

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING SESSION
June 15, 2011**

The Planning Session of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order UAW Center on Black Lake by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:00 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Linda Socha, Don Horrocks, Pete Redmond, Cal Gouine, Tony Matelski, John Wallace, and Sue Allor

Absent: None

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

The facilitator for the session was John Armhein of MSU Extension. Mr. Amrhein said he has been with extension a little over 16 years. Each commissioner introduced themselves.

The County's Vision Statement was reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to reaffirm the vision statement as written. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

The Mission Statement was reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks, to reaffirm the mission statement as presented with the Clerk to format both vision and mission statements Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

BOARD GOALS

Mr. Amrhein said "What are things the county should work towards achieving in the next year or so?"

Administrator Overton noted that for 2012 and 2013 most likely will be facing \$300,000 cuts each year in the budget; and in 2014 the reserved revenue sharing will run out.

Following much discussion the following were identified:

Quality County Service

Permit process
Customer service
Intro to other agencies
Use friendly
Coordination of functions w/NLEA & chambers
Explain process
Help prepare citizens/clients
Positive attitude
Hours
Website
Accurate up to date info
Newsletter
PIO – Public Info Office
Commissioner – Electronic

Image – Public - Signage
Planning/Zoning Direction
Master Plan
Economic Development
Leadership Role
Encourage and Coordinate
NEMCOG
NWMCOG
NLEA
Recycling

5. Addressing Multiple Facility Needs

- Utility Bills
- Improvements Completed
- Studies
- Employee comments

Plans for renovation and addition to the existing county building that was prepared by Johnson Controls several years ago were discussed. Lengthy discussion on building needs during the difficult financial times. Discussion then turned to the presentation prepared by Honeywell earlier this year. Board is obligated to take care of county assets. Administrator Overton said money from tax revolving fund could be used. Options are do renovations and expand, do Honeywell project, or do nothing. A healthy working environment for employees is important. Look into whether we could do what we want using local contractors. Consensus of the board was that we do need to do renovations beginning with window replacement. Administrator Overton to work on windows replacement.

Animal Control Building – Lengthy discussion held. Commissioner Wallace suggested selling property to the Humane Society for \$1 and also the same with the Senior Citizens Centers. Consensus was that county should retain ownership. Administrator Overton related the history of the Humane Society and animal control. Commissioner Horrocks said they are looking for the county's approval to move forward on building renovations. Property was given to us with stipulations as will the property being obtained from the school. Idealistically a new building is needed, but idealistically not feasible at this time. Consensus was to renovate the building.

Motion by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks, that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners will expend \$30,000 towards the remodel/addition project of the Cheboygan County Humane Society at the Cheboygan County Animal Shelter at 1536 Hackelburg Road, with the stipulation that bids are sought, payment to be paid upon first contractor draw on the project. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 7 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Chairperson Socha said we do not know what the situation is with the administrator is at this time. She referred the matter to the Board Appointments & Procedures Committee for discussion of filling the position and reporting back with recommendations. Administrator Overton said he would be willing to discuss this at this time if the board desires to. He said he received an offer from Jackson County to start on July 25, 2011 with expectations of a decision by the 21st of June. It was a good offer, but with selling his house, he countered offered. He said his wife wants to go. He said he is not unhappy here but would stay if salary increased to \$98,000 beginning now and remain at that until other employees are given raises. Chairperson Socha said looking for a new administrator is time consuming and costly. The term of the contract would be a 3 year commitment commencing July 1, 2011 ending December 31, 2014.

Discussion held on Trails, need better direction of where the county wants to go with this and determine clear identification of what the county's role is in the trails. Administrator Overton said he talked with Steven Schnell regarding this. Socha said Steve needs to know and his job description should be clear on this. A Parks and Rec committee was discuss, Commissioner Horrocks in favor of addressing parks and rec. Chairperson Socha said he should read the county's recreation plan. Commissioner Gouine questioned the job description for the soil erosion position.

Discussion held on better utilization of the county website and the IT Department.

Motion by Commissioner Allor, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson