

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

11-21-18 *Am*  
**Unapproved Minutes  
September 12, 2018**

**Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 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**

Chairperson Lipovsky asked to have a motion added under finance and administration regarding budget adjustments. It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the agenda as amended. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski, to approve the Minutes of the August 28, 2018 meeting. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nia Becker, Conservation District Forester asked the Commission to allow employees to participate in Adapt a Highway without having to use vacation time. The Board informed her it would be up to the individual elected officials, but as far as employees under Administrator Byard and her employees it would be allowed. Forester Becker gave an update on oak wilt in the county.

Administrator Tracy Byard informed the Board of Commissioners that Clare County Animal Control Officer Bob Dodson was named as Animal Control Officer of the Year for the entire state of Michigan by the Animal Control Association. She also gave good report of Undersheriff Miedzianowski went over and above and well beyond to help in an accident involving one of the county attorneys.

Administrator Byard announced that the board had previously asked her to check into scheduling a meeting with the Drain Commission and all other agencies that are involved with the Tobacco Drain project. The Drain Commission and all agencies involved, including their attorney, will be meeting October 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Clare. If the Board can attend this meeting she will not have to call a special board meeting and ask all of these agencies to attend, they will all already be at this meeting.

Administrator Byard addressed a letter she sent to the board from MAC (Michigan Association of Counties). From what MAC says the Indigent Defense Fund – State of Michigan is violating the statute by trying to make quarterly payments to counties instead of funding the program in advance as statute provides. Gladwin and Clare Counties have decided to put the program on hold until further notice.

In regard to appeals. Administrator Byard was not sure if Lisa Ashely will be able to make the appeals and if she doesn't Administrator Byard will pass on her concerns. Jamie Raymond with Friend of the Court was not able to make the budget appeals this morning because of meetings she had scheduled prior and wanted to come back at a later date for her appeal. The Board asked what she was appealing Administrator Byard said increases to travel, union wages, and an increase for public guardian position. The Board agreed to deny the increase requests and the request for a later appeal.

**COMMUNICATION LIST**

DNR – Reaching out to talk strategically about land ownership and planning in communities – No discussion.

Franklin Township Residents – Letter concerning a blighted property – No discussion.

Administrator Byard brought up Waste Management hazardous waste collection scheduled.

**BUDGET APPEALS**

Nick Madaj – Circuit/Probate Court

Assistant Court Administrator is essentially looking of a future commitment for discussion. Going to provide a list of expenses that are not funded currently.

1. Wages for union employees and non-union wages that run parallel with union wages
2. Request for second research attorney for Circuit Court – They have a commitment from Gladwin County
3. Outdated file management system that is run on an ASR400 computer powered by IBM and is in need of being replaced and has been for several years (as requested in years past). Assistant Court Administrator Madaj received a quote in January 2018 for hardware and software for a power eight computer for \$1,030.00 per month. This is fundamental to the operation of the court
4. Anything unforeseen trial related, giving an example of the reduction of the line item for transcripts, that could change at any time without any control over it

Chairperson Lipovsky agreed to discuss these items if the need arises.

Assistant Court Administrator Madaj is requesting the Probate Court travel and expense line item be increased as originally requested. Probate Court has two newer employees that will need to attend meetings, conferences, and trainings if the opportunity comes around. Administrator Byard suggested to the Board that they use funds that are being saved from a replacement position that will be voted on later in the meeting (there will be extra funds because of it being an entry level position). The Board agreed to increase the requested \$1,000.00 increase to Probate Court travel and expense.

Lisa Ashley, Coordinator Clare-Gladwin Recovery Court

Coordinator Ashley made her plea to appeal the denial for the \$2,500.00 increase for Clare County Recovery Court. Judge Farrell spoke in support of the increase with or without the support of Gladwin County. Chairperson Lipovsky and Commissioner Strouse confirmed with Administrator Byard that the Sheriff's Department (court security position) will be saving them \$6,408.00 and they have allocated \$1,000.00 to Probate Court. Commissioner Pitchford and Commissioner Majewski both spoke on the additional \$200,000.00 that has been promised out of the fund balance for fiscal year 2019. Chairperson Lipovsky confirmed that right at this moment they are back in the budget.

**Break 10:43**

**Back in Session 10:51**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Justice Committee**

**Court Security**

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse seconded by Commissioner Gelios, to allow the Sheriff Department to backfill the vacant Court Security Coordinator Position with already existing funding. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**Corrections-Building**

It was moved by Commissioner Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Bristol, to allow the Sheriff Department to fix cracked concrete in the west lot for \$9,300.00 with already existing funds within the 595 fund. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Contract-State of Michigan**

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Bristol, to approve GUARD 16-180012 contract for legal intervention (Guardianship and Conservatorship) amendment. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, Administrator Byard explained this is to extend an existing contract with no additional funds, motion carried.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Majewski, to approve Budget Adjustment 18-189, 18-192, 18-193, 18-194, 18-197 & 18-200 in the amounts of \$24,000.00, \$1,281.55, \$20,439.99, \$750.00, \$73,662.00 & \$1,000.00 respectively, to be distributed. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol, to allow the finance committee to approve budget adjustments that come in after the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September's board meeting. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nia Becker spoke and asked to see more investment from the county to recreation. Specifically, a Disc Golf Course would be a benefit to the community.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Parks & Recreation Discussion**

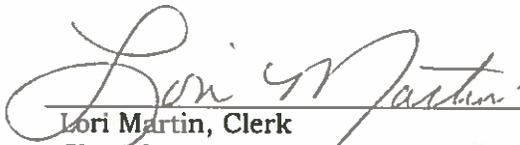
Administrator Byard asked for a decision regarding Clark Park and the Parks and Recreation Commission. If Hayes Township gives Clark Park to Clare County then Clare County would take on the burden that it would have to remain a park or repay the DNR for the purchase price of the park.

Don Kolander expressed his concern regarding the Parks and Rec's Commission and communicated to the Board of Commissioners that he could not do everything by himself, and he needed the commission, which is a completely volunteer commission that costs the County nothing.

There was considerable discussion regarding Clark Park and Parks and Recreation Commission. Prosecutor Michele Ambrozaitis tried to explain clearly to the Board of Commissioners that if they chose not to purchase or accept donated land and there is no land for the Parks and Recreation Commission to manage, then they don't need a Parks and Recreation Commission. If there is no Parks and Recreation Commission what does Don Kolander, Director of Parks and Recreation, actually do for Parks. With no Parks it is their decision to make on what his role is, what his job description is with regard to a County Department, but if it's in regard to "Friends of Parks and Recreation" then that's not a County position. You will need to define what is it that he does for the County and direct him.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to dissolve the Parks and Recreation Commission Board, have the Director of Parks and Recreation report to the Board of Commissioners, with the Board of Commissioners setting the parameters of the job description, and not accept Clark Park from Hayes Township. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.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