

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

225 W. Main St.
Harrison, Michigan 48625

Approved
3-16-2022
Jm
~~Unapproved minutes~~
February 16, 2022

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

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 2 Samantha Pitchford, District 3 Rick Fancon, District 5 Sandy Bristol, District 6 Bronwyn Asplund and District 7 Jeff Haskell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 4 Stephanie Brown

OTHERS PRESENT

Clerk & Register of Deeds Lori Martin, 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 as *amended, **motion carried.**

*Remove December 8, 2021 Closed Session Minutes.

*Revisions were made to January 19, 2022 Organizational Meeting minutes.

*Add Budget Adjustment 22-38 in the amount of \$26,118.80.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Director Lori Phelps informed the Commissioners that Hayes Township Attorney and Clare County Attorney worked together to develop the contract for Clare County to enforce Hayes Township's Blight Ordinance. Chairman Haskell asked Director Phelps to confirm that this partnership would be funded 100% by Hayes Township. Director Phelps confirmed that was correct. Commissioner Majewski asked for details on the enforcement. Director Phelps confirmed her current staff would work about 25 hours a week for Hayes Township blight issues, all complaints will go to Hayes Township, which will be forwarded to Clare County, at that point Clare County would issue letters and attend court. Director Phelps believes they have a flow chart that will allow them to skip a couple of steps and speed up the process. She has spent several months perfecting this project. Commissioner Bristol questioned if the blight officer would be only for Hayes Township and Director Phelps confirmed that was correct.

Senior Services has received an end of the year payout from Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$53,000.00 for Medicare waiver patients, which are unrestricted funds. Senior Services is going to use \$6,000.00 of those funds for Project Life Saver. Project life saver is a tracking device that can be placed on an elderly person with memory issues in the event that person wanders off.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes with changes, **motion carried.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Harrison from Advisacare spoke in favor of Resolution 22-05 urging the State Legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a reimbursement cap for auto accident victims that is being presented to the Commissioners later in the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No discussion

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard reported that the millage committee has met and that she is working on the DOJ (Department of Justice) certification.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

1. CESF Grant for the 55th Circuit Court and the 80th District Court.
It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the CESF Grant Agreement between the Michigan State Police and the County of Clare's 55th Circuit Court and the 80th District Court in the amount of \$9,220 with no grant match. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Pitchford, Fancon, Bristol, Asplund and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown
Motion carried
2. Letter of Understanding for the purpose of donating sick time discussion
Chairman Haskell updated the Commissioners on the discussion at the last meeting and felt it would be setting a precedence. Chairman Haskell asked if anyone wanted further discussion, no one wanted further discussion.
3. Sheriff and Undersheriff salary increase discussion
Sheriff Wilson brought forth to the Commissioners that he has only had one wage increase in 14 years. Sheriff Wilson explained that his position has the most liability of anyone else in the County, takes the weight of the jail, and the weight of bringing in revenue for the County. Other counties give cost of living raises every year. Undersheriff Miedzianowski showed the Commissioners that the increase in funds could be taken from the Commissary Fund and that increase is sustainable through this fund, there is currently over \$361,000.00 in that account.

The Commissioners were split on their opinion of whether to go ahead and give the Sheriff and Undersheriff increases immediately versus reviewing all elected officials and making a decision on all elected officials at the same time.

The increase requested was an average of Osceola, Roscommon, Isabella, Gladwin, and Missaukee Counties for the Sheriff in the amount of \$82,033.00 and the Undersheriff in the amount of \$73,011.35.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

A. Justice Committee - continued

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to raise the Sheriff and Undersheriff to the average wage of \$83,033.00 and \$71,081.00. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (3) being Commissioners Fancon, Asplund and Bristol
Nays: (3) being Commissioners Majewski, Pitchford and Haskell
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown
Motion failed

Chairman Haskell formed a wage committee of Chairman Haskell, Commissioner Asplund and Commissioner Majewski. The Committee will meet on Monday, February 21, 2021.

B. Health and Human Services Committee

1. Urging Legislation to Amend the Auto Insurance Reform Resolution

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to adopt Resolution #22-05 urging the State Legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a reimbursement cap for auto accident victims. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, after a brief discussion roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Asplund, Pitchford, Fancon, Bristol and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown
Motion carried

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Ordinance #28 to Repeal Blight Ordinance #16A

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to adopt Ordinance #28 repealing the Clare County Anti-Blight Ordinance #16A in its entirety. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Pitchford, Majewski, Asplund, Bristol, Fancon and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown
Motion carried

2. Third Party Blight Contract

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve the contract between Hayes Township and Clare County Community Services for the purpose of blight enforcement and allow Chair to sign. Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, Commissioner Majewski expressed concern regarding Clare County getting involved in the township blight issues, roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Bristol, Pitchford, Majewski, Fancon, Asplund and Haskell
Nays: (0)
Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown
Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

D. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 24, 2022 and February 7, 2022 in the amount of \$271,255.29 and \$222,765.79. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Asplund, Majewski, Pitchford, Bristol, Fancon and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Fancon, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of January 2022 in the amount of \$2,535,068.10 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$982,023.62. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Fancon, Majewski, Asplund, Pitchford, Bristol and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

3. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Budget Adjustment 22-30, 22-31, 22-34 and 22-38 in the amount of \$470.00 \$5,384.00, \$29,857.27 and \$26,118.80 to be distributed. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Bristol, Fancon, Asplund, Pitchford and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

4. Personnel Manual Amendment

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to amend personnel manual to change the vacation leave years of service to coincide with the UAW Unit Contracts, Chairman Haskell asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

5. UAW Unit 2 Letter of Understanding

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to approve a letter of understanding, subject to final form, for UAW Unit 2 removing paragraphs 3 and 4 under Article 36, Compensatory Time, as the wording does not pertain to employees within this unit. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Bristol, Asplund, Majewski, Pitchford, Fancon and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

D. **Finance and Administration Committee - continued**

6. UAW Unit 1 Letter of Understanding

It was moved by Commissioner Asplund, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve a letter of understanding, subject to final form, for UAW Unit 1, revising Article 29, Wages, to read wage opener for years 10/1/2022 and 10/1/2023 for the remaining two years of the contract rather than 10/1/2023 and 10/1/2024. Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Asplund, Majewski, Bristol, Fancon, Pitchford and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Brown

Motion carried

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin gave an update on Official Records Online that was implemented last year. This service is working well and generating revenue for the County. Clerk/Register of Deeds Martin indicated her office will be sending out jury questionnaires for 2023 in the next few months, updated the Commissioners on the microphone system being installed in Circuit Court and announced that the City of Clare will be having an Election in May.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger handed out an updated report of the cash, investments and fund balances for Clare County. She is preparing to purchase approximately \$4.5 million in delinquent taxes and preparing for tax settlement of 2021 taxes.

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger informed the Commissioners of a program that will help with mortgages and property taxes and asked the Commissioners to direct individuals at risk of losing their home to her office for more information.

Finally, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger closed by reminding everyone her office is giving away a goodie basket to those entered into the drawing by purchasing their dog license by February 18, 2022.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis reported that she has hired a part time process server with the grant funds her office received. Subpoenas are now being served on time.

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis has received a scholarship to attend a National District Attorney Association Training in Chicago, approximately \$900.00 value.

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis confirmed that there has not been a trial in Circuit Court since prior to March of 2020 and will be thankful for trials to begin again as the cases are stacking up.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Undersheriff Miedzianowski reported the jail has 57 Federal inmates currently, and will be losing another road deputy to a higher paying position with another department. Undersheriff Miedzianowski added the wage increase the Commissioners just gave to the Sheriff Department's employees is helping with retention.

SHERIFF'S REPORT - continued

Undersheriff Miedzianowski discussed two grants he just submitted. One grant is for \$100,000.000 for use in recruitment of employees and one grant is for \$100,000.00 to be used for training employees.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Director Jesse Bellinger has completed the email server switch over to Outlook 365 and is in a position to start the new county server project. He reported the RAVE weather alert list is completed, and mentioned a new paperless project being worked on for the Commissioners, which would cost approximately \$2,000.00 per Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Jeff Haskell started discussion regarding changing the meeting time from 9:00 a.m. to a later time of day, no action was taken. He then announced that January was Radon Awareness month and if anyone is concerned they can get a test kit at the Health Department. Chairman Haskell finished up by reporting that Clare County unemployment rate was 6.9%.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Dale Majewski pointed out a good article in the Focus Magazine on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. He reported that the Superintendent for Farwell Schools was at the Lincoln Township meeting and announced they will be asking for a bond proposal on the November ballot. Vice Chairman Majewski added that he believes Clare and Harrison will be looking for school millages also, along with Lincoln Township Fire Fund and Road Patrol asking for their own millages.

Administrator Byard discussed that in August Clare County may be looking for a possible law enforcement millage, Senior Citizens millage, and County Transit millage.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Fancon did not have a report

Commissioner Pitchford has been attending her meetings.

Commissioner Bristol has been encouraging her townships to allow for education of the Clerks and Treasurers. She announced that the Hazard Mitigation Committee is getting close to picking out a project and confirmed she will be asking the County to financially support the Airport again.

Commissioner Asplund read a news release from the National Association of Counties regarding cyber security risk and the recommendation of adopting a heightened posture when it comes to cyber security and protecting our most critical assets. Commissioner Asplund provided information regarding fee cyber security services from our Government that are available to Clare County currently.

STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET

Administrator Byard handed out a list of percentages of budgets used and confirmed she has reviewed the budget and there are no red flags present regarding the budget. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler suggested that the copier and printer line items should be reviewed by the Administrator.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Byard received a message from Area Agency on Aging and asked that Commissioner Bristol be appointed through March of 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Asplund to reappoint Sandy Bristol to the Region 7 Area on Aging Advisory Board through March of 2025. **Motion carried.**

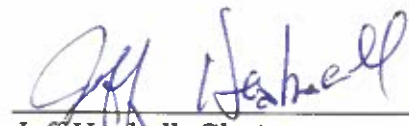
NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haskell, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners