

**MINUTES OF THE CLARE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Harrison, Michigan 48625
July 20, 2016

8/17/16 pm
Unapproved Minutes
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Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present: Commissioners: District 1: Dale Majewski, District 2: Samantha Pitchford, District 3: Leonard Strouse, District 4: Jack Kleinhardt, District 5: Donald David, District 6: Karen Lipovsky, District 7: Jim Gelios

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the agenda with changes as noted below. Motion carried.

Add: Approval of Closed Session Minutes from July 8, 2016
Add: Under Public Hearing, Special Presentation – Jennifer Martin with 44 North

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Donald David to approve the Closed Session Minutes of the July 8, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Pirnstill, Clare County Transit provided a brief summary of the up-coming ballot proposal. He indicated that over 30,000 people are provided transportation yearly by the Transit Corporation. He also noted that there are new programs. One, the gold card program, provides free rides for all those over eighty years old. Additionally Veterans can ride at a discounted one-way rate of \$1.00 and also, individuals can now "text to ride" eliminating the need to call by phone. Mr. Pirnstill also reported that there are three new buses on the road. September will mark their 35th year in service to the public providing over 3M rides over the years. He noted that the Transit Corporation is a private non-profit organization, not a party of the county, rather they contract with the county to provide public transportation services and the money that they received from the county is millage, pass through money only.

On another matter, Mr. Pirnstill took a moment to discuss a free clothing give-away program sponsored by the Farwell Lutheran Church. He stated that they are open to the public and there are no restrictions for acquiring the clothing. Anyone needing clothing is welcome to come.

Terry Acton, Hayes Township Supervisor briefly spoke noting that there had been a motion at their recent meeting to sign the airport contract agreement. He also stated that the City of Harrison is requesting a few changes before signing. He also spoke about the potential of a special assessment to brine roads in Hayes Township at a cost of \$22.00 per parcel.

Marty Johnson, spoke briefly indicating that he was wearing his Clare Depot hat for the day and announced that The Depot had acquired a \$25,000 matching grant for the Depot Project that will allow them to open their doors.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation on Brennan vs. Clare County.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Majewski, Strouse, Lipovsky, Kleinhardt, Gelios, Pitchford and David.

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried.

Closed Session Begins: 9:27 a.m.

Closed Session Ends: 10:04 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, to approve the recommendations on the pending litigation. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

- Lakeshore Legal Aid, Free legal assistance service to seniors and low income people
- Isabella County Adult Day Care, Copy of FY2017 Application for Funding
- Huron County, Resolution #16-77c Opposing Fracking
- DEQ, Air Quality Division Pending New Source Review Application Report
- Region VII Area Agency on Aging FY 2015 Annual Report
- Bay County, Resolution #2016-161 Reducing Barriers to Public Lands

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard reported that she had spoken with Kathy Methner of Middle Michigan Development Corporation and the video promoting Clare County is now ready for release and will be made available on the Clare County website. She also reported that she had received two applications and proposals for the handling of equalization duties for the county. A brief discussion followed concerning pressures from the state to get someone on the job. It was determined that interviews would be conducted at the up-coming budget meetings.

JUSTICE

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to concur with the Circuit Court Judges recommendation and appoint Therese Haley to the Jury Board to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Joe Groff with term to expire April 30, 2017. Motion carried.

Judge Joshua Farrell appeared before the Board to discuss several matters. He mention that the recent court house shooting in Berrien County has prompted much discussion and review within the courts and he stated that most courts are under scrutiny to provide greater security measures. He stated that he had requested that the Michigan Supreme Court come to the county to provide a no-cost comprehensive review of facilities and security measures. He indicated that the report would be provided to the Board but stated that there is a backlog for the analysis.

Judge Farrell then requested permission to hire an employee to replace an individual that had taken family medical leave (FMLA) who later decided not to return to work. He indicated that this individual worked with collections, bringing revenue to the county. He noted that the office will be understaffed and that without collection efforts, revenue to the county will suffer. He stated that Ms. Hoffman was also responsible for DNR matters, small claims and landlord – tenant issues amongst other things. He reminded the Board that the position was currently funded and was also in the proposed budget for 2017. Board Chairperson Jack Kleinhardt indicated that the Board had implemented a hiring freeze and stated that they are currently working with the 2017 budget and will consider all of these things at that time.

Recess at 10:46 a.m.
Reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Jennifer Martin and Cherokee of 44 North appeared before the Board to provide an analysis of health benefits, utilization, past cost and plan rates for 2017. Ms. Martin provided various handouts and spreadsheets and discussed the information providing recommendations for consideration. Ms. Martin was asked to provide additional research on option changes and potential savings and present that information to the Board once reviewed.

Undersheriff Miedzianowski briefly expressed concerns over the hiring freeze and the need to hire. He reported on changes that had already taken place and about anticipated changes to come. Once again Board stood firm on the hiring freeze indicating that three budget meetings will be coming up and decisions will be forthcoming.

Discussions continued about the budget. With suggested proposed cuts the budget is at \$562,931.00 not including health insurance as that figure has not yet been determined.

Recess for lunch at 12:48 p.m.
Reconvene at 1:57 p.m.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve Region VII Area Agency on Aging, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Worksite Agreement July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Motion carried.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of June 21, 2016 in the amount of \$45,039.64 and July 5, 2016 in the amount of \$244,578.88. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the expenditures for the month of June 2016 in the amount of \$1,708,372.98 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$816,521.17. Motion carried.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION-cont.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve budget adjustment #16-109 in the amounts of \$162,521.17. Motion carried

Commissioner Kleinhardt asked Clerk Pamela Mayfield if she would like to discuss her request to hire to fill an upcoming vacancy. She had little to comment on knowing that they had already declined two previous requests earlier that day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzing reported that she has just mailed 4000 delinquent tax notices to landowners. She also reported that she is working with the Department of Health and Human Services on some matters and reported that their representative will be attending the next Finance Meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORT and COMMENTS

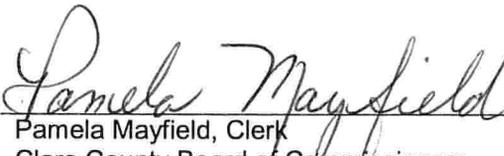
- Chairperson Kleinhardt noted that there are jobs to be filled and a shortage of employees to fill them. Additionally, he reported that the Governor is requesting to open up Act 51, the road funding which causes concern. Act 51 provides funding for various entities including the Secretary of State office along with others. The problem with opening up Act 51 is that 1/3 of funding is to MDOT, 1/3 of the funding goes to counties and 1/3 of the funding goes to municipalities and townships. If opened, the Governor wants the money to go to economic corridors. If that happens then smaller northern rural counties will lose. C/Kleinhardt also noted that he attended the City of Clare meeting and saw the proposed plans for the north end and the changes to Colonville Road. Cost to install a round-about is about \$2M. MDOT has no money and City of Clare has no money. Proposals are out there but they are just that, proposals at this time.
- Commissioner Gelios attended the Medical Control Authority Board and they are attempting to supply a life-saving drug to be carried in all patrol cars.
- Commissioner David noted that he missed several of his meetings and will be missing several more as he tends to other important matters.
- Commissioner Lipovsky attended her Lake Board Meeting and also attended Northern Michigan Association of Counties meeting. They made recommendations that government get involved with the schools. If young people are not engaged, there will be no one to fill vacancies in the future. She also noted that the Judge from Manistee County said you can put all the security in the courthouses but it won't do any good, they will just shoot from outside the building. Just something to think about.

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REPORT

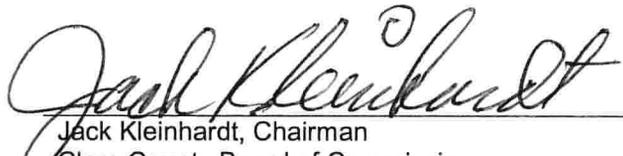
Community Director Lori Ware provided a brief up-date on on-going projects specifically indicating that the parking lot will be complete on July 29th; concrete is being completed now. There were some issues with drains coming out of the Sheriff's Department between that building and the County Building. The Sheriff's Department parking lot will be patched but not redone to make sure all other issues are fixed. There were additional elevator problems with the newer of the two elevators. Another grant was just submitted for the Animal Shelter and another one received for the adult day care. She noted that City of Clare will be using Clare County application and building inspectors in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE
NEW BUSINESS-NONE

Meeting Adjourned at 2:39 p.m.



 Pamela Mayfield, Clerk
 Clare County Board of Commissioners



 Jack Kleinhardt, Chairman
 Clare County Board of Commissioners