

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
November 22, 2011**

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, Don Horrocks, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace and Sue Allor

Absent: Commissioner Redmond (excused)

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chairperson Socha presented certificates of appreciation to James Conboy, Jr. and Eric Jacobson. Mr. Conboy's certificate was for his time served on the Northern Lakes Economics Board, and Mr. Jacobson's for his time served on the Cheboygan County Economic Development/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

The 4-H Extension Educator, Melanie Chiodini, introduced the new County 4-H Program Instructor Leigh Ann Theunick. Ms. Theunick, who has a degree in communications, said she is excited with her new position and looks forward to working with the youth in the county. Chairperson Socha encouraged the new commissioners to visit the MSU Extension Office. The office is holding an open house today at noon, however, Chairperson Socha said today's meeting may not allow time for the commissioners to attend. She said statistics show that kids involved in 4-H are more likely to attend college and have a successful career.

Janet Lupow, Director of Maximus Consulting, presented the County's Cost Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2010. This cost allocation plan prepared by Maximus Consulting allocated the costs of indirect services provided by central service departments based on actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. Ms. Lupow explained the report and answered questions from the board. She said for the \$7,500 cost for Maximus the county benefits in many, many ways financially. Finance Director Kari Kortz said the county receives more than 10 times its expenditure for services for Title IV-D only.

Motion by Commissioner Matelski, seconded by Commission Gouine, to accept the County-Wide Cost Allocation Plan Fiscal 2010 as prepared by Maximus. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Al West of NEMAH addressed the board. He reported the following: Projects currently under construction – 1; Projects completed – 2; Projects to be started soon – 2 emergency repairs (\$10,000 to \$15,000 to complete); Projects out for bid – 2 combined estimate is approximately \$38,000; Projects inspected specs being written – 4 (estimate as much as \$80,000); and Clients awaiting certification information – 3. He said the CDBG expires June 30, 2012, current balance \$31,119; 2009 HPG expires December 31, 2011, current balance \$25,083.25; and 2010 HPG expires September 30, 2012, current balance \$50,000. He reported additional fund from a CDBG Pilot Program in partnership of DTE Energy totaling \$45,000; PIP loans as clients are eligible; NIP forgivable loans next funding round in Spring 2012; 2012 CDBG County Allotment will be applied for approximately 90 days prior to the close of the current CDBG grant; and USDA HPG application in August 2012. Mr. West introduced, Donna

Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 22, 2011

Sumner the new part time Housing Specialist for Cheboygan County. Dave Farmer, NEMAH's Director of Construction was also present. Mr. West said plans include hiring a contracted project inspector with advertising to be done after the first of the year. Commissioner Wallace wanted to know the status of the loans, grants, etc. made over the years. Mr. West said he would like to get the status of old projects and would be willing to work towards compiling that information. Commissioner Allor asked how they advertise for clients. Mr. West said they are currently working with various entities and churches, as well as word of mouth, as newspaper advertising has not been successful. He said Ms. Sumner will be attending the Human Services Collaborative and the Continuum of Care groups and he plans to meet with various service organizations. Chairperson Socha said housing administration currently does not cost the county anything. Mr. West said on December 6th at 5 p.m. at the Great Lakes Grill there will be an educational meeting on energy audits for all licensed contractors.

County Clerk/Register reported on online access to the Register of Deeds records and images. She said the indexes for those records have been provided online for the past several years. Local assessors have requested access to images of the recorded documents as well. After gathering information from other counties she plans to move forward on allowing access to the images. She said utilizing a program from the current software provider credit card processing for online purchases of images will be implemented as soon as possible. The cost of this service will be \$1.00 per page plus a \$5.00 online access fee. The county would receive \$3.00 of the \$5.00 online access fee along with the per page amount. She said some counties in addition to this also offer a monthly subscription to the online data. This service would potentially be used by real estate agents, mortgage companies, title people and attorneys. For this she suggested a \$300 monthly fee, which would be incorporated into the county's annual fee schedule. She plans to have local assessors, or other township officials sign an agreement for online usage which she suggested should be provided free of charge. The consensus of the Board was to provide this free of charge to the local units. Assessors will be able to continue to receive paper copies if they desire at this time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Administrator Lawson said there is a draft agreement for recycling for Wolverine Schools. He said last year Wolverine Schools had a successful pilot program recycling and now wish to continue recycling. The draft of the agreement will be reviewed by legal counsel. He said we currently have a recycling contract with the hospital and would be willing to offer the program to other schools in the county. He said the recycling truck should be here any day now. Chairperson Socha said the former Captain on the Mackinaw expressed interest in recycling as well. Mr. Lawson said the Drug Court expenditure matter has been addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Socha said the draft letter regarding support for Phase II US-23 Heritage Route Grant still needs to be edited slightly before it is signed and sent. She asked the administrator to speak regarding the letter and questions. Administrator Lawson said the match for this grant is in-kind services for attending meetings and such no county funds are expected.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks, to authorize the administrator to reword the letter of support Phase II US-23 Heritage Route Grant and authorize the Chairperson to sign the revised letter. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2012 Budget Review

2012 Budget – Ms. Kortz had compiled a detailed report of adjustments made since the last budget discussion and reviewed the larger items. She said .84% increase was made to health insurance. Administrator Lawson explained that the state had a fee imposed to customers in the State of Michigan for one year for health insurance this calculates this year to .84% of health insurance costs. Ms. Kortz said Health insurance and Dental and Vision rates were changed. Each commissioner had an opportunity to have questions addressed.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 22, 2011

Administrator Lawson said the budget will be put on the county website tomorrow for public review. He said the format of the website will be addressed as soon as possible. He said a reallocation of SAYPA funds will be done, but this does not change the total number. Chairperson Socha explained if all business is taken care of at the Finance/Business meeting in December, the Committee of the Whole meeting has typically been cancelled. The Public Hearing for the Budget will be held at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Kortz explained that the Construction Code department is set up as a special revenue fund, and at this time the county contributes 20% of its budget from the general fund.

Discussion held on recycling. Administrator Lawson said moving forward should be accounting for storage at the fairgrounds and all costs. Ms. Kortz said in lowering recycling fee to \$20 the program is barely breaking even and depreciation and these types of things were not accounted for. She said there will be a hefty budget adjustment for recycling next month.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Commissioner Horrocks commented on the number of county owned vehicles that are not being used. He said he thinks we have way too many vehicles. Finance Director Kortz said during peak season the cars are used a lot and we often do not have enough vehicles at times. In the winter we could store some off site. Chairperson Socha said a fleet analysis of this should be done the first part of the year.

Commissioner Allor said at the MAC Conference there was an individual promoting analysis of telephone services. Ms. Kortz said that is something looked at regularly here. Commissioner Allor said regarding SRR, Straits Area Services and North Country Community Mental Health, in the letter received, the writer indicated discrimination that her son is not being picked up at their home when others are being picked up at their doors. Administrator Lawson said SRR is following contract with Straits Area Services, as not all clients meet the same federal criteria. Discussion held regarding a general overview of North Country Community Mental Health as to what the program is and how it is funded and to provide specific questions. Commissioner Allor said a NCCMH agenda indicated health insurance was to be addressed; she contacted Alexis and was told it shouldn't have been on the agenda, but with contract negotiations starting and health insurance decision needed by 1-1-12 she didn't want to bother the board. She wanted the board to give the personnel committee authority to make the decision on health insurance and that passed with only Commissioner Allor voting no. Commissioner Allor didn't know who was on the personnel committee and believed no county commissioners are on that committee. Administrator Lawson said he will send a general request to have them do overview and then later send specific questions.

Chairperson Socha said regarding cuts in funds for meth lab cleanup, the Feds have allocated millions for this cleanup which is good news.

Sheriff Clarmont said after midnight there no Michigan State Police patrol in the county. There have also been a couple instances when Cheboygan Police Department also had no patrol. He reported his road patrol hasn't been doubling up until 10 or midnight, rather than at dark, so there are two cars available for a longer time period.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson