

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625  
July 26, 2016

8/17/16  
*[Signature]*  
Unapproved Minutes  
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Meeting was called to Order at 9:04 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Present** Commissioners: District 1: Dale Majewski, District 2: Samantha Pitchford, District 3: Leonard Strouse, District 4: Jack Kleinhardt, District 5: Donald David, District 6: Karen Lipovsky, District 7: Jim Gelios

**Absent:** None

**Others Present, Signing In:** Marty Johnson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the agenda with additional items. Motion carried.

Add: Discussion about Hayes Township, Fir Road Park

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marty Johnson spoke briefly indicating that he is not able to make every meeting so he doesn't always know everything that is needed and doesn't want to pass judgement but he comment on the unreasonable demands made by MERS. He stated that he believed it was unrealistic of MERS to expect the county to be able to comply with their payment plan to catch up with unfunded pension liability obligations. He went on to report that the City of Lincoln Park won the lawsuit against MERS.

Board Chair welcomed Peter Preston, of Preston Community Services, LLC a community land use planner and assessor who gave a synopsis of his credentials for providing Equalization services for Clare County. He identified that he currently has his MCAL credentials and is working on his MAAL credentials. He briefly discussed a remote login network system that would allow them to run reports and correct errors when needed and responded to questions asked. He was thanked for his time and would hear from the Board.

**General Budgetary Overview / Comments**

It was asked if realistically there was a figure for the health insurance proposal changes and based on previous discussion with 44 North, there is not at this time. The cost still exists and it was asked that the additional costs be added back into the budget, for now, so that there was an approximate figure for where the budget deficit stands. The additional costs to the \$764,000.00 figure would raise the cost to really be \$942,805.00 over budget.

Administrator Byard distributed a budget suggestion sheet from Commissioner Majewski for review.

Commissioner Kleinhardt read a letter dated July 26<sup>th</sup> from Gladwin County Commissioners to form a management council and also adopt Administrative Order 19.985. They requested that all economic items currently being jointly shared between counties be addressed with them before implemented. Gladwin County has indicated that they would not jointly fund any wage increases for courts without discussions. They would like their negotiator to negotiate on behalf of both counties. Bill Bruscho is a former mediator for the state. It was noted that Friend of the Court, Jamie Raymond is presently working multiple jobs.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse to form a court management council in partnership with Gladwin County as per their July 26, 2016 letter and appoint a council pending approval by Clare County legal counsel. Motion carried.

Administrator Byard then presented a set of 2016/2017 budget cuts that were discussed collectively by a group of three: Byard, Ware and Miedzianowski. These posed a saving of approximately \$283,266.00. These cuts included not replacing a vacancy of a full time deputy clerk in the Clerk's office, taking the administrative assistant to part time, elimination of the part-time Veteran's Assistant requiring the Director to be in the office more, elimination of funding to MSU Extension, eliminating the hiring to fill the vacancy in the District Court and elimination of Parks and Recreation. An option would be to share the administrative assistant to work part-time in the administrator's office and part-time in the District Court office. Other options would be to provide a 10% budget cut to all departments. Court security costs were reviewed with questions about employees hired part-time yet working full time making them eligible for benefits. Bidding health insurance was also suggested.



Recess at 12:08 p.m.  
Reconvene at 12:22 p.m

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Donald David to allow the Sheriff's Department to replace a deputy. Yeas, (2) Lipovsky and David. Nays, (5) Pitchford, Gelios, Majewski, Strouse and Kleinhardt. Motion failed.

It was noted that these decisions are not decisions against the Sheriff's Department, these are hard, tough decisions and time is needed to analyze the finances.

The Undersheriff reviewed his list of budget requests and proposed cuts. He indicated that some of the proposed cuts were security items for deputies. An analysis, item by item revealed that some items could be acquired by using commissary funds and some will be eligible for a 50/50 grant match with MMRMA in 2017 and with that, it left just a couple of items necessary to put back into the budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski to put the (5) tasers at a cost of \$5,595.00 and sig pistols at a cost of \$4,715.00 back into the budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford to eliminate the budget funding for MSU Extension. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse to remove Parks and Recreation from the Budget. Motion carried with one opposed being Commissioner Lipovsky.

It was move by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to make Emergency Management Position part time. Motion carried with one opposed being Commissioner David.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, to make the Administrative Assistant position a part-time position. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, to eliminate a position in the Clerk's office. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David to allow the Clerk to replace a full time vacancy with a part-time employee in the 2016 budget. Motion died for a lack of a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to eliminate the part-time assistant in the Veteran's Department. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Donald David, to eliminate \$100,000.00 from the overtime budget. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to cut the Sheriff's Department budget by \$100,000. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to cut the appropriation for Middle Michigan Development Corporation. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Karen Lipovsky, to allocate \$5,000.00 for Recovery Court. Motion carried.

With additional cuts, Administrator Byard reported that it was at \$334,265.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marty Johnson, stating that he does not always have all of the facts available to him stated that the county has some of the best of benefits without cost to some and without deductibles for some while the residents of the county are living in poverty. This needs to be corrected. On the other hand, MERS also is an item that must be given much consideration especially as they are changing the rules. He stated that pensions were promised to the employees and they must be paid but MERS needs to focus on the 8800 underfunded accounts not the ones that are where they are good. He stated that Clare County needs to stand up against MERS and the unreasonableness since Clare County has always been in compliance with their request. Even though MERS took Lincoln Park to court over the matter, MERS lost. He felt that Clare County should let MERS take Clare County to court. It would be likely that Clare County would prevail.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve Budget Adjustment #16-112, #16-113, #16-114, #16-115 and #16-119 in the amount of \$5,610.00, \$13,600.00, \$15,650.00, \$63,015.00 and \$1,732,275.97 respectively. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios to accept the first right of refusal and decline interest in the Fir Road Park. Motion carried.

Harrison, Michigan 48625

*pr* July 26, 2016

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, Seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to amend Resolution #16-12A, to add the attached pro forma for the deficit elimination plan for the Veterans repayment plan to the County.

Roll call vote revealed:

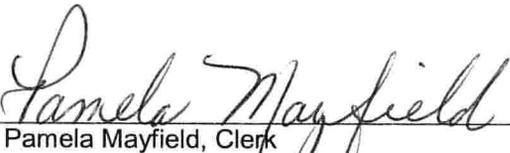
Yeas: (7) being Commissioners Lipovsky, Strouse, Pitchford, Gelios, David, Majewski and Kleinhardt

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Resolution adopted.

Meeting adjourned at p.m. 1:49 p.m.

  
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Pamela Mayfield, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
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Jack Kleinhardt, Chairman  
Clare County Board of Commissioners