

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

Approved 10-21-2020
Unapproved minutes
September 16, 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 5 Mark Fitzpatrick, District 6 David Hoefling, and District 7 Jeff Haskell.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

District 4 Jack Kleinhardt and District 5 Mark Fitzpatrick (Commissioner Fitzpatrick arrived at 9:05 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Acton, Bill Hoefling, Judge Thomas Evans, Roxanne Foster and zoom participants

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse, to approve the agenda with additions.

Additions: Add attachment C to the health insurance packet.

Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Chairperson Kleinhardt and Commissioner Fitzpatrick

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for August 19, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Chairperson Kleinhardt and Commissioner Fitzpatrick

Motion carried

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for September 9, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (2) being Chairperson Kleinhardt and Commissioner Fitzpatrick

Motion carried

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Acton spoke regarding Clare County not having a heating and cooling maintenance employee, offered his name as the potential replacement, and offered that he has the experience with the software and the system.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Byard received a report from Melissa Townsend regarding the Gypsy Moth issue with statistics for Hayes Township and Lincoln Township, which show the per acre count for 2019 and per acre count for 2020.

Administrator Byard was informed by the Health Department there were 5 cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Clare County. The State of Michigan is declaring a state of emergency and will be spraying without the option of opting out.

Administrator Byard and Director of Community Services Lori Phelps gave an update regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$181,000.00 that is available to Clare County relating to COVID-19. A public hearing is scheduled for September 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick arrived at 9:05 a.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

No report available.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Eric McGlothlin - Bond Counsel - Bond Resolution for the Senior Services Project.

Mr. McGlothlin explained the Bond Resolution before the Board as authorization of limited tax issuance of general tax obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$545,000.00. The proceeds of which will be used to acquire a senior services council facility and complete the needed renovations. The bonds are proposed to be sold to Rural Development through its bond purchase program with an interest rate set at 2.25% or lower.

The Bond Resolution also pledges the County's limited tax and full faith and credit to the repayment of the principal and interest on the bonds. However, the County is not authorized to raise taxes to pay the debt service of the bonds and must be paid out of the available County funds each year.

The final item the resolution does is authorizes the County Administrator as the authorized officer to take all the actions needed and sign all the documents needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to adopt Resolution #20-22 allowing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$545,000.00 to be issued and sold for the purpose of defraying a portion of the costs of the project for an additional senior center. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion for Resolution carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

1. Indigent Defense Independent Contractor Agreement

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Indigent Defense Independent Contractor Agreement with Karen Moore from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Administrator Byard stated this is the exact same contract as the previous year, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

2. Courts Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to accept the \$57,018.70 Michigan State Police grant award for the Clare County Courts, and allow the Vice-Chair to sign. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

B. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Agreement for Extension Services

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve the agreement for MSU Extension Services for a period of one year beginning October 1, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, it was discussed that this is only for the millage, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

C. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of August 24, 2020 in the amount of \$27,397.44 and September 8, 2020 in the amount of \$113,919.19. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve the expenditures for the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$1,881,629.25 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$787,021.79. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

3. Delegate Representative for MERS

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to elect Tracy Byard as the member delegate for the MERS virtual annual conference to be held September 21st – 24th, 2020 and Jeff Haskell as the alternate. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

4. Election Grant

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to accept the Help America Vote Act CARES Act Grant Agreement with the County Clerk acting as the Grant Administrator and signing said grant in the amount of \$17,675.00. Participating Clare County Townships will be responsible for the matching portion of this grant and Clare County will be responsible for no portion of this grant. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, after discussion, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

5. MMDC

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to approve budget adjustment #20-167 in the amount of \$12,500.00 and allow for the payment to the Middle Michigan Development Corporation with the funds to come from remaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, after discussion, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (1) being Commissioner Hoefling

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS – continued

2. Judge Farrell – Unfinished business relating to retiring employee
Judge Farrell presented to the Board in the prior week and was asked to bring his request back before the entire Board as some of the members were not present. The components of the request were:

- a. Because of the Medicare requirements this same non-union employee would have an increase in insurance premiums of \$150.00 per month for the 2-year period in which Clare County is providing health insurance to retiring employees. Judge Farrell asked for the Board to approve the \$150.00 per month over the next 2 years for a total of \$3,600.00 in addition to the health care coverage already being provided. Commissioner Fitzpatrick offered his appreciation for the 40+ years of service, but did confirm that the employees knew going into the agreement that the offer was to pay only the premiums equal to the insurance coverage being given at the time of the agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick that we do not pay the additional. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

- b. Sick time buyout for a non-union employee at 100% of the rate of pay vs. 50% as pursuant to the union contracts. It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to pay the 50% of the sick time Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Commissioner Fitzpatrick wanted to be clear they are voting on a policy issue, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

- c. Judge Farrell asked that because the Board is treating this non-union employee the same as the union employees in regard to the sick time payout that she be treated the same as the union employees in regard to receiving the same raise the union employees received in October of 2019, which would be a total of \$1,265.00. In addition Judge Farrell asked that the Board honor the court personnel policy for non-union employees of the courts. Administrator Byard confirmed that the Courts asked for this raise back in October and the Board denied it at that time. Commissioner Majewski stated that if they are going to award the raise to this one employee they would be expected to award that raise to all non-union employees. Judge Farrell asked for consistency in treating the non-union employees like union employees, not only when it benefits the county but also when it benefits the employees. It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Majewski not to pay it, Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Judge Evans confirmed with the Board that this motion was just in regard to that retiring employee, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - continued

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Public Hearing
Public meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.

4. Roxann Foster – Review of County Audit
Roxanne Foster from the State of Michigan presented the 2019 Fiscal Year Audit to the County. Ms. Foster added, as the Board is aware there were delays in the Road Commission submitting their audit, which in turn delayed the county's audit. Ms. Foster reviewed the audit findings with the Board and answered all questions.

Recess at 10:24 a.m.

Back in session 10:38 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued

6. Special Tribute to Cynthia Locher
It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to adopt Resolution # 20-18 in Special Tribute to Cynthia Locher for her years of service to Clare County. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion for Resolution carried

7. Special Tribute to Christal O'Hare
It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to adopt Resolution # 20-19 in Special Tribute to Christal O'Hare for her years of service to Clare County. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion for Resolution carried

8. Child Care Probate Fund
It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve budget adjustment #20-177 in the amount of \$115,000.00 allowing the appropriation for the Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS) to be moved and appropriated to the Child Care Fund. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger explained the changes the State made to the child care fund, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Marti reported that ballots for the November 3, 2020 Election have been received, and updated the Board on the absentee ballots being requested.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger handed out an updated revenue trends 2009 – projected 2020, which shows Clare County ending 2020 with a projected deficit of \$153,066.00. She also handed out an update of current cash and fund balances as of September 15, 2020. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger held her first all online land sale and sold 46 of the 53 parcels.

Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger questioned whether to return the City of Harrison and Hayes Township funds to them for their contributions to the Airport. The Board directed her to ask if they want their money back and give it back if they want it.

VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Samantha Pitchford reported she has attended her meetings.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Majewski has attended his meetings.

Commissioner Strouse has not been attending meetings.

Commissioner Haskell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick has not been attending meetings. Residents have approached him regarding windmills.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - continued

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Public Hearing
Public meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.
Public meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to adopt Resolution #20-21, a Resolution approving and adopting the County General Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion for Resolution carried

5. Wage Compensation Resolution #20-20

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to adopt Resolution #20-20 Establishing Fiscal Year 2021 Compensation. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion for Resolution carried

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - continued

Commissioner Hoefling reported sadly that Frost Township lost one of their Trustee's, Harold Becker. Commissioner Hoefling again addressed the board regarding not having budget meetings, and their decision to have budget meetings, but no one else is following through. He has been attending his meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

County Health Insurance

Administrator Byard asked the Board to consider changing their decision from the 7% cost share for health insurance to the employees to a 5% cost share to employees.

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to rescind the previous blue cross and blue shield plan. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to take the 5% cost share plan and add on the option to take the higher deductible plan at a higher cost as presented. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to extend the contracts for UAW Unit 1 Non-Supervisory Unit, UAW Unit 2 Supervisory Unit, POAM Corrections Unit, POAM Command Unit, POAM Non-Supervisory Unit and the POAM 911 Central Dispatch Unit through September 30, 2021 and amend the health insurance as presented. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none, roll call vote revealed:

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

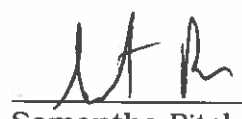
Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) being Chairperson Kleinhardt

Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 11:07 a.m.


Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners


Samantha Pitchford, Vice Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners