

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
May 22, 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 Allegiance.

Commissioner Socha requested that item 8a Cheboygan Chapter of the MTA's Recommendation on Road Commission Membership be removed from the agenda and be rescheduled for the second meeting in June 2007.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

SCHEDULED VISITORS/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Economic Development Specialist Jan Kellogg gave an overview Powerpoint presentation of the NLEA 2006 annual activities report. She thanked Cheboygan County for joining NLEA the beginning of 2007, thus expanding their service area to four counties - Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet. She stated that NLEA is a nonprofit corporation and has been around since 1984. Each county appoints a Board of Directors, which includes Jim Conboy, Citizens National Bank; Scott McNeil, City of Cheboygan; Mike Overton, Administrator and Commissioner Linda Socha for Cheboygan County. There are five Core Partners, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE); Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (sbTdc); Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) and Charlevoix–Emmet Intermediate School District (Char-EM ISD). By having these core partners it helps bring cash to the organization and provides a great access of resources. She stated that a lot of the funding for the NLEA Annual budget comes from the counties and other local governments. They receive some funding from the core partners and they charge a service fee to some partners for such things as grant administration. In the private sector, for instance some of the banks give them some funding. Their mission is to retain and create quality jobs throughout this four county area. They do that by economic and community development. It is a long term process. What is done today will, hopefully, pan out and give them benefits for years to come. It is not something that happens overnight. She stated that it requires both the community and businesses to make an investment for the future. This is not something that happens in one community, it is regional. She stated that 62% of people who live in one county work in a different county. She introduced the members of the NLEA Staff, which are Andy Hayes, President; Sheri Rhodes, Economic Development Specialist; Wendy Wieland, Business Counseling and Ag Innovation Counselor; Lisa Fought, Economic Development Specialist and Michelle Evans, Administrative Assistant. She reported on the highlights of the NLEA's efforts in 2006 as follows:

- Assisted 18 Local Units of Government on variety of projects
- \$1.8 million in local investment leveraged \$3.5 million in CDBG grants
- Over \$77 million in private investment was generated in the region

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- \$1.07 million in tax abatements for 7 companies. This new investment will generate an additional \$1.3 million in local taxes and create 234 new jobs.
- \$70,500 of EPA Brownfield grant funds invested on 4 projects leveraged \$61 million in private investment and will create 212 new jobs
- Overall assistance resulted in 464 jobs created, 480 jobs retained
- Added Cheboygan County, thus expanding service to four counties

She stated that NLEA concentrates on business retention because they like to keep the businesses that are already in existence. These are the ones that have shown a commitment to the community. NLEA does a one on one business retention visit every year to all of the major businesses. Along with Michigan Works, they have come up with a rapid response program. When a business is in trouble, they try to bring them resources to help them out, so that they don't lose them. She stated that NLEA has a Chamber Council, whereby, they meet with the Chamber's in the region quarterly. This is a great networking tool. Also NLEA has a Broadband Council, which is working on bringing broadband internet services to the new four-county service area. She stated that this year NLEA is going to try to get the funding together for the purchase of a software program for their retention visits, so that they can keep track of the retention visits that they make not only in the four-county region, but in an eighteen county region. This would cover the Northwest and the Northeast side. Then NLEA could look at the trends throughout the whole area to see how the businesses are doing. Since last year, NLEA has been working with Michigan State University Extension to help grow businesses from the ground up. The Brownfield redevelopment program was added to NLEA last year and they helped an Antique Store. The business had a Phase I Environmental Study done, which showed that there was no contamination. So they did some excavating and found four gasoline tanks. The business contacted NLEA for help and they were able to help them through the Brownfield funding that they received through EPA. She stated that NLEA is big on building partnerships. NLEA has been working with Cheboygan County regarding the Great Lakes Tissue Plant. One problem that the plant has is treating their waste water and trying to keep compliance with the DEQ regulations. A CDBG grant was applied for through the State, which will go through the City of Cheboygan to help them study the waste water treatment problem. The City of Cheboygan and Great Lakes Tissue Plant will be contributing to this along with a \$35,000 CDBG Grant. Another issue that the NLEA has been working on with the Cheboygan DDA has been the old Woolworth Store that has been empty for many years.

Economic Development Specialist Lisa Fought stated that Indian River has been talking about a Sewer Project for a long time. She met with an engineer and last year a grant was written to pay for a feasibility study. The feasibility study has been completed and there is an ADHOC Sewer Committee who studied this. A meeting is scheduled for this week to finalize the wording for petitions. Then they will be going back out into the community with petitions to get signatures to present to the Township Board, so that they go forward with funding applications to get this project off the ground. She reported that the Brownfield Program has just started and the County has received two grants, which include one from the EPA for petroleum base contamination and one for hazardous materials for a total of \$400,000 over a period of three years. The monies will cover the cost of Phase I and Phase II assessments to assess certain properties for the potential of paying for Brownfield Plans. She stated that their first community forum was held last week at the Cheboygan City Hall and the next meeting is scheduled to be held at the Tuscarora Township Hall at 7-9 P.M. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. They are asking people to come to the meeting and to look at large maps of the county and pinpoint old sites that possibly need cleanup. Then an initial list will be developed of the sites and the list will be prioritized. She stated that there will be no testing or reviews of the site until consent from the land owner.

Ms. Kellogg stated Mackinaw City has asked NLEA to conduct a low to moderate income survey. They would like to see if over 51% of the people who live in Mackinaw City are qualified to be low to moderate income by HUD standards and if that is true, then it makes them eligible for funding through the CDBG Program. She stated that they just received word that they will be receiving \$40,000 from the USDA to conduct a study to see if it is feasible to construct a network of small

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business incubators throughout the NLEA region. She explained that a small business incubator is a building that is divided up into small sections, whereby, businesses can come and rent a spot at a lower rental rate to help them get off the ground. Once they get their business up and running, then they would graduate out of the building. NLEA would like to see several of these throughout the area. She stated that NLEA has started their business retention visits in Cheboygan County. These visits are done with a representative from the Michigan Work's Office and a representative from the MEDC Office. Each business is asked how they are doing and if there is anything that they can do to help them. Also every year, NLEA goes and visits all of the major communities to talk with them and bring them resources. They have already visited Cheboygan, Mackinaw City and they are setting up appointments in Indian River and Wolverine. The NLEA has applied for some funding from the EDA to do a targeted marketing plan to come up with what types of business they want to attract to the area.

Prosecutor Mickey Castagne presented Deb Turnbull with a "Crime Fighting Mom's" award. She stated that it is an award that Senator Carl Levin started in 1997. He sends this award out each year in conjunction with Mother's day to honor mom's who have been out there on the front line fighting crime. Ms. Castagne stated that Deb Turnbull has dedicated her career and all of her volunteer work in strengthening families in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Linda Socha stated that Committee of the Whole Meetings are typically not action meetings, but every once in a while there is a deadline to be met or extenuating circumstances that needs to come before the Board and today's agenda does include three items which requires action.

Housing Director Shar Grawey presented the annual resolution for approval to apply for a grant of \$50,000 from USDA Rural development. A copy can be obtained from the Housing Office. Ms. Grawey said the amount could change based on the money available. The \$50,000 applied for allows for \$42,500 for county wide on rehabilitation and \$7,500 for administration. The USDA RD HPG is for the lower income homeowner. The terms are deferred funding and can be used on rehabilitation only, not emergency repairs. A lien will be placed on the property for the life of the present owner. The entire amount of the loan will be recaptured when the owner dies, transfers title, or no longer uses the property as his or her primary residence. This grant is used as matching funds for the larger Michigan State Housing Development Authority Community Development Block Grant. Matching funds are also utilized from recaptures funds from the 1980's Small Cities Grants, recaptured funds from the previous MSHDA & USDA RD grants, Local Lenders, Homeowner Contributions, Salvation Army, Department of Human Services, NEMCSA's Weatherization Program and the Veteran's Administration. Discussion held.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger to adopt the following resolution and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Pre-Application and Application for the 2007 USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant.

**Resolution 07-014
2007 USDA Rural Development
Housing Preservation Grant Pre-Application & Application**

WHEREAS, Cheboygan County is interested in the continuing efforts to upgrade housing conditions for its low and very low income residents, and;

WHEREAS, said Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners accepts recommendation of the Cheboygan County Housing Commission to apply for \$50,000 in USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant funds, and;

WHEREAS, said County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign said application and required forms,

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners authorize the Cheboygan County Housing Commission Director, to prepare and submit the pre-application and application for funding through the USDA Rural Development, Housing Preservation Grant on its behalf.

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

Special Acting Friend of the Court Don Duczkowski gave a presentation regarding the Friend of the Court's Fiscal Year 2008 Cooperative Reimbursement Contract Application to the State of Michigan. He stated that this is an annual renewal Application that allows them to apply for the maximum funding allocation from the State of Michigan. The Application process requires attachment of their current contract service agreements, including; 1) Contract with their financial consultants – MAXIMUS, 2) Special Acting Friend of the Court – a contract with Don Duczkowski, 2) A contract with the referee - Bruce Cranham, and 3) Inter-Department Agreement with FOC and the Sheriff for Warrant Officer. This Application must be received for review by the State contract manager no later than June 1, 2007. He stated that once the Application is approved, the Contract will allow the Friend of the Court to receive 66% of its funding from the State and 34% from the County. Discussion held regarding parenting time and child support.

Motion by Commissioner Bolinger, seconded by Commissioner Mushlock to approve the submission of the Friend of the Court Fiscal Year 2008 Cooperative Reimbursement Contract Application to the State of Michigan, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

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

Finance Director Keri Kortz presented the Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Application for the Prosecutor's Office. She stated that it is the same application that is submitted by the FOC, but that it covers the Prosecuting Attorney's Office who is responsible for establishing all paternity and child support orders for individuals referred from DHS. This Application is the same as last years with no changes and has to be turned in by June 1, 2007.

Motion by Commissioner Mushlock, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program Application contract for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to the State of Michigan and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

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

Administrator Mike Overton presented a Lease, which was drafted by Legal Counsel, between Cheboygan County, through the Cheboygan County Fair Board and L.E. Barnes & Bailey Brothers Circus, Inc. Discussion held.

Motion by Commissioner Mushlock, seconded by Commissioner Bolinger to approve the L.E. Barnes Bailey Circus, Inc. contract to lease the Cheboygan County Fairgrounds on July 7, 2007 for the purpose of providing a circus and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

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

BOARD MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Commissioner Page reported that he attended the Region 9 Council on Aging Meeting yesterday in Alpena. He stated that one of the commissioner members mentioned some concern of proposed budget cuts regarding home services and meals for the elderly. Over 19% of Cheboygan County is over the age of 65 versus the State average of approximately 12%. The

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unemployment rate is approximately 20% versus the State average of 7%. He stated that services for the elderly are vital. The average cost of nursing care is \$5,300 per month or \$63,000 per year, which is almost double the income for a Cheboygan County resident. Each Commissioner should receive a letter from the Council on Aging regarding their 2008 Program. Any public comments or concerns should be addressed to Sue Schuler c/o NEMSCA, Alpena, Michigan by June 8, 2007. He stated that he received a compliment regarding the Senior Citizens Programs in Cheboygan from the head of the Senior Center in Alpena.

Commissioner Bolinger reported that he and Commissioner Makima attended a Michigan Northern Counties Meeting yesterday and the main topic of discussion was Drug Courts. Discussion held.

Commissioner Makima reported that the Mental Health Board received some bad news last week. Their nurse lost her house again to fire. He stated that the new five star concrete for the Veteran's monument in front of the county building is finished and the flags are up for all the armed forces.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to go into closed session pursuant the Michigan Compiled Law, being MCLA 15.268(a), to consider the Administrator's Evaluation upon request of the Administrator. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Entered closed session at 10:48 a.m.; returned to open session at 11:35 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Makima to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Chief Deputy Clerk Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson