

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 27, 2007**

The meeting 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.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Chairperson Socha explained that Committee of the Whole meetings typically do not have action items on the agenda, but are intended for forum and discussion items and as an appeal to the Board at budget time if there is disagreement with the administrator's or finance's decision or recommendation,; however, today's agenda does include items which require action.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce Director Kim Pappas addressed the Board on behalf of the Chamber and Tourist Bureau regarding a resolution of support of designating Old US 27 as a heritage route. Ms. Pappas said she was aware that several years ago the Commissioners did not support the designation of US 23. Discussion was held as to whether the designation would be a historical route or a heritage route. Cheboygan County Road Commission member Mike Donovan said that to be deemed a historical route, it would have to be advertised as such for three years; and pointed out a heritage route is different than historical route. Kim said would benefit city of Cheboygan as well as the county. Chairperson Socha related past dealings with the heritage route for US 23, which was more tourism based, rather than governmentally based. She questioned the board's responsibility stated in the proposed resolution for US 27. Ms. Pappas said she would be working on this along with Cheboygan City Manager Scott McNeil to gather more information. Chairperson Socha said the board would be supportive, but has concern with the expectations from the county. She asked Ms. Pappas to research the management plan as the proposed resolution refers to the Board committing to enforcement of the management plan within the county.

Jim Olson of Maximus presented an overview of what they do for Cheboygan County and reviewed the 2005 Cost Plan. Cost allocations plans have been done for the county since 1987. The annual consulting expense has remained at \$10,000 for all these years and has resulted in total net County Revenues of \$552,563.18 from 1987 through 2005. Mr. Olson distributed a report of the performance information for the Friend of the Court and Prosecuting Attorney for 2000-2006. He explained funding issues for FY 2008 that would affect this program.

Harbormaster Curtis Chambers addressed the board regarding an electrical upgrade grant for the county marina. He said the 50% match for this project has been budgeted and the Waterways Commission has approved this and has been working with United Design Associates on it. Commissioner Redmond said UDA compiled the grant information for the application. He explained UDA is the only local engineering firm that is qualified to handle this project. Discussion held on the county's purchasing policy for items over \$10,000. Chairperson Socha was concerned with meeting the requirements of the grant agreement, such as the county maintaining financial accounts. Finance Director Kari Kortz said Great Lakes Accounting currently does the financial recording for the Waterways Commission. Chairperson Socha said this agreement definitely said the county would be

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responsible and asked if the concerns from the county's civil counsel had been addressed. Mr. Overton said civil counsel's response was just received and the matters would be addressed.

Housing Director Shar Grawey presented and reviewed the 2006 Annual Housing Report and a request for pre-approval of the application for the 2007 USDA Rural Development Preservation Grant. She said approval to apply for this funding will allow the Cheboygan County Housing Rehabilitation Program to continue financially assisting low income homeowners with repairs to their homes. The current housing program has been active since 1994, bringing in a total of \$1,786,334 in grant funds to address home repairs on over 150 homes in Cheboygan County. Ms. Grawey said the 2007 application will be submitted in the amount of \$24,777 or the recommended amount of the funder. (The actual award amount is based on available funds). Previous USDA RD – HPG awards range from \$40,000 to \$24,777. The \$24,777 applied for allows for \$21,060.45 for rehabilitation, and \$3,716.55 for administration. This grant has a one year term and will run from 9/1/07 to 8/31/08. This grant is used as matching funds for the larger grant received from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Community Development Block Grant. Matching funds are also utilized from recaptured funds from the 1980's Small Cities Grant, recaptured funds from previous MSHDA & USDA RD Grants, Local Lenders, Homeowner Contributions, Salvation Army, Department of Human Services, NEMCSA's Weatherization Program, and the Veteran's Administration. The USDA RD HPG grant is for the lower income homeowner. The terms are deferred funding and can be used on rehabilitation only, not emergency repairs. Previously this grant has been used in specific townships, but this application allows for county-wide usage. Of the 17 projects committed to in 2006, the 2004 Housing Preservation Grant funds were used as matching funds on 4 projects. The expiration date for the 2004 HPG is August 29, 2007 and will be spent out prior to that date. Ms. Grawey said she has not yet received the instructions, pre-application package or application for this grant, however, due to limited turn around time provided by USDA RD she would ask for pre-approval at this time. Once received, Housing will complete the required documentation and provide it to Finance for review; and upon approval from Finance the Chairperson will be asked to sign. Discussion held on whether projects totaling above the limit set in the county's new purchasing policy should be presented to the Board for approval even if individual contract bids were under the limit. Finance Director Kortz said if the total project exceeds the limit set in the purchasing policy then that project should be presented for board approval. Chairperson Socha voiced concern with approving this ahead of time. Administrator Overton said he had understood differently, and action would not be requested until all of the documentation has been received.

OLD BUSINESS

Economic Development Specialist Laura Ingles from NEMCOG addressed the board regarding the Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2007-2008. The document was briefly reviewed by Ms. Ingles. She said upon approve this plan will be submitted to the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). All projects must be listed in the plan and a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in order for the county or any county municipality to be eligible for EDA grant funding. Chairperson Socha said the document provides very good statistical information for the county.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Mushlock, to adopt the following resolution and authorize the Chair to sign:

**RESOLUTION 07-009
RESOLUTION OF CONCURRENCE WITH
THE 2007/2008 NORTHEAST MICHIGAN
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)**

WHEREAS, Cheboygan County desires to improve the county economy, and

WHEREAS, The Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners actively supports and currently participates in the economic development district activities of the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG), and

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WHEREAS, The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments' Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee (REDAC) has reviewed and adopted the 2007/2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and

WHEREAS, Concurrence with the CEDS by each county in the Region – Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle - does not preclude any of developing their own CEDS and allows them to retain eligibility for U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cheboygan County hereby adopts the 2007/2008 CEDS, because it does reflect the economic interests and concerns of the county, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cheboygan County requests continued designation by the Economic Development Administration as a Redevelopment Area eligible for EDA grants, loans and other programs under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

NEW BUSINESS

City of Cheboygan Mayor Jim Muschell addressed the board requesting adoption of a resolution supporting the City of Cheboygan seeking recreational grant funds. Mayor Muschell read the proposed resolution for the record.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Makima to adopt to adopt the following resolution and authorize the Chair to sign:

RESOLUTION 07-010

IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF CHEBOYGAN SEEKING RECREATIONAL GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Cheboygan provides programs, lands, utilities and facilities for recreation purposes to all residents of Cheboygan County without extra charge; and

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners appoints two members to the City of Cheboygan Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, recreational programs provided by the City of Cheboygan include evening and weekend programming at the Recreation Center, sponsoring of punt, pass & kick, recreational basketball and volleyball leagues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cheboygan provides lands and utilities to County wide recreation associations such as the Cheboygan Little League, Men's Softball League, Cheboygan Soccer Association, and the Cheboygan Hockey Association; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cheboygan provides facilities including the Cheboygan Opera House, Cheboygan Recreation Center, Ralph G. Cantile Ice Rink/Pavilion, Rotary Skate Park, Major City Park boat launch, walkway and fishing piers, and Project Playland at Gordon Turner Park; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the large area served by the City of Cheboygan recreation programs and facilities and supports the City of Cheboygan's efforts to gain grant funds to create improved universally accessible recreation programs and facilities.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent. Mayor Muschell thanked the Board for the support.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Bolinger said the State plans to cut 3 million dollars from the Community Corrections budget.

Commissioner Page reported attending a NMSCA meeting and a Council on Aging meeting in Alpena. He said the results of a survey done by the Council on Aging shows a high satisfaction rating for meals and in-home assistance to the elderly. He also reported the Human Society will be finalizing their by-laws and have been looking for financial software to improve recordkeeping.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson

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