.**

GOALS

- 1) Make high speed Internet available at an affordable cost to all residents.
- 2) Evaluate existing County programs and plans and cost effectiveness – strengthen and stabilize when necessary and consider others.
- 3) Develop a means for communicating with all county residents and townships.
- 4) Continue to strengthen economic development through NLEA partnership, EDC support, Brownfield Redevelopment.
- 5) By June of 2008 have plan in place to fulfill the need for more facilities and storage areas for county operations.

Commissioner Redmond spoke regarding the vacant Black River School building. The price would be approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000. He pointed out the building already has an inside sprinkling system, alarm system and fiber optic phone lines. He said NEMCSA may be interested in renting six of the classrooms at \$30,000 per year. Discussion held on the school versus building a pole barn near the county building.

- 6) Continue operations of the SRR transportation system, and continue to evaluate the market need and type of operation and remain open to all options for transportation.
- 7) We will support and participate in cooperative efforts to mitigate substance abuse.

Chairperson Socha said in the past the established goals, actions and strategies were taken first to elected officials. Actions and strategies will be worked on later.

Chairperson Socha said the next meeting to work towards finalizing the board's goals would be held on February 20th at 9:30 a.m., the location to be determined.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson