

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
April 28, 2009**

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, Page and Bolinger

ABSENT: Commissioners Mushlock and Wallace (excused)

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

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Chairperson Socha announced that Civil Counsel Bryan Graham and his wife are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary today.

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Sheriff Clarmont showed a video news story from TV 7 & 4 News regarding a simple solution to a serious problem resulting in a financial savings in the county jail. To alleviate the spread of the mersa bacteria that causes skin infections, Deputy Mike Raymus researched and suggested the addition of hand sanitizer pumps to replace bars of soap. Implementation of the suggestion has almost completely eradicated mersa outbreaks in the jail. Sheriff Clarmont presented a letter of appreciation to Deputy Raymus for his suggestion.

Chairperson Socha presented a certificate of appreciation to Linda Workman for twenty-four years of dedicated service to the County, the last eleven of which has been in the Register of Deeds Office. Clerk/Register Mary Ellen Tryban offered her congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Workman; and introduced two new employees, Kelly Clear, Circuit Court Clerk and Lorna Brach, Register of Deeds Clerk. Chairperson Socha presented a certification of appreciation to Bob Greenwood, for service on the Veteran Affairs Committee and to Gene Miller, for service on Airport Authority. A certificate of appreciation for service on the Veterans Affairs Committee for Dave Bills will be sent to him as he was unable to be in attendance..

Brad Jensen Executive Director of Huron Pines presented a Power Point presentation on that organization. The same presentation was recently presented to the Planning Commission by Habitat Specialist Eric Nelson. Huron Pines is a non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to resource conservation and community development. The organization serves the 11-county region of Northeast Michigan: more than 4 million acres, all or significant parts of 10 major river systems and 1.6 million acres of public land. The organization works on a wide variety of projects, including watershed planning, improving stream habitat, treating severe erosion sites, community education, land protection, forest management, community development, reducing stormwater runoff, and controlling invasive exotic species.

Sheriff Clarmont presented and reviewed the 2008 Annual Sheriff Department Report. He pointed out receipt of a \$5,000 donation from Tony & Roberta Matelski for canine unit, without that donation there would not be a canine unit. He said actual expenditures in 2008 totaled \$2,796,952, compared to \$2,933,097 budgeted expenditures, and total revenue generated was \$440,102. He reviewed the Jail Division revenues which totaled \$208,134; and total grant monies received of \$231,968. Jail Statistics show inmate days down about 2500 since two years ago. He reported Community Corrections Service Programs resulted in an annual savings of \$201,696 in 2008, and for the fifth consecutive year the jail received a 100% Compliance Rating from the Michigan Department of Corrections. Chairperson Socha thanked the Sheriff for consistent, solid management.

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Recycling Coordinator Dan O'Henley presented a PowerPoint presentation on the recycling program and process. He was assisted by Kathy Bricker. There will be a tour of the Emmet County Recycling Center on April 30th at 1 p.m. The benefits of recycling include: saves space in landfills; reduces methane and other gases from landfills and manufacturing; preserves natural resources; saves energy and water pollution in manufacturing; and saves money. In 2008 the Cheboygan County Recycling project collected 422 tons of reusable materials; kept 23,708 bags of trash out of landfills; save 2807 trees.....As part of the ongoing publicity on recycling new brochures were distributed to the board. It was noted there is a weekly household hazardous waste collection at fairgrounds on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. The first- quarter report, comparing 2008 with 2009, showed considerable growth and participation in the program. Chairperson Socha thanked Ms. Bricker and all the other volunteers. Administrator Overton said the goal is to lower the recycling fee at some point. Mr. O'Henley said six gallon bins are available throughout the county at cost of \$5.00 for the first two, \$4.00 each over two.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Socha said work continues on finalizing a draft of the ORV Ordinance for the June 9th public hearing and at this time all roads are open. She said today the board would discuss if any roads in the Pigeon River Area should be closed to ORV's. Administrator Overton said the Road Commission would prefer to have all the roads open as would the townships. Commissioner Bolinger said we have to remember townships have control over these roads and the county board should not mingle in township business. Commissioner Page said the legislature left it up to the County, Road Commission and townships, and if the county does nothing, then townships can do their own ordinances. Administrator Overton said the county has been coordinating with the townships so as to avoid a checkerboard effect throughout the county. Chairperson Socha said a checkerboard would create a nightmare for enforcement. Civil Counsel said definitions in proposed ordinance are directly from the state law. Discussion held on requiring a person over 18 years of age to have a valid driver's license, Mr. Graham said that could be changed. Lengthy discussion held. Chairperson Socha reminded the Board that today's action does not include voting to approve the ordinance, just voting on the proposed ordinance as written for the public hearing. Civil Counsel Bryan Graham is the County's Ordinance cannot allow something that state law prohibits, but can prohibit something state law allows.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, second by Commissioner Makima, to send the draft copy of the ORV Ordinance with no changes and all roads open to the public hearing. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent. Rebecca Behm, Indian River Chamber of Commerce Director, asked if ORV's can be operated on the shoulder of county roads now. Sheriff Clarmont said, he is not speaking for the DNR, but his department has been operating status quo with the old ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Cheboygan County Council on Aging Director Mike Bur presented the CCCOA's Senior Community Plan for Board Approval. Mr. Bur said the plan must be adopted every three years. He highlighted the plan, noting social issues that continue to be the most worrisome were: more and more single women than men; loneliness; depression; more and more expensive medicines; loss of mobility as we age; nutritional needs change more as we age; in-home care needed more frequently; independent living for as long as possible; caregivers are strained, requiring respite; predatory practices of unscrupulous scam artists; and complicated government and medical policies and procedures. He said the core services of CCCOA deal with these challenges and are the cornerstone of the Senior Community Plan. Mr. Bur related the tremendous success of their adult daycare services and the interest it has spurred from other counties. He asked the board for approval of the plan as well as adoption of a proclamation of May 2009 as Older Americans Month. He reported food costs to be constant, while fuel costs have decreased; and the CCCOA is operating well within budget. Mr. Bur spoke briefly on possibly utilizing the Inverness School. Chairperson Socha read the proclamation declaring May 2009 as Older Americans Month. If adopted, Mr. Bur said he would have the proclamation published.

Motion by Commissioner Page, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to adopt the proclamation declaring May 2009 as Older Americans Month, and accept the Cheboygan County Council on Aging Community Plan as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

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MSUE Director Ben Bartlett reported on the state budget situation. He said MSU Extension is looking at a 15% cut over the next 4 years, so Extension will be changing. He said Cheboygan County has so much potential because of the many volunteers willing to help. A handout on Swine Flu was distributed as well as a booklet entitled "A Report to our Partners 2008 Programs. Mr. Bartlett presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Cheboygan MSU Extension 2008 Programs.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Page, to adopt the following resolution to be sent to the Governor and State Legislators:

RESOLUTION 09-13

Whereas Michigan State University (MSU) Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities; and

Whereas MSU Extension in County utilizes the research and knowledge base of the state's land grant university, first established by President Lincoln through the Morrill Act in 1862; and

Whereas MSU Extension in Cheboygan County provides 4-H programming for youth, offers Master Gardner training, works with agricultural producers, offers nutrition education, offers training about land use and planning laws and policies, provides family financial management education, educates county commissioners and other officials on local government issues, policies and procedures, provides volunteer income tax assistance, youth mentoring and Project Fresh/Senior Project Fresh as well as additional community needs-based programming; and

Whereas, MSU Extension helps agricultural producers by providing the most current research and information, offers opportunities for youth to grow and learn in safe environments with caring adults, reduces health care costs by teaching youth and families how to select and prepare nutritious meals and facilitates economic and community development discussions; and

Whereas, Cheboygan County currently provides \$140,321 to help support MSU Extension programming. The county investment is coupled with state and federal appropriations, as well as grants, ensuring that the programming will meet the needs and interests of the county's citizens; and

Whereas, the State of Michigan currently provides \$30 million in funding for MSU Extension, and eliminating half of that funding would destroy this important educational network; and

Whereas, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and MSU Extension leverage another \$148 million in other funding sources based on the \$63 million appropriation of state funds to both programs and generate a total economic impact of \$1.062 billion per year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT Resolved, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners opposes a 50% reduction of funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board wishes to convey to Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and to state legislators that the 50% reduction of state funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is an unacceptable solution to the state's budget problem.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Cheboygan City Manager Scott McNeil requested approval from the board to enter into dialogue relative to contracting police services for the City of Cheboygan through the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. Mr. McNeil spoke on behalf of Cheboygan Mayor Sangster, who also was in attendance and the City Council. He said the City of Cheboygan, as many cities in the State, continues to face projected budget deficits in the future. He said this is not the only item on the table in regards to the police department. Chairperson Socha said the city needs to discuss this at this point with the county so the city can determine whether they want to move forward on this. She said the ability to pay would have to be discussed also. Mr. McNeil said he would hope dialogue would result in a proposed agreement, and if an agreement is developed the public hearing stage would begin. Chairperson Socha said action today would be to allow the administrator and finance director to engage in dialogue. Commissioner Page questioned the construction of a footbridge in light of the city's financial status. Mr. McNeil said the footbridge would not be financed by general funds money, but through the Downtown Development Authority and available grants.

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Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to allow the County Administrator, County Finance Director, and Sheriff to enter into dialogue only to investigate the feasibility of contracting for police services by the City of Cheboygan. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Circuit Court Judge Scott Pavlich said having attended the drug court seminar in Nashville he is more encouraged than ever to go forward with the establishment of a drug court in this county. He reported the plan would be to start August 1, 2009 with an anticipated 20-30 individuals involved. He explained the phases individuals would have to complete which would take about 2 years. He reported that Michigan DOC has agreed to fund the test kits; and there are several grant possibilities out there. An informational meeting will be held on May 13th. The Judge said conservatively could save the county money and would result in more productive members in the community. Chairperson Socha said it's nice to be moving ahead with this. Judge Pavlich said he expects in the first 6 months of the program not more \$10,000 funding would be needed from the county. He believes the whole process should not exceed \$50,000 annually. Prosecutor Vizina stated he was impressed with the aspect of life style changes learned through this system. He said in this county there are roughly 200 felony matters annually, so if 20 individuals would be in the drug court program that would be 10%. Chairperson Socha said the board looks forward to hearing more and wished the Judge good luck with the program.

Daniel Mack and Todd Pfahl from Johnson Controls presented a PowerPoint presentation on energy savings and needs of the county. They said a Life Cycle Performance Contracting Approach for Cheboygan County would eliminate risks for the county. Johnson Controls did Life Cycle Performance Contracting several years ago for the City of Cheboygan. Mr. Mack reviewed the business process timeline. Cost of operating a building is a major concern for Johnson Controls. The community should be made aware of what is going on and the resulting benefits. Mr. Pfahl said there are guaranteed savings. Civil Counsel asked how long the guarantee would be for. Mr. Pfahl said up to 15 years; and the much of the debt could be taken care of through savings. Administrator Overton said since he first arrived here changes to this building have been discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to authorize a preliminary study with Johnson Controls. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Sheriff voiced support, thanks and gratitude for what Mike Overton brings to this county.

Civil Counsel Bryan Graham said from his broader prospective Mike is a very good administrator.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Commissioner Page said the business plan for the Northern Michigan Broadband Cooperative roll out is set for June 5th at 1:30 in Gaylord at the University Center. He also reported attending a Michigan Works program and the goods news is the stimulus package has made money for a youth employment services hiring program, which is being handled by a coalition of North Central Michigan College and Inland Lakes. They are looking to provide 116 summer jobs for young people between 16 and 24 years of age for 30 week jobs at \$8.00 per hour. He said the bad news is unemployment in the consortium area is 17%

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to go into closed session to consider the purchase of real property (since an option to purchase that real property has not been obtained), pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268(d). A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to go into closed session at the request of the County Administrator Michael Overton, an employee of Cheboygan County, and pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268(a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of Mr. Overton. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

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Went into Closed Session at 1:30 p.m.; returned to Open Session at 2:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Page, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger, to authorize the County Administrator to enter into negotiations for possible acquisition of real properties. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Commissioner Redmond acknowledged the completion of the Administrator's Evaluation with a final determination of very good in all categories - Organization Leadership, Business and Financial Management, Relationship with the Board, Personal Characteristics that Impact Job Performance, and Innovation/Improvement.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Page, to approve a 3.5% increase of approximately \$ 2900 based on a positive performance evaluation for the County Administrator, retroactive to January 1, 2009., A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 5 yes, 0 no and 2 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Makima, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 2:45p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson