

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

Jim 8/21/19
Unapproved minutes
July 30, 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/Commissioner Hoefling came in late at 9:05 a.m.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheriff John Wilson, Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis, Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger, MSUE Director Shari Spoelman, Emergency Manager Jerry Becker,

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.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

a. General Budgetary Overview/Comments

Administrator Byard started by informing the Board that the amount the FY 2020 budget needs to be reduced by is \$374,174.00 in order to balance with the projected revenues.

Some of the suggested cuts are 4 days a week workweek, cut employee health insurance, don't replace lost employees, cut courthouse security some, and move Veterans Affairs and Emergency Manager from full time to part time. Another point that was made is that the County offers a large number of services and programs that are not supported by millages. Commissioner Strouse asked for figures from Administrator Byard showing how much would be saved if employee hours were cut by one day (7.5 hours) in every department that wasn't mandated to be open. Administrator Byard agreed to bring that to the next meeting.

It was discussed going back to the 2017 budget figures and the Board of Commissioners heard from the Prosecuting Attorney in detail, her employee's workload and what it will do to the services she is not required to provide if she cuts an employee. Since 2018 the attorneys in her office have given the county 990 hours to the county, that they were not paid for. The MIDC mandate has put added work on the Prosecutor's office.

Sheriff Wilson commented on the extensive amount of time spent on investigations, both in his office and the Prosecuting Attorney's office.


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2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION- continued

Prosecutor Ambrozaitis has a full case load in addition to her administrative duties.

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked Sherri Spoelman if she can make any other cuts from MSUE. Ms. Spoelman discussed how she is paying for her department now and is unsure where she can make any additional cuts, but is still trying. Commissioner Strouse pointed out that the kids in 4H are not the trouble of this county and are a good investment.

Chairperson Kleinhardt commented court security could be cut and have one point of entry and confirmed that the public does not want more security. Sheriff Wilson confirmed he is responsible for courthouse security even though it is not a mandated service.

Emergency Management Director Jerry Becker reminded the Board of Commissioners his position was part time to begin with and he was working full time hours. In 2014 the Board of Commissioners promoted his position to full time and confirmed that this position is not a part time position, there are mandated duties. Director Becker will submit his resignation if his position is cut to part time because he will not go back to working full time for part time compensation.

Chairperson Kleinhardt commented that the State Treasury can send someone up to make cuts for the County Board of Commissioners if they can't come to a decision. Sheriff Wilson voiced his desire for the Board of Commissioners to tell him what they would like to see cut verses the State coming in telling him what they think he needs to operate his department.

Commissioner Hoefling confirmed that if more cuts can't be made they will have to put a millage on the ballot. Commissioner Majewski strongly stated that should not even be considered.

Recess at 10:44 a.m.

Back in Session at 11:23 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to take projected revenue of \$12,254,958.00 and that is what we will base our budget on and kick back to the 2017 budget of \$12,600,373.00 and add in the insurance kickback which is \$140,000.00 and add in the deficit so it will give a total revenue of \$128,585.00 in the positive then we will have to revert to some of the things that are needed like the update of the 7 to 10 and some other added things and we will have to look at the non-mandated services to make up that funding. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Administrator Byard asked if the Board wanted by department or if all departments for each elected official could be put together and balanced as one big budget and the example was the Clerk has 6 different budgeted departments, can she put them all together as one. Vice Chairperson Pitchford wants each department separated, not put together as one under one Elected Official otherwise they will have the State come in and say what will be cut,

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Pitchford, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, Strouse, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (1) being Commissioner Haskell

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

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2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION - continued

Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked Administrator Byard to come back to the next meeting with updated figures showing Administrator's secretary gone, cut courthouse security in half, Emergency Manager at half time, MSUE out, Veteran's Secretary out, cut Bob Dodson at Animal Control to half time, all in order to get extra money to pay for the 2020 election and windows update.

It was discussed that the attorney fees line items were moved from District and Circuit Court into their own department for the Indigent Defense Fund, it was questioned if those departments would also have to make employee cuts, Chairperson Kleinhardt confirmed they would also have to make employee cuts.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to reinstate hiring freeze. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, more discussion ensued,

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

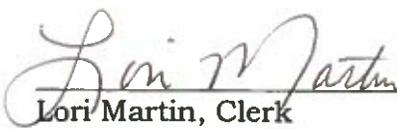
Motion carried

Commissioner Strouse is a strong supporter of MSUE and the Emergency Management Director position can't be cut or the Board Chair would have to take on those duties.

Vice Chairperson Pitchford suggested if revenue isn't increased they may have to look at a Headlee Rollback being placed on the 2020 ballot.

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked Administrator Byard to reach out to the State to see if anyone is available to come in and suggest cuts if needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jack Kleinhardt, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners