

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*JM 1/15/2020*  
~~Unapproved minutes~~  
December 18, 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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Undersheriff Miedzianowski, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger, Chief Deputy Clerk Stacy Pechacek, Nathan Allen, Tom Pirnstill, Lavonn Mahar, Dewayne Rogers, Al Leonard, Dick Haynak, Karen Hulliburger, Jess McClaughry, and Dan Dysinger.

**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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for November 20, 2019. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for December 4, 2019. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dan Dysinger spoke regarding his opposition to the Board of Commissioners passing the resolution to place an increase for the Clare County Transit on the March 10, 2020 ballot. He also spoke regarding the cutting the Emergency Manager position to half time and the FEMA grant rumor and urged the Board to take action and not let the FEMA grant hold things up.

Karen Moore, MIDC Coordinator was present to talk about how the State determined the dollar amount for the local share of the indigent defense fund. The county/local share is supposed to be spent before any grant funds.

**COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

Not discussed

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Absent

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. A Public Hearing on the language to be placed on the August 4, 2020 ballot stating "Shall the powers, duties, and functions of the elected Clare County Board of County Road Commissioners be transferred to and become the responsibility of the elected Clare County Board of Commissioners for the County of Clare.

**Public hearing opened at 9:16 a.m.**

There were several citizens, township elected officials, and road commissioners present with comments regarding 5 vs 3 road commissioners, appointed vs elected road commissioners, benefit package of the road commissioners, the condition of the roads, lack of communication between the road commissioners and the townships, updates on legislation, road funds that are distributed to the Clare County Transit Corporation, road grading, road commission projects and maintenance programs, and the introduction of Dewayne Rogers the new Road Commission Managing Director.

**Public hearing closed at 10:20 a.m.**

**Recess at 10:22 a.m.**

**Back in session 10:30 a.m.**

2. A Public Hearing to discuss the updated 911 Plan for Clare County. 911 Director Marlana Terrian advised the Board of Commissioners there was an error in the previously provided plan in which Section 2 of the tentative plan contradicts the Public Act. Initially it was not discovered by the 911 Advisory Board or the Attorney's office. Director Terrian very recently made the discovery. The Public Hearing was postponed to an undetermined date.
3. Jerry Becker  
Orville Theaker Lieutenant Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division District Coordinator was present to strongly encourage the Board of Commissioners to reconsider making the Emergency Manager a part time program. According the Public Act 390 the emergency management program is responsible for planning mitigation response and recover of all disasters both natural and manmade. That responsibility is very significant, and he believes this move will negatively impact the citizens of Clare County. If the county were to come into a disaster the emergency management must be effective.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Justice Committee**

1. Contract with LIAA  
It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the contract in the amount of up to \$30,175.00 between LIAA (Land Information Access Association) and Clare County for subdivision shape file mapping to be paid for out of the Treasurer's Land Sale Reutilization 518 fund and the Register of Deeds Automation 256 fund. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked if this was already in the budget, Clerk/Register Martin explained it does not affect the general budget and is being spent out of two dedicated funds for the offices discussed, motion carried.
2. Deputy Recruit  
It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to allow the Sheriff's Office to create a Non-Union Deputy Recruit/Cadet position and pay \$10/hour with health care/fringes for sponsorship of cadets to the Police Academy when needed from already

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

existing budget funds. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Majewski asked if this was a new position. Undersheriff Miedzianowski explained this is to fill one of the 5 deputy positions the Sheriff's Department is currently down. This position is for a deputy recruit cadet and is being paid to go to through training, motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - continued**

4. Judge Farrell- To discuss the line item changes requested at the last meeting.

Judge Farrell started out by recapping the meeting in November, and then going on to outline the savings to the County thus far with two positions left unfilled. Judge Farrell also confirmed that the savings would continue for a 4-year period. Judge Mienk asked the Board of Commissioners to approve the hiring of Darrell Schlese on a part time basis at 10-15 hours a week. This will allow the Judges to take more time to hire someone full time for the position of Court Administrator Juvenile Referee. The Judge's may end up dividing those position out, which will still not cost any more than they are expecting to pay anyway. Judge Evans pointed out to the Board of Commissioners that the Courts will be giving raises to the non-union employees the same as the union employees as has been done in the past (35-50 years) and will be done in the future. Chairperson Kleinhardt explained to the Judges the current state of the county budget and the certain impending layoffs.

Judge Farrell then pointed out that the longest standing employee of the county received an \$1,100.00 distribution on her insurance situation for the past 48-49 years that was just turned down by the County upon the ratification of the new contract.

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked if anyone would like to make a motion to allow the raises, no motion was made.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to re-instate the insurance stipend to Ms. Hawkins that she has received all these prior years. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Majewski confirmed if the Board sets this prescience they will have to do it for others.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (3) being Commissioners Strouse, Hoefling, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (3) being Commissioners Majewski, Pitchford, and Fitzpatrick

Absent: (1) Commissioner Haskell

**Motion failed**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

3. Tuition cost

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow the Sheriff's Office to utilize already existing funds to cover the \$8,056.00 cost of police academy tuition until the county is reimbursed through the employee's GI Bill funding he will receive. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**Recess at 12:41 p.m.**

**Back in session 12:51 p.m.**

B. Health and Human Services Committee

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

**C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee**

1. Board of Appeals- Construction

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to reappoint Thomas House, Terry Thayer, Scott Owens and Mike Jenkins to the Board of Appeals - Construction with their term ending October 31, 2021. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

2. City of Clare - LDFA

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to reappoint Leonard Strouse to the City of Clare's Local Development Finance Authority. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**D. 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 November 18, 2019 in the amount of \$242,932.27 and December 2, 2019 in the amount of \$48,324.66. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

2. Monthly Expenditures

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to approve the expenditures for the month of November 2019 in the amount of \$2,181,601.06 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$973,831.87. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

3. Finance Meeting Dates

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Finance meeting dates as presented through December 2020 with dates consistent with the off week of payroll beginning at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

4. Board of Commissioners Meeting Dates

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioner meeting dates through January 2021. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Hoefling asked if these dates include the budget workshop dates, Administrator Byard confirmed it did not, motion carried.

5. Per Diems

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pitchford to compensate the members of the various boards of election commissioners and any other person charged with duties in connection with the conduct of primaries, elections, canvassing of returns, and recounts to receive a per diem of \$25.00 as is consistent with the County Board of Commissioners. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, Commissioner Strouse asked if these have been being paid in the past, Clerk/Register Martin confirmed that was not so, this is a new statute to include per diem payment for all the various boards and persons charged with these duties in connection with the elections, motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

6. New Policy

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve new Exempt Employees Paid Leave Utilization and Recordkeeping Policy. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT**

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin gave an update on the proposals filed to be placed on the March 10, 2020 ballot. She also updated the Board of Commissioners on the increase of funds collected for restitution parties by \$73,000.00 for FY-2019 over FY-2017.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger gave an update that the statutory notice for back taxes will be going out end of December and again in January. Two rabies clinics scheduled for January 11, 2020 from 10:00 – 2:00 Family Farm and Home with Dr. Pohl and February 15, 2020 at the animal shelter from 10:00 – 1:00. PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) invoices have gone out to the DNR. Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger has received all 19 units' tax adjustments, the new chart of accounts must be in place by December 31, 2019, for people in danger of losing their homes to back taxes there will be a show cause hearing from 10:00 – 4:00 January 23, 2020 with Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger to ask for an extension, and a Judicial Foreclosure hearing on February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Circuit Court to ask for an extension.

Commissioner Strouse asked the Treasurer if the FY-2019 deficit will be \$500,000.00, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger confirmed that is the unaudited amount, there are still small revenues coming in and it will be up to the auditors whether or not they are going to allow those revenues to be added back in.

Commissioner Majewski asked the Treasurer what the FY-2020 beginning balance was, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger deferred to the Chief Financial Officer, Administrator Byard. Administrator Byard confirmed the FY-2020 beginning fund balance was \$800,000.00.

The Animal Control Officers have been out knocking on doors to see if residents have their dogs licensed, which increases revenue for the Treasurer's office.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Byard reported the County Christmas Party is Friday, December 20, 2019 from 11:30 – 1:00 all Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Administrator Byard handed out recommendations of changes that can be made to save money.

Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Ambrozaitis discussed the Violence Against Women Grant that she applied for. The grant is for a prosecutor's office based investigator, and would cover salary and all fringes. The purpose is to increase or enhance the prosecution and investigation of domestic violence crimes, dating violence, stalking, and criminal sexual conduct. The grant requires a match in the amount of \$35,000.00 of that \$35,000.00 Prosecutor Ambrozaitis was able to secure in-kind donations and matches to bring the County's match down to just over \$19,000.00. It would create a position for just over 2 ½ years. The grant is due December 19, 2019 and would need a decision today. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked if anyone would like to make a motion. No one made a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Jack Kleinhardt had nothing to report

**VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Samantha Pitchford reported she has been attending her meetings.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Strouse has been attending his meetings.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick has been attending his meetings. Commissioner Fitzpatrick also commented that the Board has not been receiving accurate information regarding the budget and can't make decisions without accurate information.

Commissioner Hoefling has been attending his meetings, Summerfield Township now has a new Treasurer, Frost Township has prohibited vaping on Township Grounds, and attended two township Christmas Parties, Greenwood Township adopted the Animal Shelter for Christmas and was able to donate two truck beds full of supplies and about \$1,000.00 in cash.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to restore the Emergency Director to full time. It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to restore the Emergency Manager to full time status. Chairperson Kleinhardt asked for discussion, there was discussion regarding cuts and saving money

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (4) being Commissioners Strouse, Fitzpatrick, Hoefling, and Kleinhardt

Nays: (2) being Commissioners Majewski and Pitchford

Absent: (1) being Commissioner Haskell

**Motion carried.**

Chairperson Kleinhardt asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to restore the Administrator's Assistant to full time. No motion was made.

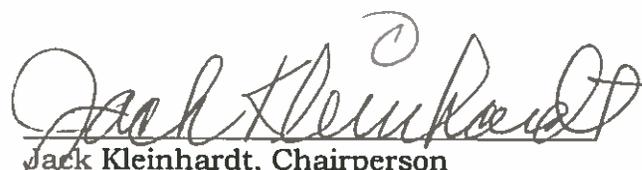
Administrator Byard asked when the next Budget Workshop would be. Chairperson Kleinhardt recommended the board wait until after the January meeting so Administrator Byard could gather more information for the Board.

There was discussion regarding the road commission and which ballot to put the ballot question on August or November.

Commissioner Majewski pointed out to the Board that they could not cut the mileage/travel expenses of the Drain Commissioner and gave Administrator Byard a copy of the statute.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

  
Lori Martin, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
Jack Kleinhardt, Chairperson  
Clare County Board of Commissioners