

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ECONOMIC SUMMIT SESSION
September 10, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City by Chairperson Linda Socha at 9:10 a.m.

Roll called and quorum present.

Present: Commissioners Socha, Makima, Redmond, Mushlock, Page, Wallace (arrived at 9:20 a.m.), and Bolinger, Administrator Overton, Clerk Tryban and MSUE Director Ann Chastain.

Absent: None

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

Chairperson Socha said the purpose of today's meeting was to review all economic issues and establish the broad direction the Board plans to take. The format will be informal discussion. Administrator Overton said in addition to the information in the packet he also has the latest drawings and plans for possible building expansion from Johnson Controls.

MSUE Director Ann Chastain presented a PowerPoint presentation put together my MSUE representatives to address and determine how to move forward with Michigan's economic development challenges. The presentation stressed the need to change the way we think, act, and do business at every level in the public, private and non profit sectors in order to compete globally in the New Economy; and compared the Old Economy and New Economy. Strategic assets required in attracting resilient, sustainable growth and global opportunities include: attractive, high quality cities, universities and colleges, first class medical facilities, regional transit, transportation and highway access, and green infrastructure. The six pillars of prosperity developed by the MSU Land Policy Institute and People and Land Program as a strategy for moving Michigan forward are: 1) Vibrant successful communities; 2) Thriving agriculture; 3) Inclusive and entrepreneurial culture; 4) Natural resources for recreation and job creation; 5) Strong lifelong learning; and 6) Knowledge-based technologies. Michigan has the assets to compete in the New Economy.

General discussion was held regarding the need for a community college in the county and the work being done by the independent economic group. Chairperson Socha said the County's Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Board Goals all appear to be in line.

Among the items provided for board discussion were: a draft of the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan provided by the Cheboygan County EDC; biographical background information and sample leading economic indicators for the County; and numerous financial reports, graphs and charts.

The General Fund – Fund Balance Analysis was reviewed by Administrator Overton. General discussion held on cash flow. Items to consider for the 2010 Budget includes a 22% increase in health care which totals approximately \$275,000 and a decrease in Interest Revenue; leaving an anticipated 2010 budget shortfall (at 2009 Expenditure Levels) of \$175,200. General discussion held on available grants.

Administrator Overton explained that unlike most other counties, Cheboygan County has not had to borrow money in anticipation of tax revenues. The proposed Capital Improvement Plan needs to be refined before presented for board approval.

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Johnson Controls plans were viewed and discussed. As proposed including a separate pole barn, the total projected cost is 10.7 million. There would be a projected annual utility savings year one of \$62,000, which would be less than current utility costs today, for a building 33% larger than the current building. Chairperson Socha noted Johnson Control also found issues with other county-owned buildings in need of maintenance and repairs. Discussion held on timing and needs. The consensus of the Board was for Administrator Overton to talk with Lyn Johnson of Emmet County regarding the recent renovations done on the Emmet County Building. Commissioner Page asked the administrator to also report on how day-to-day operations would be handled during the construction. It was the consensus of the Board that there definitely is the need to move forward. Regarding the proposed changes, square footage appears to be basically okay; however there may be issues with some departments, i.e., the Clerk and Treasurer offices appear to be too small, while the Probate offices appear to be too large. Lengthy discussion held on financing of a building project and ways to reduce the projected costs.

The Board Goals established last year were reorganized and condensed as follows:

1) Improve economic development.

- ❖ Encourage Considering Tax Relief for Small Business
- ❖ Companies to locate in Cheboygan County - let them know what we have to offer “advertise”
- ❖ Help strengthen existing business and promote Cheboygan County
- ❖ Continue partnership with NLEA – retention of existing; encourage new (EDC/Brownfield Authority)
- ❖ Broadband/High Speed critical infrastructure for economic development
- ❖ Steve Schnell Position - Community Outreach
- ❖ Encourage development, but protect natural resources

Strengthen communications

- ❖ Newsletter/Website
- ❖ Popular Report
- ❖ Continue Northern Cheboygan County Inter-municipality Planning Committee and promote others
- ❖ Need to improve media relations – Mike as PIO – news releases
- ❖ Encourage participation of public in Master Plan meetings (Steve)

Investigate options to bring high speed internet at an affordable cost to all residents

- ❖ Continue Participation in Cooperation Study
- ❖ Study all options
- ❖ Determine best course of action for Cheboygan County
- ❖ Study failure in Macomb County
- ❖ On-going – best options
- ❖ Determine if 12 county Co-op will work, if not, work with NLEA to form 4 county effort to supply broadband

2) Address facilities needs.

- ❖ Evaluate what we have, check for duplication
- ❖ Use more imaging
- ❖ Bring experts in - use/design to evaluate
- ❖ Consider Building Expansion
- ❖ Black River School – Option or not – Discussion on this, consensus is not an option.

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3) Continue diligent efforts to mitigate substance abuse.

- ❖ Retain experts to develop educational program
- ❖ Training in schools – jail top pushers
- ❖ Must continue to fund this
- ❖ Look into Idea of Financial support toward halfway homes
- ❖ Support MSUE strong family programs
- ❖ Continue to fund 3 key positions: Prescription Drug Detective, School Liaison Officer, and SANE
- ❖ Lobby and monitor for changes to laws
- ❖ Evaluate existing efforts for cost effectiveness
- ❖ Catalog all existing programs/expenditures
- ❖ DARE

4) Continue to evaluate County policies and programs.

- ❖ Monitor cost and cost effectiveness
- ❖ Performance
- ❖ Strengthen & Stabilize existing (i.e. SRR, Recycling)
- ❖ Be careful to fully evaluate and identify plans for anything new
- ❖ Review Policies – change if necessary (check with other counties – not internal, for Board policies)
- ❖ Request reports (i.e. SANE)
- ❖ Be cost effective – all programs
- ❖ Continue to strengthen Planning – user friendly, streamline, communicate
- ❖ Consistent office hours

Commissioner Redmond suggested meeting again after the Governor settles the state budget and the Administrator gathers more information.

Administrator Overton said Johnson Controls said in the next phase, the Board has two options, either hire Johnson Controls or seek RFQ's.

Motion by Commissioner Makima, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Mary Ellen Tryban
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

Linda Socha
Chairperson