

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625
April 16, 2014

5/21/14
Jm
Approved Minutes
Page One

Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Absent: None

Others Present, Signing In: Genine Hopkins

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 Public Hearing/Special Presentation 10:15 a.m. Kim Halis, County Equalization

Add: Under Public Hearing/Special Presentation 10:30 a.m. Genine Hopkins – Winterfield Road Conditions

Add: Under Justice Committee – Microwave Tower License Agreement

Add: Under Physical Resources – I.T. Cell Phone Discussion

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014, Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014 Closed Session.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Ambrozaitis, Prosecutor distributed a compilation of information with artwork drawn by Farwell Elementary School fourth grade students in a book called "Going To Court." Awards were presented to first, second and third place drawing winners Bryanna, Izabele and Jasmine.

Sharon Jeffery, MSUE introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief description of her duties. She indicated that she primarily works educating on financial management and housing issues. She is available to work closely with home buyers, she teaches classes, works with the step forward program and works one-on-one with individuals on foreclosure matters and foreclosure prevention. She is available to help.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST:

- Luce County Resolution – wireless service providers to provide basic services in rural communities
- Clare County Community Foundation – Authorized \$10,000.00 grant for Veteran's Freedom Park
- Clare County Road Commission – Announcement of Transportation Task Force Meeting
- Clare City Commission – Intergovernmental Agreement with Clare County Road Commission
- City of Clare – Resolution 2014-027 Jurisdictional Transfer of Colonville Road
- Gogebic County – Resolution 2014-06 Supporting HB 5215 Reimbursement of Revenue For Loss Due to Veteran's Tax Exemption
- Gogebic County – Resolution 2014-05 Supporting HB 5253 allowing collaboration between counties
- Gogebic County – Resolution 2014-03 Calling for Expansion of Natural Gas Service
- Cheboygan County – Resolution 14-06 RE: Sprinkler System and New Home Construction
- Oceana County – Resolution Opposing HB 5097 and SB 850
- MDOT – Scheduling of Meeting to discuss 5-year plans
- Branch County – Resolution Requesting Restoration of Funding for Mental Health
- Letter - Universal Life Church Solemnization of Marriages
- Antrim County – Resolution 13-14 Supporting HB 5253, Collaboration Between Counties
- Antrim County – Resolution 11-14 Supporting HB 5215
- Antrim County – Resolution 12-14 Opposing SB 636
- City of Clare – Letter of Intent to Establish an Industrial Development District and Plant rehabilitation District

PUBLIC HEARINGS / SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Bob Worthington, Liberty National provided a brief presentation relevant to the benefits of Liberty National Life Insurance. He stated that the supplemental insurance is similar to other competitor policies but they are able to offer eight to ten times more benefits for far less. He stated that Liberty National will provide a \$3000 policy, free of charge, to any employee interested. He requested approval to proceed.

Carl Parks, Drain Commissioner reported on the heavy rains and damage done as a result of the storms. He reported that it will be necessary to replace drains, damaged bridges and roadways. Additionally he reported on a need to conduct a feasibility study of the Little Tobacco Joint Drain that carried an initial price tag of \$76,000.00 to do engineering work alone. He indicated that there had been no money initially set aside to work on a project of this magnitude but stated that a special assessment district would be set-up to pay for the project. Discussion followed and it was determined that the Board would like to review the project and options before making a decision to proceed.

Meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Jennifer Martin, Cadillac Insurance representative was present to provide an update on the health insurance benefits and review plan details. She distributed Summary Reports for Clare County, discussed the "ConsultADoctor" program and provided utilization detail and savings information.

Genine Hopkins, Winterfield Township resident provided a brief report on the terrible road conditions in the township and made a plea that the county become proactive with roads and not reactive.

Kimberly Halis, Equalization Director distributed a written report compiled on equalized value recommendations for Clare County. She noted that the value for 2014 had decreased \$18,475,202.00 from 2013, representing an overall decrease of approximately 1.54%. The total county equalized value for 2014r was set at \$1,181,510,532.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Lynn Grim, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky to approve the Equalized value recommendations as presented by Clare County Equalization Director Kim Halis and direct Board Chair and Clerk to sign. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Tracy Byard made reference to her written report. She noted that:

- MDOT has allocated \$100,000,000.00 be set aside for counties to fix road
- Veteran's Freedom Park groundbreaking ceremony is set for Friday, April 25, 2014
- She received information from two entities for the Planning Commission and since there is no commission something will need to be done.
- MAC will be hosting Regional Summits. She provided dates and topics of discussion
- The Airport Restaurant will be opening around May 1st

The employee grievance originally scheduled for open session was changed as the employee requested that meeting be in closed session as allowable by law.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to go into CLOSED SESSION to discuss an employee grievance.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Lipovsky, Majewski, Grim, Strouse, Kleinhardt, Gelios and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION BEGAN: 11:05 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION ENDED & FULL BOARD RECONVENED: 11:13 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Lynn Grim, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to resolve the employee grievance as per written agreement.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Grim, Lipovsky, Majewski, Gelios, Strouse, Kleinhardt, and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried.

MEETING RECESSED: 11:16 a.m.

MEETING RECONVENED: 11:21 a.m.

JUSTICE

Administrator Tracy Byard discussed proposals and options available relevant to the vacant medical examiner position. Board reviewed information submitted from Dr. Paul Wagner of Osceola County along with others. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios to accept the proposal submitted by Dr. Paul Wagner for Medical Examiner Services. Motion carried.

JUSTICE-CONTINUED

It was moved by Commissioner Lynn Grim, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the Sheriff's Department request to replace the jail security control box for locks including cameras for the jail and courthouse and also the intercom system utilized by the jail for a total cost of \$93,069.79 and continue to seek the MMRMA grant for a \$34,000.00 reimbursement with the understanding that this is to be paid back from increased revenue from the jail. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Lynn Grim, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the Sheriff Department request to replace the two firewalls in the Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$9,332.80 with money to come from contingency. Motion carried.

Mr. Jim Shuster was introduced as the new information technology employee working at the Sheriff's Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the agreement between Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company (AKA TransCanada, AKA ANR Pipeline) and Clare County acting by and through its Emergency Management Department pending review of County counsel with Board Chair to sign. Motion carried.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-NONE

PHYSICAL RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A discussion on providing a stipend or cell phone reimbursement for I.T. employees took place. Before the discussion concluded it expanded into a full discussion and options for various individuals. Opinions varied but before any motion was made, it was determined that further research into the matter should take place. The Administrator will research this further and report back to the Board with finding.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of March 18, 2014 in the amount of \$139,152.11 and April 1, 2014 in the amount of \$73,663.52. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the expenditure for the month of March 2014 in the amount of \$2,205,707.26 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$770,104.92. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Lynn Grim, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the Prosecutor's request to purchase three iPhones at a cost of \$144.21 monthly with an annual expenditure of \$1,730.00 with payment to come from the OWI Forfeiture Fund. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve Budget Adjustments #14-52, #14-53, #14-54 and #14-55 in the amount of \$4,450.00, \$24,612.00, \$5,000.00 and \$28,710.00 respectively. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the Budget Calendar as present with one change. The August 5th meeting will be rescheduled to take place on August 4th. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Mayfield reported that there is heavy focus on elections and election training. She reported travels to Houghton Lake and Bay City recently for trainings. Additional training will be offered in Clare County in May with additional training in June and July. Also, she noted that because of a staff shortage she was required to shut the office down during the lunch time for a few weeks.

TREASURER'S REPORT-not present

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairperson Rick LaBoda noted that an invitation had been received inviting all Commissioners to attend the celebration ceremony of the first recovery court graduate on May 14th. Relative to the energy audit, Chairperson LaBoda indicated that a knowledgeable acquaintance provided a word of caution when proceeding. He was told to watch contract language very carefully. Additionally he said that the companies should be asked how many times they have been wrong and how many times they have been required to provide a payout to anyone.

All commissioners attended usual monthly city and township meetings. Commissioner Grim noted that Area Agency on Aging was conducting an audit, noted that dues went down, attended the Middle Michigan quarterly meeting and also acknowledged that Robin Howard has retired from Central Michigan Health Department after thirty-four years of service. She also reported that Community Mental Health is looking to build a new facility sometime in the future.

Commissioner Gelios reported that work has restarted on the Health Park and it is expected that it will be ready for occupancy in October. He also noted that while the population over the last census is down, senior population of Clare County has increased 19% for those 65+ years in age.

PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Lynn Grim to offer Liberty National as a supplemental insurance for employees. Motion carried.

Discussion resumed on the Little Tobacco Joint Drain. A motion was presented and withdrawn as Board was in favor of consulting legal counsel prior to moving forward. If a special meeting is required, then a special meeting would be called.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to go into Closed Session to discuss possible litigation.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Lipovsky, Majewski, Grim, Strouse, Gelios, Kleinhardt and LaBoda

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

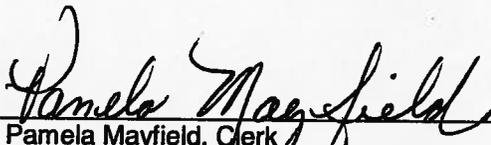
CLOSED SESSION BEGINS: 1:14 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION ENDS: 1:23 p.m.

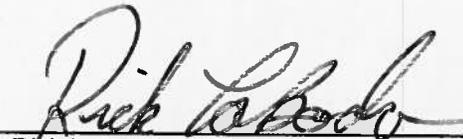
It was moved by Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Lynn Grim, to settle pending litigation as per recommendations of the Clare County Prosecutor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS-NONE

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.



Pamela Mayfield, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Rick LaBoda, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners