

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*Ann 11-20-19*  
~~Unapproved minutes~~  
October 16, 2019

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

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our active military, veterans and first responders.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

District 1 Dale Majewski, District 2 Samantha Pitchford, District 3 Leonard Strouse, District 4 Jack Kleinhardt, District 5 Mark Fitzpatrick, District 6 David Hoefling, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

No Commissioners Absent

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ken Hoyt, Liz Bouchey, Karl Hauser Veteran's Services, Mike Haley Hayes Township, Jerry Becker CCEMHS

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, to approve the agenda. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for September 18, 2019. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Hoyt, Hayes Township Zoning Officer noted that Commissioner Haskell emailed all the Commissioners Hayes Township's Zoning Ordinance asking for the Board's approval or comments, and has only heard back from 3 of the Commissioners. Mr. Hoyt then asked that the other Commissioners please respond.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Hayes Township Zoning Ordinance. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

Dr. Karen Moore, MIDC (Michigan Indigent Defense Committee) was present to confirm that all funds go through the county, she holds no funds. Dr. Moore also confirmed the Director of MIDC (at the State level) or the Judges are the ones that determine partial indigence, and is told it will be on the MIDC State agenda for December how to address the issue. Dr. Moore lastly confirmed that MIDC is not responsible for ordering reimbursement of attorney fees, that is the Courts responsibility. Administrator Byard has agreed to operate under the old grant agreement until the new grant agreement is signed, which is expected to be December.

Bill Hoefling asked if there were 3 Eagle Scouts that were missed for recognition at last month's meeting. Chairperson Kleinhardt confirmed Administrator Byard would check into and it will be put on the November 2019 agenda.

Michelle Neff Director of MSUE handed out a flyer for a Teen Chopped Competition they are holding on October 19, 2019 for the youth.

  
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**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – continued**

Karl Hauser Director of Veteran's Affairs updated the Board of Commissioners on the progress of his partnership with the County Clerk's office on issuing veterans ID cards. Director Hauser also updated the Board regarding how his office was affected by the Governor's line item vetoes. It was grant money that was cut and did not affect Veterans benefits. The Veterans coffee hour is going very well.

Terry Acton, Hayes Township Supervisor asked for an update on a possible millage renewal for the gypsy moth. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked Administrator Byard to put it on the November 2019 meeting agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. Judge Joshua M. Farrell – Security Discussion and Non-Union Wage Increases Discussion

Judge Farrell was present as a representative of the Courthouse Security Committee. Judge Farrell updated everyone that in 2017 the Michigan Supreme Court came in and did a security audit of the premises and submitted a report, which was presented to the Board of Commissioners at the time of completion. Judge Farrell then went on to inform the Board of Commissioners of all the department heads and elected officials that support the Court Security Committee's proposal. He then outlined the proposed changes to be moving the security station to the south side of the double doors, locking the north and west doors, and having only one entry and for the public into the courthouse. Everyone going to the Courts, Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer's offices would be scanned through security. Anyone going to any of the other offices in the building could do so without being scanned. Judge Farrell went on to confirm that there would be no additional cost to the county for these changes.

Jerry Becker, Director of Homeland Security updated the Board of Commissioners on the lock down drill that was executed in September and the deficiencies that were found during the drill. Director Becker then went on to inform the Board of Commissioners regarding the plans to update the current emergency response plans.

There was discussion regarding the inconvenience of parking issues if the north doors are locked. Judge Farrell agreed to take that issue back to the Committee to work on.

Judge Farrell presented to the Board of Commissioners the Court's desire as employers to return the non-union employee wage increases to how they have been traditionally handled, which would mean the non-union employees would start receiving all wage increases that the union employee receive. Commissioner Majewski pointed out to Judge Farrell that the Board of Commissioners just passed the annual budget, and that it would have been beneficial to the Board to know about this prior to approving the budget, as there are no extra funds for raises.

2. Pete Preston, Equalization Director – Apportionment Report  
Director Preston handed out the 2019 apportionment report to the Board of Commissioners, which outlines the spread of the taxes based on taxable value and millage.

**Recess at 10:23 a.m.**

**Back in session 10:42 a.m.**

Undersheriff Miedzianowski sadly announced the passing of former County Commissioner Karen Lipovsky.

**COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

No discussion

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Byard put out a RFP (request for proposal) for duct work in the Sheriff's Department due back on November 4, 2019, the Governor's veto's that affect Clare County total \$394,000.00, and the County Halloween party on October 25, 2019 at noon in the basement.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Justice Committee

Nothing presented

B. Health and Human Services Committee

1. Memorandum of Understanding

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Memorandum officially acknowledges the affiliation, relationship, and understanding among Clare County, the Clare County Sheriff's Office, Clare County Court, Clare County Probation/Parole, Clare Police Department, Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan State Police- Mt. Pleasant Post, MidMichigan Health and Community Mental Health for Central Michigan (CMHCM). Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked for clarification, **motion carried**.

2. Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to adopt the Clare County Courthouse Cardiac Emergency Response Plan. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Application for Farmland Agreement

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Fodar Farms LLC Application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, after a short discussion **motion carried**.

D. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee it was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of September 23, 2019 in the amount of \$54,651.97, October 7, 2019 in the amount of \$368,151.60. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to approve the expenditures for the month of September, 2019 in the amount of \$2,898,276.67 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$846,263.34. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried**.

  
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**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

**Finance and Administration Committee - continued**

3. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve Budget Adjustment #20-02 in the amount of \$25,000.00 to be distributed. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

4. Board of Canvasser Appointments

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to appoint Jerry Burger to the Board of Canvassers for a four-year term to expire October 31, 2023. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

**CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT**

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin gave an update on the 2020 Census progress, gave a report on the remonumentation training she attended with Surveyor Paul Lapham, talked about the impact of having many new township clerks has on her office, gave an update regarding what the Michigan Secretary of State Election Security Advisory Commission is doing to secure elections in Michigan, and gave an update on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and application process.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Jack Kleinhardt discussed possible change in county commissioners term from 2-year terms to 4-year terms.

**VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Samantha Pitchford stated the Board needs to hold the line on spending.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Majewski attended his meetings along with some extra meetings. He is getting several questions regarding an update on where the Board is at with the Road Commission. Administrator Byard will put a possible resolution on the November 2019 agenda for a possible ballot proposal regarding the County takeover of the Road Commission.

Commissioner Strouse missed a couple of meetings because of an accident. He then went on to remember Karen Lipovsky and also confirmed he would vote no on any additional spending.

Commissioner Haskell brought up an issue at the Airport regarding flooding of the restaurant parking lot.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick has attended most of his meetings. He attended the first buildings and grounds committee meeting yesterday. He has been asked several times regarding the benefit package for the Road Commission.

Commissioner Hoefling asked that the Board of Commissioners pass a resolution giving tribute to former Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, and then gave an update on the meetings and conference he attended over the last month.

  
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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Hoefling echoed Commissioner Hoefling's suggestion to memorialize former Commissioner Karen Lipovsky.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET**

Commissioner Majewski would like to see where the budget is at each meeting, and the need to know where funds come from when the budget issues are suddenly resolved. There was discussion regarding holding monthly meetings with department heads, the administrator, and board members. The Board discussed budget adjustments and why they are done. Commissioner Majewski would like the Administrator to provide a report at each meeting as to where the County is at on the budget.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Administrator Byard will have resolutions for the Board to review for Road Commission, Gypsy Moth millage and let you know the Clare County Transit may be asking for a millage increase. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked the Administrator Byard to get the annual budgets for MidMichigan College, the schools, transit, road commission, how many people they have employed.

Wage increase for non-union employees, the consensus was to not add it to the next month's agenda, no motion was made.

Chairperson Kleinhardt stated the public does not want more security in the courthouse. Citizen Liz Bouchey asked to speak and was shocked by how the courthouse isn't protected, she expected to see a metal detector at the main doors. Ms. Bouchey stated her generation not calling but they want it and do care about more security. Commissioner Hoefling agrees it should be at the door because if they can't get to the Prosecutor they shoot whomever they can get.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to accept the Courthouse Security Committee's recommendation and implement it as soon as possible. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Majewski and Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked for more time to think about it. There was more discussion.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Hoefling, Haskell, Majewski, Strouse, Pitchford, Fitzpatrick, and Kleinhardt.

Nays: (0)

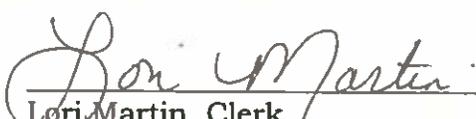
Absent: (0)

**Motion carried**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

Meeting Adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

  
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Lori Martin, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
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Jack Kleinhardt, Chairperson  
Clare County Board of Commissioners