

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING SESSION
February 20, 2008**

The meeting was called to at Mulligan's Restaurant by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Socha, Makima, Redmond, Mushlock (arrived at 9:35 a.m.), Wallace, and Bolinger, Administrator Overton, Clerk Tryban

Absent: Commissioner Page (excused)

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

Motion by Commissioner Bolinger, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

GOALS REVIEW/SETTING

The following seven goals were developed at the January 29, 2008 Planning Session:

- 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.
- 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.

Upon review of the seven goals developed in January, and following lengthy discussion on many topics, the following planning outline was developed:

1) Improve economic development.

- ❖ Encourage/Consider Tax Relief for Small Business
 - ❖ Companies to locate in Cheboygan County - let them know what we have to offer "advertise"
 - ❖ Help strengthen existing business and promote Cheboygan County
 - ❖ Continue partnership with NLEA – retention of existing; encourage new (EDC/Brownfield Authority)
 - ❖ Broadband/High Speed critical infrastructure for economic development
 - ❖ Steve Schnell Position - Community Outreach
 - ❖ Encourage development, but protect natural resources
- Measures: Strength of partnerships, organizational structure

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2) Continue diligent efforts to mitigate substance abuse.

- ❖ Retain experts to develop educational program
- ❖ Training in schools – jail top pushers
- ❖ Must continue to fund this
- ❖ Look into Idea of Financial support toward halfway homes
- ❖ Support MSUE strong family programs
- ❖ Continue to fund 3 key positions: Prescription Drug Detective, School Liaison Officer, and SANE
- ❖ Lobby and monitor for changes to laws
- ❖ Evaluate existing efforts for cost effectiveness
- ❖ Catalog all existing programs/expenditures
- ❖ DARE

Measures: Establish performance

Lengthy discussion on SANE, drug courts, and alcohol courts, majority of SANE funding comes from the Byrne Grants.

3) Address facilities needs.

- ❖ Evaluate what we have, check for duplication
- ❖ Use more imaging
- ❖ Bring experts in - use/design to evaluate
- ❖ Consider Building Expansion
- ❖ Black River School – Option or not – Discussion on this, consensus is not an option.

Mike spoke on plans for redesign on first floor front of building and near prosecutor's office to include use of the existing hallways to some extent.

Who: Mike, Tim Mason, Depts.

4) Strengthen communications.

- ❖ Newsletter/Website
- ❖ Popular Report
- ❖ Continue Northern Cheboygan County Inter-municipality Planning Committee and promote others
- ❖ Need to improve media relations – Mike as PIO – news releases
- ❖ Encourage participation of public in Master Plan meetings (Steve)

Who: Mike, Steve, Employees and Board

5) Investigate options to bring high speed internet at an affordable cost to all residents.

- ❖ Continue Participation in Cooperation Study
- ❖ Study all options
- ❖ Determine best course of action for Cheboygan County
- ❖ Study failure in Macomb County
- ❖ On-going – best options
- ❖ Set deadline (7-1-08) to determine if 12 county Co-op will work, if not, work with NLEA to form 4 county effort to supply broadband
- ❖ Need more information on this

Who: Mike, Leonard, Board

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6) Continue to evaluate County policies and programs.

- ❖ Monitor cost and cost effectiveness
- ❖ Performance
- ❖ Strengthen & Stabilize existing (i.e. SRR, Recycling)
- ❖ Be careful to fully evaluate and identify plans for anything new
- ❖ Review Policies – change if necessary (check with other counties – not internal, for Board policies)
- ❖ Request reports (i.e. SANE)
- ❖ Be cost effective – all programs
- ❖ Continue to strengthen Planning – user friendly, streamline, communicate
- ❖ Consistent office hours

The priority as listed above was determined by each commissioner ranking the goals with stickers. The number in parenthesis following each goal denotes the number of sticker votes each received.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Chairperson Socha said the next step will be to review the goals with elected officials.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson