

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

Unapproved minutes  
December 4, 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.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

District 7 Jeff Haskell – excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis, Michelle Neff, Sheriff John Wilson, Magistrate Steven Worpell, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzingler.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Valarie Kuziak questioned if the Clare County Transit millage increase would reinstate Saturday services. Vice Chairperson Pitchford commented that there were no guarantees.

**2020 Budget Discussion**

a. General Budgetary Overview/Comments

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked Administrator Byard for any suggestions and she provided a packet regarding the HEADLEE rollback information.

Discussion began between the Commissioners and Department Heads.

Some of the ideas discussed were as follows:

1. Cut services provided by the county
2. Cut employees
3. Add a road patrol millage
4. Cut other office staff, not road patrol, at the Sheriff's Dept.
5. Cut Clerk's Staff
6. Cut Prosecutors
7. Cut benefits
8. Cut some of the programs that required hiring more employees
9. Add a Headlee rollback
10. Bid out items that can be each year, such as copiers, purchasing supplies, and food services for the jail
11. Shorten the work week
12. Cut overtime
13. Cut non-mandated services
14. Cut travel
15. Let go some assistants in some departments
16. Use our County Prosecutor instead of outside attorney when available
17. District Health be adjusted
18. Mental Health be adjusted

**2020 Budget Discussion - continued**

19. Talk with the Judge's to order more costs where available
20. Possible fee increase in the Clerk's office
21. Re-evaluating fax, copy, and email charges
22. Outsource the payroll department

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger made it clear to the Board of Commissioner what her role as County Treasurer is, she is not their budget person, she handles the cash. Commissioner Strouse asked about the projected shortfall of \$800,000.00 for FY 2019 affecting the FY 2020 budget. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger confirmed that any shortfall in FY 2019 will affect the beginning balance for FY 2020.

Chairperson Kleinhardt remembered in September approving the FY 2020 budget knowing there was approximately a \$240,000.00 shortfall in FY 2019 that is now around an \$800,000.00 shortfall because the projected revenues did not come in as expected and expenses have increased. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger again stated that she is not their budget person, and then went on to explain she works with the actual cash not the budget. Then explained further that the revenues are projected. She handed out documents of what the county budgeted the revenues would be and a hand out of what revenues actually came in at. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger also confirmed with the Board of Commissioners the revenues and expenditures should be watched all the time as they change daily, and she does not see that happening.

There was discussion regarding the budget being balanced exactly to the expenses without budgeting for any capital outlay knowing any capital outlay will then have to come out of the fund balance.

Commissioner Strouse gave a list of possible cuts, which included:

1. Cut all mileage 100%/restrict all travel except for state and federal mandates/no meal money at conferences/go to a conference pay for your own hotel
  2. Look at the insurance, the county is paying way too much for insurance
  3. HEADLEE rollback, if passed, put about half of it on the fund balance
- b. Headlee renewal or other millage discussion  
Administrator Byard explained that the Headlee rollback would give an increase to only the county. Headlee reset would take an advisory committee to determine the increases and would affect the county, townships, and schools.

Commissioner Strouse asked who would be affected if the hours were cut for the employees down to 30 hours a week, which offices and the dollar amount that would save. Courthouse security vs. road patrol officers, he would rather see the officers on the road than in the courthouse. Commissioner Strouse then addressed the competition of the police officer wages with two neighboring rich counties, and they would not be able to compete with Midland and Isabella Counties.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to go for the Headlee override in March, with the stipulation that if it doesn't pass Veteran's Affairs will have to go, Animal Control will have to go, and Road Patrol will have to go, if the people want those services, let them decide. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Chairperson Kleinhardt has been told if the Commissioners

**2020 Budget Discussion - continued**

support a Headlee override they probably won't get re-elected. There was no second therefore the motion was not voted on.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to cut out all travel and associated expenses and anything that is mandated be brought before the Board of Commissioners. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Administrator Byard informed the Board of Commissioners that only affected the non-union people, the union contract states the employees get mileage. Clerk/Register of Deeds asked what the savings would be, no one knew. Sheriff Wilson asked about Senior Services meal program and it was discussed that is those people's only income, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger asked if there is a county car for people to use for county business, Administrator Byard said the county does not own a county vehicle, Commissioner Strouse commented the cost should be taken out of the person's wage.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Haskell

**Motion carried**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse if an office is not occupied after hours to turn the lights off. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, discussion regarding who enforces something like that, motion carried.

Commissioner Majewski suggested more cuts could be:

1. Cut department head assistance to part time
2. Cut Emergency Manager to part time

Commissioner Fitzpatrick stepped out at 10:44 a.m.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick returned at 10:45 a.m.

Sheriff Wilson talked about the increase in the fee they receive for housing federal inmates that should be approximately \$250,000.00 more per year beginning the first of the year.

Vice Chairperson Pitchford left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

**Recess at 11:42 a.m.**

**Back in session 11:54 a.m.**

Commissioner Fitzpatrick wants more due diligence to get bids on projects that require a bid.

Michelle Neff was present and confirmed the MSUE would rather go on the ballot rather than fight to stay in the budget each year.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling start the process to have MSUE put on the August ballot. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Majewski, Strouse, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) Commissioner Haskell and Pitchford

**Motion carried**

**2020 Budget Discussion - continued**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to reduce the Administrator's Assistant to half time and the Emergency Manager Director down to half time. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (4) being Commissioners Majewski, Strouse, Fitzpatrick, Kleinhardt

Nays: (1) Commissioner Hoefling

Absent: (2) Commissioner Haskell and Pitchford

**Motion carried**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to reinstate a hiring freeze for all except road patrol and corrections. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, no replacement of retiring employees or employees that leave. This motion was never voted on.

Kim Davis asked for clarification for transports. Chairperson Kleinhardt stated that they have to be reasonable and knows that is their only pay.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

**PHYSICAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Resolution 19-20

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to adopt Resolution #19-20, Clare County Transportation Millage Proposal with corrected date. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Majewski, Strouse, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, and Kleinhardt

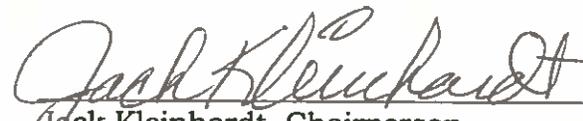
Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) Commissioner Haskell and Pitchford

**Motion for Resolutions carried**

Meeting Adjourned at 1:16 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