

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 24, 2009**

The Committee of the Whole 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.

Chairperson Socha advised that Commissioner Mushlock was excused. Roll called and a quorum present.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Socha, Makima, Wallace, Redmond, Page and Bolinger.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Mushlock (excused).

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

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None

Commissioner Socha reminded everyone of the Board's meeting format and stated that there were three action items plus possible directive action regarding Budget Review on the agenda.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS** –

Del Reynolds gave an update regarding the Cheboygan County Airport. He stated that there were nineteen airplanes based at the airport with more housed in the summer; self served fuel is supplied 24/7 and a courtesy car donated by the Board for those who land at the airport and need to get into town to do business. He thanked the Board for the retired car from the fleet. During normal business hours, 8,000 operations were logged in so far for the year with an estimated total of over 10,000. The last economic impact that was seen in direct income to Cheboygan County was \$870,000, which was due to the airport being there. He thanked the Board for being committed to staying in the grant process. Some of the things that they have done through the grant process were to lengthen the runway 400 ft. to accommodate bigger aircraft and a partial taxi way was built, which allows for safety. Also a new Holland tractor was purchased for brush hogging and a new pickup truck with plow for snow removal. They are in the process of building a paved 2000 ft. crosswind runway on 10 acres across the road from the airport on Levering and Airport Road. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2010. He stated that the Cheboygan County Airport is an emergency medical airport working together with the University of Michigan emergency survival flights, Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids and Munson Medical Center North Flight in Traverse City. This is a 24/7 operation when time is of the essence. He also stated that there are Angel Flights by pilots who donate their time and airplanes for cancer patients who need to get to treatment. Revenue is generated from the hanger rentals, tie down rentals, fuel sales and commercial landing fees. Mail transport and passenger service for Bois Blanc Island is supplied through the airport. Straits Regional Ride is partnered out of the airport and this has worked out well. Staffing consists of two persons that share the manager position, a part-time person for the weekend and the rest are volunteers. Commissioner Socha thanked Mr. Reynolds. The current scheduled meetings are being held quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for December 17, 2009. Discussion held.

Probate Judge Butts gave a Straits Area Youth Promotional Academy (SAYPA) year end update. He stated that they were celebrating their tenth year anniversary of the SAYPA program providing an intervention juvenile justice program, which keeps families and youth in the community to

allow for more successful behavior modification and prevent delinquent recidivism. Since its inception the program has served over 100 youth and counting and currently has 17 youth involved in the program. They are monitored by three full-time and one part time employee in addition to a full-time teacher in cooperation with Cheboygan Area Schools. In addition to the people employed at the SAYPA center, the Court program also employs outside counselors and service providers to accomplish its various programs, both during the school day and after. A list of the programs was given. SAYPA has just completed a very successful summer program where it continues to work with and monitor youth during the summer months continuing the counseling and other special services as well as seeking employment for those of sufficient age. This summer the majority of the SAYPA youth were able to obtain work through a program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with NCMC called Youth for Success. In addition to those youth, other youth were able to find employment through the assistance of SAYPA during the summer months. As reported earlier this year by Carol Rosinski, the SAYPA Director, the SAYPA program is always looking at ways to save and reduce the cost of the program. In addition, a list of the various groups that were used in the SAYPA program was supplied. One of the groups and requirements listed was the Ottawa Park, which was an example of the community service project for SAYPA youth. All SAYPA youth are required to participate in community service. The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant was applied for and they successfully received \$138,675 for the SAYPA program also from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In addition, the Court and the SAYPA program reapplied for the Governor's Discretionary Grant, but were unsuccessful. The program is always seeking other grants including additional funds through the Byrne Justice Assistance program. SAYPA continues to have oversight meetings on a quarterly basis and the County Administrator Overton and Commissioner Bolinger have attended a number of their meetings. Judge Butts advised that everyone is welcome to attend those meetings and also to examine the program itself. The program is located at the old Cheboygan Junior High Building. Their doors are always open during hours of operation. He reported that since 1994, they have had an agreement with MSU to use Carol Rosinski as a Court Juvenile Officer. She now acts as the SAYPA director. This contract is re-evaluated each year, and with the 2009 State budget issue, it will be re-evaluated again in 2010. MSU Extension has been fully funded again, but directed to make changes. As of this date, no decision has been made and will likely not be made until January 2010. This is not the first time this position has been threatened and they will address it when and if MSU makes a decision to end the agreement. If any questions about the program and especially if an issue comes up at one of the meetings, Mr. Grulke or Judge Butts, if available, will immediately come to the meeting to address any questions that you might have. Mrs. Rosinski reported that there are some children that are in the group multiple years and they have to be counted separately because they count from year to year. Last year, there were 23 youths in the program with 2 that went into long term care. One was child delinquency and the other was child neglect and abuse. This was a significant savings to the county. The average cost for placement is \$167 per day. The cost can go up to \$300 or \$400+ depending on the type of residential placement that they are placed in. SAYPA pays \$40 to \$45 for individual and family counseling with the average cost being \$90 to \$150 depending on where you go. SAYPA has reduced their costs for example by working with the Cheboygan Area School lunch service to buy afternoon snacks and St. Thomas Church to provide shoes, clothing, and school supplies. They are looking every single day to partnership with community resources that can help lower their costs. It costs \$38.18 per youth per day with last year's budget of 23 youths. This is lower than foster care, which is approximately \$50 per day. That amount provides 24 hour daily supervision, treatment services through Harbor Hall, individual and family counseling with Patrick McGinn, and round the clock crisis center prevention. She stated that they would like the opportunity to continue and they are proud of SAYPA. This is a great partnership with Cheboygan Alternative High School. They continue to have youths graduate and the recidivism rate is down. Commissioner Socha stated that they are lucky to still have grant funding for this program. Lengthy discussion held.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Gary Street gave a power point presentation regarding the Burt Lake Trail Project and assured the County that no finances were requested - just its support. He stated that this project started approximately 1 ½ years ago because there were no established trails along the proposed route, and the existing roads were too narrow and hazardous for multiple uses. The proposed trail would run for 18 miles and would link Topinabee, Burt Township and Mullett Townships and would eventually provide a connection to the North Central Trail and the proposed Petoskey to Mackinaw City Trail. The route would begin at Maple Bay Campground and continue around the north end of Burt Lake, ending at Topinabee. Crushed limestone was decided to be used on the trail separating it from the roadways wherever possible, to only allow non-motorized use such as walking, running and bicycling and to avoid expensive boardwalks and bridges by finding alternate routes or other construction methods due to the wetland areas. A feasibility study was completed in September of 2008, and the projected second phase is now under way, including preliminary engineering, publicity, securing easements and finding funding. The goal is to begin the construction phase in 2011 with it to be completed by 2014. He stated that potential funding sources include federal and state entities, private donates, foundations, townships, lake associations, and local businesses. A significant source could be the DNR Trust Fund with the monies to be applied for by April 1, 2010. A maximum of \$500,000 per year can be awarded. All the necessary easements and/or commitments for easements must be completed before the application is submitted. Private donations for the trail project can be made through the Top of Michigan Trails Counsel.

**Motion** by Commissioner Wallace, supported by Commissioner Makima to adopt the following resolution:

**Resolution 09-32  
Burt Lake Trail Project Support**

**WHEREAS**, the Burt Lake Trail, owned by Burt Township and Mullett Township, will traverse almost 18 miles through Cheboygan County, and is open to all non-motorized use, and;

**WHEREAS**, the trail links communities in the northeast portion of the Lower Peninsula, including Topinabee, Burt Township, and Mullett Township, and in the future, a trail head in Emmet County, as well as providing a connection to the North Central Trail, and the proposed Petoskey to Mackinaw City Trail, and;

**WHEREAS**, recreational trails have been found to increase economic opportunities for local communities and businesses, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Burt Lake Trail will provide a safe means for residents and visitors to enjoy the out-of-doors, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Burt Lake Trail will also provide an outstanding opportunity for physical fitness by way of bicycling, running, and walking, and;

**WHEREAS**, creating a consistent, hard-surfaced trail would be desirable to attract year-round trail users, and;

**WHEREAS**, a regional trail such as this links rural communities that span large areas with a safe-transportation alternative to the high-speed local roads and highways;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners supports the efforts by Burt Township and Mullett Township to pursue funding to construct a consistent, hard surface on the nearly 18-mile Trail extending from Topinabee to Maple Bay Campground on Burt Lake.

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

Housing Director Shar Grawey gave an update regarding Project H-2009-287 Bid Award Recommendation. The primary funding source for this project will be the 2008 USDA RD HPG, which ends December 31, 2009. For this reason this project is being presented at this meeting to allow time to assure total expenditure of the grant funding. There was a delay in scheduling the

inspection and contractor walk-thru, due to the home receiving damage from a tree falling on it during a storm. The homeowner chose to wait and see what the insurance company would cover prior to the Cheboygan County Housing Program. All issues are now resolved. Five (5) contractors attended the walk-thru and submitted bids with the lowest reasonable bid for rehabilitation submitted to Christopher Bednark at \$14,422.00, and the lowest reasonable bid for electric was submitted by Straits Electric at \$135.00. The homeowner has reviewed the bids and agrees with the selection. Discussion held.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, supported by Commissioner Bolinger to approve the recommendation from Cheboygan County Housing Commission to award the bids for Project H-09-287 in the amount totaling \$14,557.00 with the funding sources being Housing Program Grant Funds. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 1 absent.

Circuit Court Judge Pavlich gave a presentation on the Drug Court. A State Grant was applied for and received in the amount of \$15,600. Requesting the approval of and funding for Drug Court operations for 2010. Felony Drug Court would be a two-year intensive probation option for non-violent offenders who are primarily involved in the criminal justice system due to alcohol or drug addiction. It is anticipated that this program could generate savings of incarceration expenses to the county in the range of \$15,000 to \$35,000 annually. Statistics support the conclusion that the rate of recidivism should drop and the number of abuse and neglect cases in Probate Court should be reduced as well. He stated that they are asking for the formal approval of \$22,410 for the Cheboygan County Drug Court. Prosecutor Vizina commented on possible money contributions. Commissioner Socha commented that she is totally supportive of the program, but she would like to see some definite grant funding. She read the statute and had some questions and concerns. Lengthy discussion held.

**Motion** by Commissioner Page, supported by Commissioner Bolinger to approve the total funding of \$22,410 for the Cheboygan County Drug Court operations for the fiscal year 2010. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 1 no (Commissioner Socha) and 1 absent. Commissioner Socha asked that the contracts be reviewed by legal counsel and brought back to the Board for final approval at the December 8, 2009 meeting.

Commissioner Wallace was excused at 11:20 a.m.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – Kathy Bricker thanked the Board of Commissioners for reducing the household fees for the recycling permit for participating townships. This is keeping with the campaign promise. She also wanted to urge the Board to make the recycling coordinator position full time. Commissioner Page thanked all of the volunteers for their time.

#### **BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Administrator Overton handed out a draft of the 2010 Wage & Salary Resolution. Commissioner Socha commented on the wage comparison assessment compiled by the Human Resource Director. Administrator Overton commented on reducing the number of automobiles in the fleet and also the possibility of reducing Health Insurance costs.

Finance Director Kortz handed out original budgeted amounts spreadsheet. Discussion held.

Fund 276 SAYPA – Judge Butts commented on the anticipation of losing funding from MSUE. He stated that today was National Adoption Day and he invited everyone for cake.

Child Care – completed.

Commissioner Socha read an article from NACO, which stated numerous budget cuts made by other Counties. She suggested putting a restriction on any new projects, and cutting back travel and conference expenses. Discussion held on reducing costs.

Discussion held on the 2010 Wage & Salary Resolution regarding the Sheriff Department. A pay increase for the Undersheriff and the Jail Administrator was recommended.

**Motion** by Commissioner Redmond, supported by Commissioner Bolinger to authorize the wage increases for 2010 to the Undersheriff and the Jail Administrator per past practice for the following command at three percent (3%). Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

MERS Retiree Benefit E – not completed at this time.

Discussion held on the 2010 Wage & Salary Resolution regarding AFSCME Union and nonunion employees.

Fair Board - Administrator Overton talked with Buddy Ormsbee several times. He stated that over the past year there has been a significant change of responsibilities. Currently, the staff is working on redrafting the ordinance because they are responsible for only the Fair and not the grounds. As a result, they are looking at the wages. The Fair Board will make wage and salary recommendations and then the Board will have a chance to vote on it. Fair Secretary Cora Burr is resigning; an advertisement for the position has been posted. Administrator Overton proposed eliminating the Fair Grounds Event Coordinator position because currently he reports to Tim Mason. There will be more discussion on this at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Fund 226 Recycling – Administrator Overton recommended the Recycling Coordinator hours be increased to 35 hours, which is a full time position and leave his hourly wages the same (\$28,119). This would not include the Fair Manager position. Lengthy discussion held on separate pay for multi-positions held by the same person.

**Motion** by Commissioner Page, supported by Commissioner Redmond to authorize the establishment of a full time (35 hours) Recycling Coordinator position with a salary of \$28,119 for 2010. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

District Court Probation Officer – Not completed at this time. Judge Barton commented on personnel and position changes within a department. Commissioner Socha stated that the directive for this was due to a written request to look into it.

Commissioner Socha asked if the LEPC Board Secretary's \$150.00 stipend for grant preparation should be included in the wage and salary resolution. Discussion held.

Discussion held regarding Fair Board per diems.

Drain Commissioners – Not completed at this time.

Commissioner Socha stated that she would like the updated 2010 Wage and Salary information in the packet before the next meeting.

Humane Society – Discussion held regarding the possibility of acquiring additional property adjacent to the Humane Society building that is currently owned by the Cheboygan Schools. Commissioner Page stated that the Humane Society has \$150,000 for building improvements and a private donor.

**Motion** by Commissioner Bolinger, supported by Commissioner Page to authorize the Administrator to get the required information to secure the property adjacent to the Humane Society from the Cheboygan Area Schools. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Commissioner Bolinger asked to be excused from the next meeting on December 8, 2010.

Finance Director Kari Kortz presented an updated 2010 budget report and reviewed and highlighted the following items: 101-400-401-00 Current Tax 7,393,297 (Decrease in Taxable Value); 101-148-712.00 Full Time 138,005 (Change in Child Care Budget Effected Probate's Budget); 101-325-750.00 Operating Expenses 423,106 (CCE 9-1-1 Board Recommended Change); 101-600-835.02 District Health #4 197,966(DHS #4 Recommended Budget Change); 101-700-955.01 Carried Forward Fund Equity 29,988 (Changed to Balance the General Fund's Budget); 101-902-961.00 F.O.C. Fund 215 61,231 (Change in IV-D Reimbursement); 215-400-676.00 Contribution From Other Funds 61,231 (Change in IV-D Reimbursement Effected General Fund Transfer);226-400-607.05 Surcharge 240,320 (BOC Recommended Change 10/27/09); 226-400-699.00 Fund Equity 17,773 (Addition of the Cost Allocation Plan Required Use of Fund Balance); 226-525-954.00 Allocated Cost 20,065 (Addition of the 2008 Cost Allocation Plan Amount); 226-525-955.01 Carried Forward Fund Equity -0- (Changed to Balance the Fund's Budget); 230-400-577.00 Cellular Phone Assessment 140,000 (Changed to Match CCE 9-1-1's Revised Recommended Budget); 230-23-820.00 Distribution to CCE 9-1-1 140,000 (Changed to Match CCE 9-1-1's Revised Recommended Budget); 231-400-651.00 CCE 9-1-1 4% Phone Surcharge 159,220 (Changed to Match CCE 9-1-1's Revised Recommended Budget); 231-325-820.00 Distribution to CCE 9-1-1 159,220 (Changed to Match CCE 9-1-1's Revised Recommended Budget); 561-556-702.01 Salaries/Directors -0- (Wage Item is Now Pending); 561-556-702.02 Salaries/Officers -0- (Wage Item is Now Pending); 561-556-703.20 Project Manager -0- (Wage Item is Now Pending); and 561-556-955.01 Carried Forward Fund Equity 27,527 (Wage Item is Now Pending).

Airport Budget – Administrator Overton stated that he has talked to Marcia Rocheleau. It was suggested to increase their budget by \$3,500 for clearing the drainage ditch. General census of the Board was to increase their budget to \$63,500.

Ms. Kortz summarized the changes to be made to the Budget before the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as follows: 1) Add LEPC pay items to salary and wage resolution; 2) Jail Administrator and Undersheriff 3% pay increase; 3) Find 2% increase for non-union employees and retirees Benefit "E"; 4) Change Recycling Coordinator to full time; 5) Remove revenue items from Drain Commissioner; and, 6) Airport appropriation of \$63,500.

Administrator Overton stated that the changes to the Waterways Ordinance are complete and the Fair Board Ordinance will be put on the January 2010 agenda. Commissioner Socha stated that also a presentation by the Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation is scheduled.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Page stated that he attended a MSUE meeting. The big news is that they will be losing the MSUE County Director and a restructuring of the district is taking place. They have asked for input by the end of the month. The other item that they asked for input on was which two programs would they like to see maintained. Discussion held and the Board consensus was to go with the Upper Northern tip of the state, and to keep the 4-H Program and Agriculture Business. Commissioner Page asked that the Administrator Overton follow up on this. He reported that the Northern Michigan Broadband Cooperative is holding their first annual meeting on December 18, 2009 at 9 a.m. to be held at the University Center in Gaylord.

**Motion** by Commissioner Makima, supported by Commissioner Redmond, to adjourn to the call of the chair. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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Karen L. Brewster  
Cheboygan County Chief Deputy Clerk

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Linda Socha  
Chairperson