

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625
July 28, 2016

VA 8-17-16
Unapproved Minutes
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Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to approve the agenda with changes. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Haley, Director of Veteran's Affairs spoke to the Board and asked for reconsideration of the part-time office staff cut proposed at the previous meeting. She reported that long ago the office was fully staffed before there were cuts and she has worked hard to rebuild the office. In 2010 there was \$15M in VA benefits to Clare County with around \$25M today. She noted that she is personally responsible for three Boards and that an agreement signed with Wexford County would further place demands upon her time leaving a greater need for assistance in the Clare County office. She asked for reconsideration until a decision is made about regionalization and that as cuts are considered that if they are needed that all departments should feel the sting equally.

The Wexford County Administrator spoke briefly in support of the position along with Dave Proet and Don Morton both DAV driver.

A standing room only crowd of MSU supporters addressed their concern about the planned cut to MSU Extension and the 4-H Programs. Supporters stepping forward to speak on the matter included Josiah Bear, Crysta Spivey, Darlene Shunk, Annajeanelle McInnis, Ursula Jehnzen, Erica Stillion, Sherry Landon, Liz Oserloh and Katery Stoyke, Michelle Neff, Brenda Spivey, Bonnie Smalley, Kathy Methner and Wes Raymond. Some represented community leaders, some 4-H leaders, some members and parents of members and some MSU employees. Each provided compelling stories in support of keeping the program. Sheri Spoelman, Coordinator asked for discussion on compromise.

Marty Johnson, also an attendee, stated that it was great to see all the faces and those in support of the program but also stated that he followed the story and was aware of the fact that the county was initially facing an almost \$900,000.00 deficit and suggested that a millage might be considered to support the program.

A review of the program allocations at \$86,788.00 revealed that over one-half of the allocation goes to support 4-H. This also supports a secretary at 22 hours a week. Ms. Spoelman said that there was some "wiggle room" in the budget request but it would require staffing cuts. It really cost about \$43,000.00 to host the 4-H program. Chairman Kleinhardt thanked the crowd

Recess at: 10:04 a.m.
Reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Casey Guthrie, candidate for contracting to fill the needs within the Equalization Department appeared to meet with the Board and interviewed for the position. He provided a brief synopsis of his qualifications and answered questions relevant to the same. He indicated that he has worked with BS&A software for fourteen years and is currently at a Level 3 Assessor. He stated that he did not need benefits. He was thanked for his time.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Administrator Tracy Byard noted several things for consideration as Board took up budget discussions. She stated that she had called Gladwin County to inquire if they had yet been talking about the need for an AS400. She was able to speak with Gayle Reed of Gladwin. Since this is a shared expense, it is important to know if Gladwin County will be putting this in their budget. Byard also noted that health insurance is a negotiable item and all contracts with the exception of courts will be negotiated. The attorney stated that the county would pay the base rate plus one-half of the increase. She reported that the shortfall is still at around \$500,000. It may be necessary to go to all departments and ask for percentage cuts

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BUDGET DISCUSSION- cont.

It was discussed to leave the departments that had already been cut alone and to go to the other departments to see what they felt could be cut 5% - 7%. So, with all the cuts from the other day, go back to the departments and see what they are able to do. Marty Johnson offered some thoughts stating that MERS has an unrealistic plan to catch up. Commissioner Strouse stated that millage proposals for county services may be required. There was lots of talk and much to consider with many suggestions as to what to do.

Sheri Spoelman suggested the assistance of a specialist on MSU campus who does a lot of work with local governments and provides an analysis for various counties and municipalities and their ability to budget and bring in revenue. She offered to check into cost for the services.

Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski discussed the need to fill one vacancy.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse to allow the Sheriff's Department to fill a vacant deputy position for the remainder of the fiscal year. Motion carried with two nays being C/Gelios and C/Pitchford.

Don Kolander, Director of Parks and Recreation came before the Board to request that the Board reconsider their decision to cut the department. He stated that he could probably cut his budget by at least 25%.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Donald David, to contract with Peter Preston for Equalization Director services. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

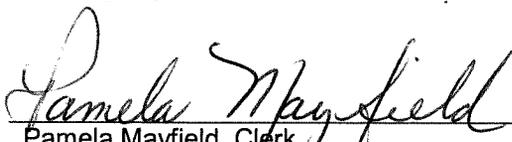
Treasurer, Jenny Beemer-Fritzingler distributed some charts that provided a historical overview of expenses and what the general fund monies are spent on.

Clerk / Register, Pamela Mayfield distributed a historical snapshot of number of employees on December 31st of each year for five years. She noted that this could be done for an additional five years and it was requested that this be provided. Mayfield indicated that there was some information that would not be clearly defined but it was a start at analyzing the data.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve Budget Adjustment #16-121 in the amount of \$2,500.00. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



Pamela Mayfield, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jack Kleinhardt, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners