

**MINUTES OF THE CLARE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

**Harrison, Michigan 48625**

*Jim 9/12/18*  
**Unapproved Minutes  
August 28, 2018**

**Meeting was called to Order at 11:00 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: Sandra Bristol, District 6: Karen Lipovsky, District 7: Jim Gelios

**Absent:** None

**Others Present, Signing In:** David Hoefling

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the agenda with one budget adjustment being added #18-184 for \$11,000.00. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Chairperson Lipovsky then asked the members to take off item #5 on the agenda for USDA Grant Public Hearing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2018 meeting. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

General Budgetary Overview/Comments

Chairperson Lipovsky opened by asking if anyone had anything they wanted to discuss regarding the new equipment requests. Administrator Byard confirmed for the board that all office furniture is all state pricing. There was discussion, brought up by Commissioner Majewski, that the items on the new equipment requests should be budgeted for, not asked for, as additional items. Administrator Byard confirmed that any additional requests would come out of the fund balance if approved. Commissioner Gelios wants to keep Middle Michigan in the budget at \$12,500.00, and Commissioner Strouse supported his request. Chairperson Lipovsky asked Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger what a healthy fund balance would be for them to strive for. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger indicated a healthy fund balance in other counties is around 13%.

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis cautioned the Board about their budget with the information she is getting from other counties regarding the Indigent Defense Fund, and the additional money it is costing them in court appointed attorney fees, increased expert witness fees for the defense, along with increased expenses to the Prosecuting Attorney's office with trying to respond to all the additional motions and expert witnesses.

Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski reported that he called their lender and they can potentially allow the Sheriff's Department to order the modems in January, and let them pay for it October 2019 for \$11,000.00. Commissioner Kleinhardt indicated if the modems are going to be purchased anyway the Sheriff's Department should go ahead. No motion made.

*JM* August 28, 2018

Moved by Commissioner Strouse and Seconded by Commissioner Gelios to include all new equipment requests and add in Middle Michigan, and take these funds out of the fund balance. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Strouse, Gelios, Bristol, Kleinhardt, and Lipovsky.

Nays: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Administrator Byard asked for discussion regarding Parks and Recreation. Chairperson Lipovsky is scheduled to attend the September 4, 2018 Parks and Recreation meeting. Commissioner Kleinhardt suggested they wait to take any action until after Chairperson Lipovsky attends the meeting as promised

The next budget meeting is September 12, 2018 for budget appeals.

Commissioner Strouse brought up the Little Tobacco Drain project and the \$1,000,000.00 that has already been spent with no way to pay it back at this point. Much discussion followed regarding the County obligating itself to this project and that there needs to be a meeting. Administrator Byard was instructed to coordinate a meeting between Clare and Isabella County Drain Commissioners including Colleen Ritchie, the Engineers, the DEQ or someone else from the State of Michigan, and the Clare County Board of Commissioners. This meeting should be either the next budget meeting, regular board meeting, or a special meeting just for this issue.

Moved by Commissioner Majewski and Seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve the budget adjustments as listed with the addition #18-184 in the amount of \$11,000.00. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Budget Adjustment #18-175, 18-176, 18-177, 18-178, 18-179 & 18-182 in the amounts of \$2,000.00, \$109.34, \$12,538.00, \$27,400.00, \$25,000.00 and \$200.00 respectively, to be distributed.

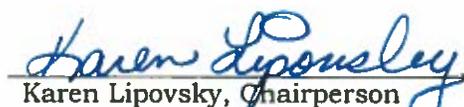
#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingier just wanted to confirm that the more money in the fund balance means that much less the county has to borrow from the tax anticipation note. The Commissioners had a plan to reduce the amount borrowed each year, but the note had to increased this year. The tax anticipation note was down to \$1,000,000.00 a year ago, and this year the Board borrowed \$1,200,000.00.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

  
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Lori Martin, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
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Karen Lipovsky, Chairperson  
Clare County Board of Commissioners