

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

225 W. Main St.
Harrison, Michigan 48625
Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Approved 2/16/2022 SBP
~~Unapproved minutes~~
January 19, 2022

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and moment of silence for our active military, veterans and first responders.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

District 1 Dale Majewski, District 3 Rick Fancon, District 5 Sandy Bristol, District 6 Bronwyn Asplund and District 7 Jeff Haskell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 2 Samantha Pitchford and District 4 Stephanie Brown

OTHERS PRESENT

Chief Deputy Clerk Stacy Pechacek, Clare County Transit Corporation Director Tom Pirmstill, Administrator Tracy Byard, Dawn Raupp and zoom participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the agenda with *additions. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

*Additions to the Agenda:

Under Public Hearings/Special Presentations

10:00 A.M. – CLOSED SESSION – Consult with attorney regarding collective bargaining.

Under Finance and Administration

8. Finance Committee Meeting Date Amendment

Motion: To amend the Finance Committee meeting date of Monday, February 21, 2022 to Tuesday, February 22, 2022 due to the holiday.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR PERSON

Chairman Haskell called for nominations of the Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Bristol nominated Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Chairperson Haskell, **motion carried**.

REVIEW/ADOPTION OF BOARD RULES

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to accept the Board Rules. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to approve committee appointments with *changes. Chairperson Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

*changes:

Group 1, #5 Northern Michigan MAC – Bronwyn Asplund

Group 1, #13 meeting time 4:00 p.m.

Group 1, #16 Alternate-Commissioner Rick Fancon, Committee meets at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for December 15, 2021. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Townsend announced her resignation from the Clare County Conservation District; Tony Maize is the new Gypsy Moth Coordinator.

Tom Pirnstill announced that The Community of Hope has a free clothing giveaway program that individuals can stop in on Tuesday's from 9:00 – 4:00. Approximately 50-70 people each week shop for around 100 people. Donations are accepted on the same dates each week.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No Discussion.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard reported that the County Auditors were onsite for the last two weeks gathering information, the final rule on ARPA funds has been released, and County employees can now submit for reimbursement of COVID tests.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Director Lori Phelps recognized a few of the large donations that were made in 2021 to Clare County Senior Services. St. Athanasius Church donated about 130 gift bags that included hats, socks, lap blankets, toiletries, and coffee mugs. St. Athanasius Church also partnered with the TOPS Group and donated another 200 pairs of socks. Darryl Graves and Shelly Sprague donated, for the 3rd year in a row, enough money to provide 187 Christmas meals for home bound senior citizens. Brandon and Tammy Sherman from Absolute Inspections donated money to pay for 49 more Christmas dinners for home bound senior citizens. Finally, for the past 4 years, Payton Properties out of Clare have donated an exorbitant amount of groceries and toiletries, which were provided to 80 home bound senior citizens each year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Brian Harrison, Advisacare – The current auto insurance home health care crisis as a result of the 2019 Auto Insurance Reform Act.

Mr. Harrison works with families that have been impacted by auto accidents across the state. In 2019 the Auto Insurance Reform Act was passed. An unintended consequence of the passing of this act reduced the reimbursement rate of home health care by 45%, which changed their reimbursement billing rate of \$30.00 per hour in 2019 to now being reimbursed at \$14.50 per hour. This is affecting individuals with a lifelong injury that have been provided the care prior to 2019, but are now facing lack of care.

Mr. Harrison asked that the Clare County Board of Commissioners consider a resolution urging the state legislators to look at solutions to this problem that are available. Mr. Harrison provided the County Administrator several sample resolutions for future consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

1. Millage Discussion for Public Safety/Road Patrol

The Commissioners discussed the option of a county-wide millage for public safety and road patrol. Sheriff Wilson asked the Board of Commissioners to ensure that the millage be dedicated to only the purpose of law enforcement patrolling the roads of Clare County, if they choose to ask the people of Clare County for a public safety/road patrol millage. Sheriff Wilson also commented that the funds should be dedicated to the wages, equipment and man hours spent out in the county.

A committee was created to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the possible millage. Commissioner Asplund and Commissioner Fancon will sit on the committee along with Sheriff Wilson and some members of the community.

B. Health and Human Services Committee

No report.

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) Resolutions

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Resolution of Intent #22-01 to apply for financial assistance for fiscal years 2022-2023 for the Clare County public transportation program, Contract Resolution for fiscal years 2022-2023 #22-02, which allows Tom Pirnstill, Clare County Transit Director, to execute contracts with MDOT which are \$1,028,500.00 or less, Resolution Authorizing Adoption and Ratification of Contract Clauses Certification #22-03, which governs how any transit project requirements apply and such clauses apply to the federally funded contracts for fiscal years 2022-2023, and Resolution Adoption and Ratification of Public Act 51 to maintain an accessibility Plan with MDOT #21-04 addressing accessibility for all residents. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Majewski, Asplund and Haskell.

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown.

Motion for resolutions carried.

2. Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Service Agreement

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Service Agreement between the Clare Conservation District and the County of Clare through September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$20,000.00 with funds to come from the Gypsy Moth millage. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

3. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Service Agreement between Clare County and the Clare Conservation District through September 30, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Service Agreement between Clare County and the Clare Conservation District through September 30, 2022. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to enter closed session for discussion of negotiations of collective bargaining agreements as permitted by MCL 15.268(C). Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Asplund, Majewski, and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown
Motion carried.

Entered into closed session at 10:02 a.m.
Back in open session at 10:37 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to ratify the union's pre-ratified proposals for the POAM Corrections and POAM 911 Dispatch units and authorize the board chair to sign the successor collective bargaining agreements upon approval of the County's labor counsel. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Majewski, Asplund, Fancon, Bristol and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown
Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to authorize the County's labor attorney to provide the last best offers to the outstanding bargaining units and reaffirm his role as the lead spokesperson for bargaining on behalf of the Board and the only representative authorized to communicate the Board's position to the bargaining units. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Asplund, Majewski and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown
Motion carried.

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee - continued

4. Blight Ordinance Discussion

Administrator Byard confirmed that Clare County does have a Blight Ordinance, but does not enforce it because Clare County does not have the funds to enforce the ordinance. Sheriff Wilson recalled that Judge Allen ruled that ordinance unconstitutional, and Lori Phelps confirmed Sheriff Wilson's recollection while noting that is the reason it needs to be rescinded. There was further discussion between the Board Members that this is a Township issue and should be left to the Townships to enforce. Administrator Byard will research the process to rescind an ordinance and bring it back to the Board at a later meeting.

D. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve statutory finance committee meeting minutes of December 13, 2021, December 27, 2021 and January 10, 2022 in the amount of \$134,718.75 with an additional amount of \$1,313.25 to be paid out to Jackson Peterson due to resignation, \$192,223.72 and \$66,398.72.
Motion carried.

D. Finance and Administration Committee - continued

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to approve the expenditures for the month of December 2021 in the amount of \$1,575,883.70 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$1,133,994.85. **Motion carried.**

3. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve Budget Adjustments #22-20, 22-21, 22-22, 22-23, 22-24, 22-25, 22-26 and 22-27 in the amounts of \$10,615.00, \$840.66, \$119,595.50, \$47,787.00, \$40,445.00, \$63,507.05, \$74,057.00 and \$16,680.00 to be distributed. **Motion carried.**

E. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Inclement Weather Discussion

Administrator Byard informed the Commissioners that a past Board would not close the Courthouse unless there was a state of emergency passed by the Governor. Ms. Byard passed along a message from Homeland Security Director Jerry Becker that he would like that changed to being the decision of the Chairman, Emergency Manager and Administrator.

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to adopt the recommended change to the inclement weather policy made by Emergency Manager Jerry Becker. **Motion carried.**

2. Inserter Folder Sealer

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the purchase of a replacement inserter/folder/sealer in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 with funds to come from the DTRF (Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund), Gypsy Moth, General Fund, CPL Fund and Senior Services, and all future service contract fees to be paid by the DTRF. **Motion carried.**

3. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Requests

a. Non-Union Courts Premium Pay Request

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to pay non-union courts premium to Laura Delagrange in the amount of \$4,410.00 and Darrell Schlese in the amount of \$672.11. Circuit and Probate Court Administrator asked the Board also approve Friend of the Court Jaime Raymond for premium pay and confirmed if her Gladwin County pay is deducted Ms. Raymond would then meet the income guidelines and qualify. Commissioner Majewski suggested the County Attorney be consulted on Ms. Raymond's premium pay. **Motion carried.**

b. District Court Staff Request

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow the hiring of a District Court employee using ARPA funds through 2024 with the position to be reevaluated at the end of funding. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Majewski, Fancon, Asplund, Bristol and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown

Motion carried.

C. Finance and Administration Committee - continued

c. Sheriff's Department HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning) Unit

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fancon to allow the purchase of an HVAC unit for the Clare County Sheriff's Department using ARPA funds. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Fancon, Bristol, Asplund, Majewski and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Pitchford and Brown

Motion carried.

4. Budget Review Committee Discussion

Commissioner Asplund expressed her opinion for the need of a Budget Review Committee to ensure that Clare County stays within the parameters of the budget. Commissioner Majewski pointed out that State of the Budget is already on the agenda. Commissioner Majewski also pointed out it is the job of the County Administrator to provide the Commissioners with accurate information regarding the budget each month. Administrator Byard informed the Commissioners that the Department Heads watch their own budgets. Chairman Haskell did not appoint a Budget Review Committee.

5. Finance Committee Meeting Date Amendment

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to amend the Finance Committee meeting date of Monday, February 21, 2022 to Tuesday, February 22, 2022 due to the holiday.

Motion carried.

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger gave an update on statutory cash and fund balances and on the foreclosures and forfeitures. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger also gave information on funds available to help with delinquent property taxes.

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger is still working with the auditors and the chart of accounts. She also reminded the Commissioners about the need for a 3 year budget instead of a 1 year budget each year that aligns with the Union Contracts.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis reported that her office donated 10 goodie bags to the Animal Shelter for the first 10 people who adopted pets in 2022.

SHERRIF'S REPORT

Undersheriff Miedzianowski reported that they are still trying to fill vacancies within the department.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Director Jesse Bellinger confirmed that the County email is back up and running.

JB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Jeff Haskell announced the Frostbite Open is in February.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Dale Majewski is attending his meetings, and announced everyone is eligible to receive four COVID tests by filling out a form online.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Fancon had no report.

Commissioner Bristol reported her townships are doing well, but struggling with how to spend the COVID money. Commissioner Bristol also spoke about senior services and broadband.

Commissioner Asplund discussed how hard the townships and Homeland Security Director Becker have been working on Broadband. Commissioner Asplund has been encouraging Clare County IT Director to look at the National Association of Counties and the advanced security resources available for county governments.

STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET

Administrator Byard referred to the fund balance report, that Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger passed out a few months prior, that projected that Clare County would end this fiscal year with a fund balance of \$1.8 million. This will not be confirmed until after the auditors have completed their work. If anyone wants a copy of the county budget she will print it out for the Commissioners. Chairman Haskell would like to see the percentage of each budget used each month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger announced that her office has a contest going where everyone that purchases their dog licenses by February 18, 2022 they are entered into a drawing to win a "doggie basket".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 a.m.


Stacy Pechacek, Chief Deputy Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners


Jeff Haskell, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners