

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

*Am 9-21-16*  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
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Harrison, Michigan 48625  
August 17, 2016

**Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 a.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**Absent:** District 3: Leonard Strouse

**Others Present, Signing In:** Dan Foltz, Bill Dixon, Susan Acton, Vickie Buckley, Robert Buckley, Veronica Romanov, Craig Derrer and Jessica Terhune

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Donald David, to approve the agenda with changes as noted below. Motion carried.

Add: Special Presentations, Public Hearings John Obermeski, Executive Director of CMCMH

Add: Under Justice, District Court Replacement Staffing Discussion

Add: Under Physical Resources and Economic Development, Change motion removing Lori Ware from Construction Board of Appeals

Add: Under Finance and Administration, Budget Adjustments

Add: Approval of Closed Session Minutes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the Minutes of July 20, 2016, July 26, 2016 and July 28, 2016 meetings. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the Closed Session Minutes of July 20, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Veronica Romanov, a Harrison resident involved in many of the health improvements efforts in Clare County and the surrounding region along with Julia Terhune, Community Health Program Coordinator for MSU College of Human Medicine addressed the Board. Ms. Terhune explained her job is to recruit, train and retain physicians in rural America, more specifically for Clare, Gratiot and Huron Counties. She reported on up-coming events. Ms. Romanov also took a moment to reflect on the vital partnership between MSU and the community. She indicated that they are vital to the economic well-being of the county and that they provide educational and nutritional support to the area.

Bill Dixon, Frost Township resident appeared in an effort to alleviate his anxiety. He was concerned about State intervention into county business and was hoping to hear plans to get Clare County straight and to keep the State out of the county business. He was questioned about his anxiety and it was noted that he was concerned about the pension shortfall and a need to meet budget obligations.

Commissioner David clarified that the reason that the county is in the position it is in is because the rules have changed. He stated that formally MERS required 80% funding and the rules have now changed and they are requesting 100% funding. He noted that this is not just a problem for Clare County, it is a problem nationwide. In Clare County there is an unfunded balance of \$6.7M, if everyone were to retire today. Commissioner Kleinhardt reported a statistic he recently heard. In Lansing they said that every day for the next seventeen years, 10,000 baby boomers will be retiring daily. This is part of the reason for the crisis everywhere.

Commissioner Dale Majewski also added that the money that the county sends to MERS gets invested. He suggested that everyone look at their bank accounts. Interest rates are at a continuing low. No one is making money in the bank.

**COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

- DEQ, Pending New Source Review Application Report
- Antrim County, Resolution #18-1026-Support Passage of HB 4909, HB 5578 and SB 524, All Three Support Measures to Address:
  - All properties, including big box stores to be assessed at their highest and best use
  - Legislation to limit the use of deed restrictions to prevent the "dark store" theory of using vacant, deed restricted properties for the purpose of lowering value and eliminating compensation
  - Michigan Tax Tribunal will be required to consider (3) methods of assessing
- Letter, Scoutmaster of Troop 620, Requesting letter of congratulations for Trevor Frost for achieving Eagle Scout
- Allegan County, Resolution in support of SB 39-limits DNR from acquiring surface rights to more than 4,626,000 acres without approval

Harrison, Michigan 48625

It was noted that a letter of congratulations will be sent to Trevor Frost on his achievement of achieving Eagle Scout the Trevor Frost no motion needed on this.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

John Obermesik, Executive Director of Central Michigan Community Mental Health (CMCMH) and Craig Derrer also of CMCMH, appeared before the Board and presented their FY 20147-15 Annual Report. He indicated that they are committed to wellness, recovery and inclusion of individuals into the community. As a six county initiative they serve over 9,200 in the six counties with 1,200 being served in Clare County. The operation employs over 1,700 individuals dedicated to the well-being of the county residents. Craig Derrer also spoke on the collaborative efforts between the various agencies that they work with.

Jerry Becker, Director of Emergency Management appeared before the Board to discuss Resolution #16-15 Hazardous Mitigation Plan Adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to adopt Resolution #16-15 Clare County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (6) being Commissioners Majewski, Lipovsky, Gelios, Pitchford, Kleinhardt and David

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Strouse

Resolution adopted

Jennifer Martin of 44 North appeared before the Board to discuss additional options and costs savings available for the Health Insurance plans.

**JUSTICE**

Sheriff John Wilson and Undersheriff Miedzianowski were back again to ask the Board to reconsider their request to hire to fill a detective and deputy position. If given the detective position, they will fill the deputy position from within. The funding is in the budget for the 2016 budget year.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Donald David, to approve the hiring of a deputy to fill a vacancy in the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky and seconded by Commissioner Donald David to approve the Sheriff Department request to utilize current wages to put \$25,000.00 into a concept team. Motion carried.

Commissioner David has some figures readily available if a decision was made to ask for a millage to fund a county road patrol. This issue was discussed.

Magistrate Karen Moore (Willing) appeared to once again request permission to approve the hiring of an employee to fill a vacancy within District Court. She indicated that she was not requesting a new position only asking to fill the vacancy.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Donald David, to allow the District Court to hire a replacement to fill a vacancy. Motion carried with two opposed.

Recess at 10:47 a.m.

Reconvene at 10:59 a.m.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-NONE**

It was moved by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the Region VII AAA FY 2016-2019 Multi Year and Annual Implementation Plan. Motion carried.

Lori Ware, Community Directory requested that she be allowed to hire, without Board approval, when funding for the position is not supported by general fund revenues.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to allow Senior Services to replace employees as long as funding does not come from general fund money. Motion carried.

Renee Haley came before the Board to tell them that she had applied for and was awarded funding for three individuals to attend a veteran's court treatment and mentor facility. "Justice for Vets" is an all-expense paid trip for 80<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge, the Gladwin County Veteran's Director and Clare County Veteran's Director Haley to attend. This will help train them and provide a better understanding of the needs of our Vet's. In addition she outlined proposed changes to her position with everyone in agreement with the changes with the exception of the Union. She requested consideration to contract with Wexford County and that she would work with Clare County 37 1/2 hours and she would work for Wexford County two days per week.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski and seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky to permit Renee Haley to subcontract for Veteran's services outside of Clare County while continuing to work in Clare County full-time. Motion carried.

**PHYSICAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Lori Ware, requested that the Building Department be allowed to purchase BS&A.net software because the BS&A pervasive software is obsolete.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the request of the Building Department to purchase the BS&A.net Software package at a cost of approximately \$22,000.00 to be paid from the 249 fund. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, to reappoint Tom House, Terry Thayer, Scott Owens, Bob Meister and appoint Mike Jenkins to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two year term with terms to expire October 31, 2019. Motion carried.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of July 19, 2016 in the amount of \$48,882.89 and August 2, 2016 in the amount of \$46,569.26. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the expenditures for the month of July 2016 in the amount of \$1,879,061.77 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$1,085,894.45. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski, to approve Budget Adjustments #16-122, #16-129, #16-130, #16-131, #16-132, #16-133 and #16-134 in the amounts of \$1,430.00, \$300.00, \$127,348.00, \$51,111.04, \$3,650.00 and, \$13,572.00 respectively. Motion carried.

A proposed discussion on a MSUE millage, which was thought to be urgent is a mute issue as the time to submit for an up-coming ballot proposal has lapsed. It was determined that a discussion on this could take place at some future date.

Proposed changes to budget meeting dates were suggested. After settled, it was determined that the August 25<sup>th</sup> date be cancelled and new dates set for budget discussion on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A potential date of September 15<sup>th</sup> was also suggested for budget appeals, if needed.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Pamela Mayfield reported she had nothing new to report at this time.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzingler reminded everyone that the land sale was set for Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Doherty Hotel. She also provided her annual report on penal fines for the libraries and provided a hand-out of same.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT and COMMENTS**

- C/Kleinhardt reiterated the difficulties of the job and decisions to be made noting that it is not a job for cowards.
- C/Majewski reported that he has had several residents approach him about concerns of Animal Control not enforcing ordinances. He noted that he is being told that the Sheriff's Department is also unresponsive to the complaints and questioned if the county is responsible for enforcement of township ordinances. With Prosecutor Ambrozaitis in the meeting she indicated that it is likely the townships attorney needs to get involved. C/Majewski also commented that he would like documentation to be provided to the Board before prior to positions or transfers are approved.
- C/Gelios provided dates for the up-coming Harrison Street Fair: August 26<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- C/Pitchford had nothing to report.
- C/David had nothing to report.
- C/Lipovsky also getting about the discussion about the elimination of the 4-H Program and MSU. In addition she stated that at the Northern Michigan MAC meeting it was stated that there are over 800 governments and in trouble with Grand Traverse County being underfunded with MERS by 46%. They make Clare County look good. Additionally she noted that at least 137 new county commissioners will be seated after the November election.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, that a department head be required to provide documentation to the Board verifying the specifics to personnel changes, hiring, line items to be used, available funds and other specifics before any changes or new positions are approved. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sheri Spoelman, MSUE stated that she realizes that the discussion of a special millage is a mute for the immediate future but stated that she would like to be looking to the future for planning and that she would like to be included in those discussions. She also reported that the part-time staff employee resigned and accepted another position.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS-NONE**

Meeting Adjourned at 12:13 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