

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

Am 8/21/19
Unapproved minutes
July 23, 2019

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Sheriff John Wilson, Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski, Sheriff's Department Administrative Assistant Kim Davis, Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger, Community Services Director Lori Phelps, and Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Elisia Schwarz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Majewski, to approve the Agenda after adding a closed session. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

A. General Budgetary Overview/Comments

Commissioner Haskell made the suggestion to re-look at employee health insurance. Chairperson Kleinhardt didn't know the magnitude of the problem when they approved the insurance last week.


Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger suggested contacting IT Right and asking their opinion on whether they agree with Director Bellinger that it may be illegal to do the free upgrade to Windows 10 verses paying \$77,000.00 to upgrade all computers. Administrator Byard will check into that.

Chairperson Kleinhardt suggested looking into contracting out the Emergency Management. Administrator Byard will look into it. Also questioned was whether or not our county could partner with other counties for Veteran's Affairs, Administrator Byard confirmed that Clare County could partner with another county.

Commissioner Majewski suggested Administrator Byard take on being the backup accounting/payroll person and cut an employee out of that department. Administrator Byard confirmed she could do that.

Vice Chairperson Pitchford suggested a Headlee roll back tax, which will raise over \$800,000.00 and will get the county back on their feet.

Commissioner Strouse asked Administrator Byard where they stand currently on the 2019 budget. Administrator Byard confirmed


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2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION - continued

-\$170,000.00. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler pointed out several line items that are at 90%-95% used and will go over budget along with several line items that are already over budget along with revenues that need to be adjusted and estimated that figure to be at least an additional \$100,000.00 but would probably be a bigger number than that.

The non-mandated list was gone over and there just wasn't much that people would want to see out of the budget. The Administrator was directed to bid out the copy machine lease when it is up for renewal because the county currently pays \$90,000.00 a year. The Administrator passed out a letter from Capt. Emmitt McGowan, Commander Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security regarding the responsibilities of the Emergency Manager/Homeland Security.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to eliminate Parks and Recreation from the 2020 Budget. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried with six in favor and one opposed (Commissioner Haskell).

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to eliminate Middle Michigan from the 2020 Budget. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, options for cost savings was discussed and motion carried.

Recess at 10:46 a.m.

Back in session 10:59 a.m.

Commissioner Majewski asked what is being done to fix the 2019 budget. Administrator Byard confirmed she is working on it and they need to give her more time.

Undersheriff Miedzianowski offered that the Sheriff's Department could cut \$587,500.00 from the FY2020 budget, but asked that the Board not change the health insurance plan as that is their biggest recruiting tool. Commissioner Majewski asked how the Sheriff's Department can cut half a million dollars out of their budget. Undersheriff Miedzianowski stated they shaved from their largest divisions, pulled out new requests and did not fill 2 vacated positions. He also asked that if anyone leaves their position county wide that the Sheriff be informed so they may be able to recoup some of their lost positions.

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler confirmed that one and a half people are paid out of one of her funds. If the Board wants her to cut those positions she will, but that will cut the revenue she puts in to offset those positions.

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis confirmed that she is not cutting staff and they may have to argue it out in court. The Board is mandated to fund her office at a minimal serviceable level and she would be willing to sit down and talk about what can be cut, but not people.

B. Road Patrol Millage Discussion

The only discussion on a road patrol millage was that the Board does not want to ask for that unless there is no other choice.

C. Travel/Meal Rate Discussion, Chairperson Kleinhardt suggested to share travel costs and not use the travel and expense unless absolutely necessary.

D. Gypsy Moth Millage Discussion

Discussion was had regarding putting this on the ballot in 2020. There is funding for 2020 now, but not in the future.


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CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to go into closed session to discuss the acquisition of property, motion carried.

Recess for closed session 12:22 p.m.

Back in session 12:42 p.m.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow Director Phelps to peruse possible property acquisition for Senior Services with funds to repay possible loan to come out of Senior Services. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:43 p.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jack Kleinhardt, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners