

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 23, 2010**

Administrator Overton stated the Public Hearing regarding the Brownfield Plan for Riverview Senior Living Community would be cancelled today since the hearing was not called by the Board of Commissioners as it should have been.

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 Item 9A Brownfield Plan for Riverview Senior Living Community would be removed from the agenda since the public hearing was not held.

Motion by Commissioner Mushlock, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to approve the agenda with the deletion of Item 9A. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Redmond said over past few years there has been a change in the way business has been done regarding the Cheboygan County Waterways Commission. He said the Waterways is now a department of the county with payroll, payment of bills and monies collected handled at the county level. The Harbor Master is now a department head and answers to the County Administrator. A change in the Waterways Ordinance would be in the order to reflect those recent changes. He said the Waterways Commission now is an advisory committee with the elimination of the Treasurer position on that committee. Commissioner Page said this is a process the county has been going through for sometime, reorganizing bodies to now report to the County Administrator. This will permit more accountability for everyone. Commissioner Redmond said the matter has been discussed several times with the Waterways Commission. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed by civil counsel. A draft of the proposed changes to the ordinance was presented with highlighted items being changed. Discussion was held and action will be taken at the Finance/Business meeting in March.

Maintenance Director Tim Mason and HR Director Tim Gengle presented a draft of a proposed Fair Grounds Usage and Fees Policy. He said information in the proposed policy is based research findings from other counties and Cheboygan County's past practice. The goal of the new policy is to establish standard rules, regulations and fees, thus providing a good set of guidelines when scheduling events at the fairgrounds. He noted the fees were meant to offset the county's cost. Chairperson Socha advised that input from the Fair Board has not been received at this point. HR Director Tim Gengle said timelines and dollar amounts should be highlighted for the Board. Administrator Overton pointed out that on page two Section IV should eliminate "and the Cheboygan County Fair". Gengle reviewed scheduling procedures, pointing out at least 12 weeks in advance; 25% of total rental fee or \$100 whichever is greater as a non-refundable deposit; with payment 8 weeks prior to event and balance due 4 weeks prior to event; Administrator Overton suggested changing from 8 weeks to upon booking and

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better address if a split of the proceeds is to be done. Discussion was held with several matters pointed out by various board members. Commissioner Page said county should have authority to cancel an event if the event appears to be something different than first understood. Commissioner Bolinger spoke in regards to fire safety, suggesting have inspection of items such as heating devices; and questioned the camping area regarding the use of the word permanent. Chairperson Socha clarified fairgrounds department should be changed to fair management. Commissioner Page suggested checking with MMRA regarding one million dollar liability coverage. Discussion held regarding property used for horseshoes and whether this policy applies there. Chairperson Socha requested an aerial map of the property be included with this policy to use as a visual aid. Administrator Overton said he would check ownership on the soccer field area. Commissioner Makima said he doesn't believe alcohol should be banned from the parking area on the north side of the road as well as the horseshoe pits. Chairperson Socha said exceptions can be made for specific parcels if desired by the board. Commissioner Redmond agreed with Commissioner Makima, and if no alcohol policy was cited on the north side of the road, the board would automatically give the Wanigan event the boot. Lengthy discussion held on the different options the board has and the need to determine the direction the county board desires to go. The consensus of the board was determined that for the purpose of this policy all of the fairgrounds, buildings, midway, grandstands, track, camping area, north field parking, horseshoe pits and all undeveloped areas would be covered by this policy. Chairperson Socha said if the board wishes to alter the ban on alcohol usage on the property we need to hear from Reverend Lewis. Rev. George Lewis advised that the ministerial association would prefer not to change the current alcohol policy and continue to ban the sale, donation and/or consumption of alcohol on the entire fairgrounds property. George Olson, Salvation Army manager, and Gary Fenlon, pastor at the River of Life Church, and president of the Northern Michigan Jail Ministries, both spoke regarding this matter and encouraged the board to keep the current wording banning alcohol. Kim Pappas, Chamber, Tourist Bureau and Fairboard Director, said during fair week alcohol should be prohibited, but events such as the wanigan brings money into and benefits the entire community. She said she has full faith with the sheriff department and the city police departments. Commissioner Wallace said he knows Emmet County holds wedding receptions on the fairgrounds. Sheriff Clarmont said there has been no major issues with other events such as wanigan, but agrees should be no alcohol during fair week. Discussion continued focused on the use alcohol at the fairgrounds. The original deed from the Spies Family did not ban alcohol, but prohibited para-mutual betting. The consensus was no alcohol during fair week, with alcohol allowed at all other times providing all appropriate regulations and state law are followed. Fee Categories were discussed with a change of age to 20 years of age or younger so as to include all 4-H participants. Administrator Overton stated the Fair Board is now only responsible for Fair Week, outside of that week; they would have to follow the policy for any other events. Suggested changes included: Need to list horse areas on Usage Fee Schedule and add language regarding rental use of a building and also campsites. Camping Fees delete word minimum and also * regarding electric usage. Need to clearing define fair grounds management and separate staff. Split of 75/25 on gross sales will be used for grandstand area only. Additions and deletions and other modifications are to be made and the document presented at the March Finance/Business meeting for action; a geographically defined map to be included with the policy. Fair Board input and MMMRA review to be sought.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairperson Socha received a copy of a map from the Census and asked Administrator Overton to pass it on to Steve Schnell. She said she has received an invitation as LEPC Chair and Commissioner Chair to attend a Pipeline Safety Emergency Response Program dinner and training presentation if anyone wishes to attend. The closest sessions are March 24th in Petoskey or March 25th in Gaylord.

Commissioner Wallace said there is good news and bad new from the Northeast Consortium – the bad news between now and July 10th over 2,000 people will be losing unemployment benefits unless it is extended by the feds – the good news regarding the youth program, the only school in county that requested money was Inland Lakes, over \$92, 000; also Schwartz Boiler Shop has two people enrolled

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in certified boiler inspection. Chairperson Socha said MAC provided information on the rate of healthiness, Cheboygan County was either 53 or 57, which is not good.

Commissioner Page reported the County Broadband Committee met and MERITS plan will include Cheboygan County for round two grants. He said MERIT is applying to lay fiber from Onaway to Indian River then along US27 to Cheboygan and along US23 to Mackinaw City. He said they are not sure what will happen with round two grants. The fall back plan would be to try to push network from Gaylord up to Cheboygan and extend fiber from Otsego County. MERIT will be soliciting letters of support and he believes this county should provide a letter of support. Commissioner Socha asked if he would have proposed letter of support for next meeting. He said he would.

Commissioner Page said attended Region 9 Council on Aging and reported the Office on Aging Governor's budget looking at an 8% cut rather than 22%. Governor's budget would put tax on services; losing jobs affects revenues; MI Choice Program average cost to keep senior in home is \$48.00 per day, average nursing home cost on Medicare is \$185 per day. Chairperson Socha said due to population loss and loss of jobs expectation is that BCBS rates may go up 56% in Michigan this year, which is the highest in the nation.

Commissioner Redmond reminded everyone that the Administrator Evaluation sheets due March 2nd.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Mushlock, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson