

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

approved
8/19/2020
~~Unapproved minutes~~
July 15, 2020

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 6 David Hoefling, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 4 Jack Kleinhardt - excused
District 5 Mark Fitzpatrick - excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Cid Jones, Quincy Jones, Dave Lawrence of Greenwood Township, Sandra Bristol, John Marion, and Christine Pechacek.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for June 17, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were several people present to voice their concerns regarding the gypsy moth issue, the need for spraying, the cost of spraying, and the use of millage money designated for spraying. Administrator Byard also read letters for public comment regarding gypsy moths destroying trees.

Melissa Townsend Manager for Clare Conservation District went over how they decide where to spray, what happens when people opt out of spraying, and confirmed state land and open water do not get sprayed. Ms. Townsend confirmed it costs about \$35.00 per acre to spray for gypsy moth.

Kayla Randle, Clerk for Village of Farwell asked if they could have a different county commissioner appointed to their board because their current elected commissioner has communicated that she will not be attending their LDFA Board (Local Development Finance Authority) any longer. It is in the bylaws that a county commissioner must sit on the LDFA Board. Ms. Randle has had to cancel 2 meetings now because of not having a quorum, and asked in February for this issue to be resolved and has never heard back from the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Hoefling volunteered to take over that commissioner's duty, and sit on the LDFA Board. Vice Chairperson Pitchford appointed Commissioner Hoefling to the LDFA Board in the Village of Farwell.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - continued

Emmah Coker asked where the Board of Commissioners was at for filling the child support specialist position in the Prosecuting Attorney's office that is currently under contract. Ms. Coker also questioned where the Board of Commissioners were at in filling the assistant prosecutors position and commented on how overloaded the prosecutor's office currently is. Vice Chairperson Pitchford confirmed that budget cuts had to be made because of the county is in the red.

David Coker commented on the contracted child support specialist position and how foolish it would be if the Prosecuting Attorney was forced to sue the Board of Commissioners to fulfill her obligations under the contract. Mr. Coker asked the Board of Commissioners to consider moving the meeting to the evening for people that have to work during the day and have voiced interest in attending the meetings, and possibly a larger room as many were not allowed into the meeting and forced to stand in the hallway unable to hear because of social distancing requirements. Administrator Byard commented that they tried meetings in the evening in the past and no one showed up.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

No discussion

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard has been watching several webinars on different grants that are available. The county audit is complete and the auditor will be at the next meeting to give a presentation. 44North is putting a presentation together to present to the board at the next board meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Director Lori Phelps was not present, but submitted a written report the to the Board Members

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Lisa Kaspriak – Medical Examiner's Annual Report
Ms. Kaspriak reported that in 2019 Clare County had a record amount of cases. They were able to donate 5 bodies to organ and tissue donation. Each body can save 8 lives and restore over 75 people's health and Clare County was able to do that 5 times over.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. **Health and Human Services Committee**

1. Region VII Area Agency on Aging
 - a. Senior Community Service Employment Agreement
It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to adopt the Senior Community Service Employment Agreement with the Region VII Area Agency on Aging for fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for all of our SCSEP sites. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Administrator Byard explained that this is an agreement that allows people to come into the animal shelter and the senior center and Region VII pays them., **motion carried.**
 - b. Annual Plan for FY 2021
It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to send a letter of support to the Region VII Area Agency on Aging supporting the proposed Annual Plan for FY 2021. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

B. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation

- a. It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to adopt the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Service Agreement between Clare County and the Clare Conservation District for Soil Erosion services for the Fiscal Year 2021. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Vice Chairperson Pitchford confirmed with Administrator Byard that the revenues offset the expenses and it doesn't cost the county anything out of the general fund, **motion carried.**

2. Gypsy Moth Millage Proposal

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Resolution #20-13, that the following proposal be submitted to the qualified voters of the County of Clare on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, in the state general election: Clare County Millage for the purpose of monitoring controlling and reducing gypsy moth outbreaks for 1 mill. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, after discussion

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Hoefling, Majewski, Pitchford, Strouse, and Haskell

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Commissioners Kleinhardt and Fitzpatrick

Motion for Resolution carried

C. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of June 15, 2020 and June 29, 2020 in the amount of \$145,563.37 and \$75,941.10. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the expenditures for the month of June 2020 in the amount of \$1,774,849.72 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$811,542.76. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none **motion carried.**

3. Budget Adjustments

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve Budget Adjustments #20-102, 20-108, 20-109, 20-110, 20-111, 20-112, 20-113, 20-114 and 20-115 in the amount of \$11,000.00, \$17,660.00, \$7,000.00, \$11,500.00, \$5,850.00, \$1,610.00, \$7,600.00, \$25,000.00 and \$25,500.00 to be distributed. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Administrator Byard confirmed that the budget adjustments were to fix some of the overages, **motion carried.**

4. Discussion regarding retirees and 2 years of health insurance

Administrator Byard explained how the retiring employee's health insurance options would work and asked to Board members to give Judge Farrell an answer as to whether or not he could replace one employee if two retired under this option. The Board members agreed they answered Judge Farrell at the last meeting that they would not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

Finance and Administration Committee

allow the replacement of any employee taking advantage of the health insurance for 2 years after retirement.

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin informed the Board of Commissioners that Tim Lapham has been appointed Clare County Surveyor to finish out the vacated seat through the end of 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger was not present, but submitted a written report.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Samantha Pitchford made comments regarding the need to balance the budget.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Majewski commented regarding the number of proposals that are on the ballot and the Board's over spending over the years, and made it clear its time to start being more fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Strouse hasn't attended any meetings and commented on how bothersome it is that the country is tearing down history.

Commissioner Haskell reported that in the month of May in 2019 unemployment was at 5.4% and May 2020 it was 24.1%. Commissioner Haskell found out at the Health Department meeting that in the different types of COVID testing the accuracy rate is as low as 58% and as high as 95%. He also gave congratulations to the City of Harrison on the new splash park and praised how nice the city looks.

Commissioner Hoefling agreed the Board does need to keep a closer eye on the budget moving forward, and suggested the board go back to two meetings a month. He has been going to his meetings, and the main issue being talked about is the gypsy moth issue. On July 25, 2020 there will be the Veterans Freedom Ride. Commissioner Hoefling has been working Saturday's to help beautify the park.

STATE OF COUNTY BUDGET AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT FY 2021

There was discussion regarding the current projected deficit and how it will not be that bad if the animal shelter proposal passes. Commissioner Haskell commented on the advancements the Board has made this year. He recalled last year the deficit was \$403,000.00 and this year the deficit is down to \$56,000.00, and believes they have done a good job of watching things better this year. Administrator Byard commended the department heads on the good job they did with their budgets and confirmed they really did not put anything unnecessary in their budgets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was discussion regarding the airport. Administrator Byard confirmed the airport is not shutting down. There was discussion regarding the gypsy moth problem and the cause of the problem being contributed by commercial entities, and comments regarding Line 5 in the Straits.

Christine Pechacek asked questions regarding the previous year's income and expense report that was provided by Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger and Administrator Byard answered her questions and confirmed the commissioners oversee all budgets.


July 15, 2020

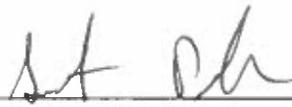
PUBLIC COMMENT - continued

Dave Lawrence asked what is happening with the letter to the individuals that are taking early retirement, there was no letter to the employees signed by the commissioners confirming they would indeed pay the employees' health insurance for 2 years after retirement. The board and administrator agreed they are going to do that.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:38 a.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Samantha Pitchford, Vice Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners