

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*Am* 3/30/2020  
Unapproved minutes  
February 19, 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 – Excused

**OTHERS PRESENT SIGNING IN**

Jess McClaughry Greenwood Township Supervisor and Liz Bouchey

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners Minutes for January 15, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Simpson spoke regarding the possibility of Mid Michigan College exploring the possibility of expanding their geographical base into Isabell and a Gratiot Counties.

Dan Dysinger, spoke regarding the violations of open meetings act by the Little Tobacco Drain Board and cautioned the Board of Commissioners to ask for full accountability before they approve any more funds for the Clare County Drain Commissioner and the Little Tobacco Drain Project. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked Administrator Byard to contact the Drain Commissioner's office to confirm they are posting the meetings accurately and make sure they notify Dan Dysinger and Commissioner Strouse in the future.

Darrell Schlese re-introduced himself as the part time Court Administrator for Circuit Court and Probate Courts in Clare and Gladwin County's.

**COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

No discussion

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Byard has given two tours of the building in regard to the RFP for cleaning services, has not has a chance to dig into the budget yet, but plans to get with the department heads in the next week.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Community Services Director Lori Phelps provided a written report for the Board of Commissioners and is available in the building for questions.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. Selection of Road Commissioners  
Administrator Byard passed out paper for the board of commissioners to make their selection of road commissioners. The choices are:

Bill Simpson  
Merle Harmon  
Rick Fancon  
John Marion

Commissioner Majewski tallied the votes and announced out of the 6 voting 1 abstained.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Haskell to appoint for the term to finish out this year as Road Commissioners at the pay grade of what the Road Commissioners make right now Bill Simpson and Merle Harmon. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Justice Committee

None

B. Health and Human Services Committee

1. Veterans Services Fund Grant

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to accept the Michigan County Veterans Services Fund grant in the base amount of \$50,000.00 plus per capita of \$14,695.00 for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked if this was a matching grant, Administrator Byard confirmed it was not a matching grant, motion carried.

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

1. Gypsy Moth Contract

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve the Gypsy Moth Spraying Contract by Al's Aerial Spraying for \$34.71 per acre of approximately 8,000 to 9,500 acres wooded land in Clare County. Total acres to be determined once mapping has been completed. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

D. Finance and Administration Committee

1. Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Haskell, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 13, 2020 in the amount of \$214,566.10, January 27, 2020 in the amount of \$132,812.66 and February 10, 2020 in the amount of \$90,014.43. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR - continued**

**D. Finance and Administration Committee - continued**

**2. Monthly Expenditures**

It was moved by Commissioner Fitzpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of January 2020 in the amount of \$2,347,979.38 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$1,081,745.31. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, hearing none motion carried.

**3. Budget Adjustment**

It was moved by Commissioner Hoefling, seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick to approve Budget Adjustment #20-28, 20-34, 20-35, 20-36, 20-38 and 20-40 in the amount of \$545,000.00, \$10,000.00, \$17,586.30, \$38,274.60, \$340.00 and \$2,500.00 to be distributed. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Commissioner Strouse asked for explanation of what the budget adjustments are for from Administrator Byard, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger pointed out that the 20-35 for \$17,586.30 budget adjustment is being incorrectly taken from note proceeds, motion carried.

**4. Additional Window**

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow Clerk/ Register Martin to purchase and install an additional window in the 55<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court/ CPL lobby not to exceed \$5,290.00 to be paid for out of the CPL 263 Fund. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Commissioner Fitzpatrick made a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to approve, motion carried.

**5. Tax Anticipation Note**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Hoefling to adopt Resolution #20-05 authorizing the county to Borrow \$2,000,000.00 in anticipation of collection of taxes, "Tax Anticipation Note" and approve all required parties to sign as specified. Vice Chairperson Pitchford asked for discussion, Administrator Byard confirmed that all bids have not come in yet, but the resolution is prepared so the information can be inserted on Resolution,

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Chairperson Kleinhardt

**Motion for Resolution carried**

**CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS REPORT**

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin gave an update on elections, there will not be a May 2020 Clare County Election, the Clerk's office will be running the elections for Redding and Summerfield Townships for the Presidential Primary and will billing each Township for that service, and the Clerk announced that she will be using a portion of her CPL funds to pay for a partial existing employee in her office to help offset the County Budget problems.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger handed out a monthly fund balance and confirmed that if the Board does not understand it to please let her know and she will explain it, her office just held another rabies/license clinic, her office is getting ready to move into settlement with the townships and cities on March 2, 2020 as well as sending forfeitures over to the Register of Deeds office, and February 20, 2020 is the Judicial

**TREASURER'S REPORT - continued**

Foreclosure hearings. Commissioner Strouse asked if Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger had the salary, per diem, and mileage for the Drain Commissioner, Treasurer Beemer-Fritzinger deferred to the Administrator. Administrator Byard confirmed the Drain Commissioner's mileage for last year was \$5,000.00 and the salary is \$34,338.00 with no per diem.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Absent

**VICE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Samantha Pitchford nothing to report, but glad the Road Commission issue has been resolved and hopes they can work together.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Majewski has attended his meetings. There is a lot of talk about upcoming millages.

Commissioner Strouse has attended his meetings. Commissioner Strouse asked Maye Tessner-Rood if things have gotten better economically for her township, Ms. Tessner-Rood did say people will pay for the services that they want and it's hard to have services without revenue sources. Commissioner Strouse then asked if the Road Commissioners salary is the same as the County Commissioners. Commissioner Majewski stated that the issue needs to be addressed prior to the next election.

Commissioner Strouse then outlined his history of serving as County Commissioner and believes this job is for younger people with new thinking, and takes quite a bit of responsibility for where the financial issues in the county are at, and acknowledges he is part of the problem.

Commissioner Haskell has attended most of his meetings, talked about the gypsy moth issue and the health department is tracking the corona virus.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick attended most of his meetings, agrees they have to make some tough decisions and welcomed the new Road Commissioners.

Commissioner Hoefling has attended his meetings and the biggest bone of contention is the county budget followed closely by gypsy moth.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET**

Administrator Byard did not have anything prepared for this meeting for the State of the County Budget and will have it ready for the Budget Workshop.

  
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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maye Tessner-Rood commented that the funds brought in from jail rentals should be used to fund the Sheriff's Department instead of support the County's General Fund and asked that the Board of Commissioners start talking with the Department Heads and take their advice, they are some smart individuals.

Bill Simpson thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to serve as the County Road Commissioner.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

  
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Lori Martin, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
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Samantha Pitchford, Vice-Chairperson  
Clare County Board of Commissioners