

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625
March 19, 2014

4/16/14
Unapproved Minutes
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Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present: Commissioner Jim Gelios, Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, Commissioner Rick LaBoda, Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, Commissioner Dale Majewski, and Commissioner Leonard Strouse.

Absent: Commissioner Lynn Grim

Others Present, Signing In: Dave Corner, Greg Leedy, Rosemary Horvath and Anna McNeill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Add: Under New Business, Wireless Service Resolution #14-08

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014, Board Meeting and also the Closed Session Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Neff, MSUE appeared and provided an update relevant to events and programs in the extension office. She focused her discussion about the upcoming mock interview day project for 11th and 12th grade high school students that would be held on March 21, 2014 at the Bovee Center on the CMU campus from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. She invited anyone interested in participating to attend. She indicated that the event will provide good life skill development for approximately two-hundred area student.

Terry Acton, Hayes Township Supervisor briefly spoke on Hayes Township and their need for a new township facility and or changes. Information will be forth-coming but plans to build will need to go before the electorate for approval before proceeding. Commissioner Jim Gelios indicated that comments from the public about Hayes Township have been positive and public participation at the meetings is at a high.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST:

Bay County Resolution 2014-15 Supporting Bay County Road Commission request to retain current Income Tax Level
Bay County Resolution 2014-31 Thanking the Governor for the Revenue Sharing Plan for FY2015
Oscoda County Resolution 2014-02 Opposing SB 552
Livingston County Resolution 2014-02-070 Thanking the Governor for the Revenue Sharing Plan for FY2015
Gratiot County Resolution Supporting Restoration of Community Mental Health General Fund Appropriation
Oscoda County Resolution 2014-004 Thanking the Governor for the Revenue Sharing Plan for FY2015
Ottawa County Resolution Thanking the Governor for the Revenue Sharing Plan for FY2015
Oceana County Resolution Supporting HB 5215 Requiring State to Reimburse Revenue Lost due to P.A. 161 of 2013
Clare County Road Commission – Fiscal Year 2013 Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Tracy Byard noted:

- Distribute Budgetary Status Reports showing an increase in revenues, up \$518,556.000, with expenses also up \$359,563.00
- Reported that the MERS Pizza and Planning Employee Meeting was well attended
- Provided an update relevant to the Medical Examiner noting that the present interim ME servicing Clare County is from Gladwin County and will be changing to the ME, Dr. Wagner, for Mecosta-Osceola County. A meeting has been scheduled and Dr. Wagner will be submitting a bid for permanent services to the county.
- Paula Pirnstill Memorial Health & Safety Fair is scheduled for April 26, 2014 at the Farwell High School
- Received a Notice of a Public Hearing to be held April 14th at City of Clare relevant to the creation of a Local Development Finance Authority
- Will be attending the MAC Conference next week and she will be meeting with the Census Bureau for a special discussion.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dave Corner and Greg Leedy representing NORESKO United Technologies presented their report on the "Preliminary Audit findings for Energy Performance Contracting" and spoke with the Board concerning same. Their preliminary assessment of county buildings found and identified energy and operational deficits and savings measures that they believe would positively impact budgets and savings for the county. Their findings speculated that there would be monetary savings that would generate over \$120,000 per year of guaranteed savings in the existing budget that could be used to fund improvements resulting in an approximately cost and savings of \$1,100,000.00 to \$1,400,000.00 over a ten-year term of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (GESC) and if they don't produce, they write Clare County a check for the difference. They indicated, to proceed, there would be a need to advertise for an RFQ, a scope of work, defined to engage in the project. Basically there are two different pieces to the project; one with NORESKO and a financial piece with a third part firm.

A number of questions followed. Commissioner Lipovsky offered a motion to proceed with the RFQ for Energy Performance Contracting but the motion died for a lack of support. Commissioner Kleinhardt indicated that he wanted some time to review the report presented and research financing options. He noted that there are other projects within the county that will likely require renovation and investment funds and he suggested a review of these things before moving forward and committing funds before the entire project was given proper review and consideration.

Lori Ware, Director provided a Quarterly Update on Programs in Community Development and Senior Services. She distributed a binder with literature highlighting programs, accomplishments and shortfalls. She noted that a grant had been received in the amount of \$19,000.00 for builder's training and continuing education, that there were fourteen homeowner rehab projects totaling \$161,833.00 and outlined the various senior services programs revenues and expenditures noting that in most all areas units served exceeded amount budgeted. She further stated that program revenue is directly linked to census information and while census population figures for Clare County are down, the senior population continues to grow contributing to the funding shortfall vs. needs overload.

Recess at 9:54 a.m. and back in session at 10:02 a.m.

JUSTICE

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, to approve a 2% salary increase for the Circuit and Probate Court Administrator/Juvenile Referee and adjust the appropriate line item (101-148-704.002) to reflect the increase effective April 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Discussed was the requested wage increase of \$5,000.00 vs. a 2% or approximately \$1,100.00 of his current wage. A 2% wage increase was provided to most all employees, excepting courts. It was noted that the Court Administrator does not take county insurance and therefore under current law requiring employee contributions toward health care, he has not benefited from the non-payment of insurance contributions that other court employees have been able to take advantage of.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the Sheriff's Department request to renew the Agreement for Inmate Health Care Services contract between Correctional Healthcare Companies, Inc. (CHC) and Clare County effective through September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$179,695.80 annually with Board Chair to sign. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the Letter of Understanding with the POAM Non-Supervisory Unit to have the new Clerical Supervisor Position in the Non-Supervisory POAM Unit and provide a 5% pay increase above the top paid Administrative Assistant but leave disciplinary authority to the Division Commanders with the LOU to be signed upon mutual agreement of the Union and County Legal Counsel. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to amend the current health insurance policy and provide benefits to all new employees at the first of the month following hire for all union and non-union employees and to approve a one-time waiver for the new Information Technology position in the Sheriff's Department with benefits to commence upon hire with Letters of Understanding to go to all Unions. Motion carried.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-NONE

PHYSICAL RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to approve the Village of Farwell, City of Harrison and Hayes Township designated "Placemaking" areas of Clare County for the MSHDA County Allocation Grant. Motion carried.

Lori Ware noted that a grant will be received for \$200,000.00 with approximately \$30,000.00 for administration. She noted that the City of Clare did not qualify.

A discussion relevant to Code Enforcement was set aside to be discussed at some future date.

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the request of the Community Development Director to increase fees in the Building Department per the proposed permit fee and square foot construction cost schedule presented. Motion carried.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of February 18, 2014 in the amount of \$66,414.36 and March 4, 2014 in the amount of \$33,985.26. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the expenditures for the month of February 2014 in the amount of \$2,294,101.12 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$746,896.44. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, to approve Budget Adjustment #14-41 in the amount of \$15,100.00 to cover shortfalls within the activities. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Pamela Mayfield reported an employee shortage with up to four office employees going on either extended or intermittent leaves of absence. This comes at an especially vulnerable time as another employee is retiring, spring break is approaching and two employees have travel tickets purchased for vacations with a third set to leave upon return of the other two. Additionally, the Treasurer has just recently turned over just under 1,200 property forfeiture notices causing an overload in Register of Deeds. Everyone has been put on notice of potential overtime. In addition Clerk Mayfield noted that filing deadlines are fast approaching for anyone planning to run for office in 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger reported that she just finished settlement of the taxes with all nineteen taxing entities of the county and that she will be buying back \$3.9M which is down almost \$95,000 from 2012. She noted that for 2014 taxes part of the changes on personal property will begin and Lincoln Township alone will be losing almost \$11,000,000.00 in taxable value alone and the county will be losing approximately \$51,000.00. She has not yet done any of the calculations for Winterfield Township but changes there will also be significant. She also commented that the Step-Forward program has been helpful and there have been thirty-four applicants that have made payment arrangements.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chairperson LaBoda noted that he attended his normal meetings and everything is business as usual and pretty quiet.
- Commissioner Majewski noted that the South tower was no longer available and indicated that Trans-Canada is working with the county and standing by the "no cost to county" policy.
- Commissioner Kleinhardt took the opportunity to comment on the presentation made by Noresco, courthouse security requests, property acquisition plans and the vacant space that will be left when the Health Department vacates the county building. He stressed an urgent need to begin discussions on future plans.
- Commissioner Strouse noted that he attended his township meetings. He also took the time to discuss the continued placement of courthouse security information and threats through social media pointing fingers at Commissioners and "placing them on notice". He said the original committee came before the Board, presented one narrow-minded plan that was rejected and no one has ever come back with anything other than that plan. He was not happy about this.
- Commissioner Lipovsky attended regular meetings and was in agreement with Commissioner Strouse about the social media comments.
- Commissioner Gelios took the opportunity to comment on the commitment and engagement of the constituents of Hayes Township noting that there has been some real turn-around that is benefiting Hayes Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A brief discussion took place concerning the Planning Commission. When questioned about applicants, only one person had applied, hardly enough to move forward. Due to lack of interest it is expected that this will be reviewed once again and will likely result in dissolving the Commission in the near future.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt to approve securing credit cards from Members First Credit Union for the following individuals for business purposes: Sheriff, John Wilson; Undersheriff, Dwayne Miedzianowski; Detective Erica Vredevelt; Lieutenant, Mike Bailey (4 cards same number); Treasurer, Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger and County Administrator, Tracy Byard all with a \$3,000.00 limit for a total aggregate exposure of \$18,000.00. Motion carried with one opposed being Commissioner Jim Gelios.

Recess at 11:25 a.m. to secure a new power cord for the clerk's laptop
Back in session at 11:32 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt to adopt Resolution #14-08, a resolution to support and request wireless service to our communities.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Lipovsky, Kleinhardt, Gelios, Strouse, Majewski and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Grim

Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS-CONTINUED

A lengthy discussion commenced relevant to the NORESKO presentation and the service that they provide. Commissioner Gelios indicated that he was concerned that since meetings are only held one time a month, waiting another month would only delay the process. By proceeding with the RFQ there is no cost nor is there any commitment to move forward. Commissioner Kleinhardt expressed his concern again stating that he would like the Board to do a comprehensive plan addressing the needs for the whole county and was uncomfortable going forward with an energy plan and financial arrangement that could tie the county financially when there are other needs to be addressed. He noted that county security continues to be a topic of discussion that does not seem to be going away and with the health department vacating the facility in the fall, renovations to the building will be required. Commissioner Strouse questioned the statement that the new boilers require continued maintenance asking what was wrong since a local company made the installation and also indicating that they are still probably being paid for.

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, to proceed with the RFQ for the energy audit. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to go into CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and Union matters.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Lipovsky, Majewski, Strouse, Kleinhardt, Gelios and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Grim

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION BEGINS: 11:54 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION ENDS: 12:25 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse to present a purchase agreement for the property at 212 S. Broad Street; Harrison, Michigan and apply for grant funding for purchase of same with Board Chair to sign.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Kleinhardt, Strouse, Majewski, Gelios, Lipovsky and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

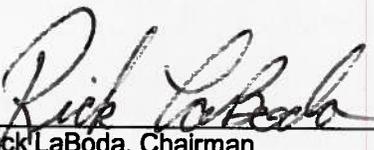
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Grim

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Pamela Mayfield, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Rick LaBoda, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners