

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625  
September 6, 2016

*Jim 6/21/17*  
~~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

**Others Present, Signing In:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Add: Under New Business, Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program - 2017

Add: Under New Business, Resolution #16-16

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Williams spoke on behalf of MSUE, he voiced concerns over budgets getting tight and always taking away from the young and the programs are vital.

Sherry Landon, stated that they have heard from her before and if the Board must make cuts, please consider cuts that would at least keep the program alive. Ms. Landon voiced concerns over the 4-H programs not being present to support the fair and it will be at a great loss to the community. 4-H keeps the kids in our community doing their community service in their own community and not somewhere else.

Brenda Spivey talked with Marybeth and what would happen if there was no 4-H. There would be no fingerprinting or background checks individuals working with the children if 4-H is cut. 4-H is very thorough in screening adult leaders.. The kids are the future and she asked the Board not to forget that.

Ken Brown, a farmer west of Harrison, stated he has always used MSU as the go-to source for information regarding farming. He has used MSUE extensively for animal health, crop decisions and for many years as a farmer. 4 H is very important to himself and the entire farm community.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Shari Spoelman-MSUE and Patrick Cudney, Associate Director of MSUE. Shari Spoelman stated MSUE has had a very good relationship with Clare County for many years. She has been in the leadership here for the past 5 years and she knows it to be true. 4-H is not the only program that MSUE includes. There is also Master Gardner, Agricultural Program, a really strong Food and Nutrition Program and Homeowner Education and Foreclosure Prevention. This relationship has helped them grow and strengthen that relationship. Without local funding they will not have an extension office, a 4-H program, no chronic disease prevention program, no food and nutrition program, no housing/foreclosure programs, no farm visits, no agricultural programs, no youth and workforce prep, no counseling sessions or technical support for individuals wanting to start agricultural or food related business. Ms. Spoelman reminded commissioners that MSUE was very instrumental in bringing in the Enterprise Community Designation here to Clare County. So many things came out of that designation including higher rankings on many grant applications that continue to bring resources to Clare County.

MSUE is a good use of taxpayer dollars. For every \$1.00 put in locally we are seeing 3 and 4 times the money coming back with staff salary from both federal and state dollars into the area. Last year, MSUE spent \$300,000 in vendor payments to businesses in the Clare County. Clare County has a high poverty rate and very few youth programs. You have asked if you could have just a 4-H program, the answer is no, 4-H is a branch of MSUE. You have been funding a ¼ time Coordinator and a Secretary. The Secretary is no longer here and we could do without that Secretary going forward. If the County could give \$15,000 they would have some clerical support and by reducing the 4-H Coordinator from ¾ to ½ time this could reduce costs and have a MSUE base assessment of \$43,577 (that will keep an office here with a ½ time coordinator) and is set by a formula would have a need then for \$58,577.00 which is almost a \$29,000.00 a reduction from the original request. There are just under 400 youth served in traditional 4-H clubs and an additional 800 youth served in other programs (MSUE served 1,200 youth last year in Clare County). When questioned about costs to individuals it was confirmed the youth are charged a \$10.00 enrollment fee per program. Of

that \$10.00, one half of that comes back into the community for club supplies. Additional money may come back through a grant program.

Patrick Cudney Associate Director of MSUE has spent some 20 plus years in and around county government. The message that they want to portray is that this is a historical 3 way partnership. The last thing that they want to do as an organization is to eliminate the real dollars invested into the community, which easily returns \$3.00 - \$4.00 for every dollar spent. The history of participation in Clare County is strong.

Commissioner Dale Majewski asked how many other communities have gone a separate route by using a millage proposal. Mr. Cudney replied that there are 9 communities across the state that have gone to millage funding for 4-H. They don't encourage it because it fundamentally changes the relationship between our organization and the Board of Commissioners.

#### **2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND OVERVIEWS**

Several weeks ago Administrator Tracy Byard presented back to the Board a balanced budget. The budget is balanced without adding from the fund balance if all cuts remain.

Administrator Tracy Byard brought up that in regard to the Veteran's Affairs position, Director Renee Haley is requesting authorization to accumulate overtime. Director Haley, per the Union contract, can receive overtime pay. Commissioner Majewski asked if the overtime would be to work on Wexford County issues or Clare County issues. Administrator Tracy Byard could not answer that. Administrator Tracy Byard also added that with Director Haley now working with Wexford County and Clare County, she will need her office in Clare County to be staffed with a secretary.

Commissioner Majewski asked to confirm that if they approve all these items be put back into the budget they will still be negative \$712,000.00. Administrator Tracy Byard confirmed that was correct.

Administrator Tracy Byard will look into the price difference between contracting with Clare Gladwin RESD for IT help and hiring a new county employee for the IT department.

Commissioner Karen Lipovsky requested discussion regarding restoring Emergency Management Jerry Becker. Administrator Tracy Byard stated that 35% up to 50% of his wages are reimbursed by the State if he continues full time. Jerry Becker has made cuts to his budget in the amount of \$39,000.00. To reinstate him to full time it would cost \$24,000.00 per year.

Commissioner Leonard Strouse confirmed that if any of these departments are restored it will have to be taken out of the fund balance.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse and seconded by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford to restore the Emergency Management position as a full time position and to enter into an agreement with MSU Extension at a cost of \$58,577.00 per year.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) Commissioners Strouse, Pitchford, Gelios, Lipovsky and Kleinhardt

Nays: (1) Commissioner Majewski

Absent: (1) Commissioner David

**Motion carried**

Administrator Tracy Byard asked for a decision on whether or not the Board is going to enter into a contract with Wexford County for a shared Veteran's Director.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse to enter into the contract with Wexford County for a shared Veteran's Director, and use the funds from Wexford County specifically to restore the part time secretary in the Veteran's Department, pay travel expenses and overtime for the Veteran's Director (with no additional funds from Clare County for secretarial, travel, or overtime), and all being paid towards these additional costs not to exceed the \$20,000.00 per year paid by Wexford County. Motion carried.

#### **Discussion IT Services**

Administrator Tracy Byard asked for discussion regarding hiring IT in house or contracting out. Commissioner Kleinhardt asked the Administrator to get some comparison pricing for the Board.

#### **Airport Runway Contract**

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Jim Gelios, to approve a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for crack repairs of the Clare County Airport runway, with Clare County's match to be \$3,700.00 of \$7,400.00 total cost coming from the airport fund. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner to approve Budget Adjustment #16-146 and #16-147, #16-151 in the amounts of \$208.59, \$9,995.35 and \$2,515.00 respectively. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski to allow the Finance Committee to approve budget adjustment from now until the end of the fiscal year. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program – 2017**

It was moved by Commissioner Samantha Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky to approve the Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program – 2017 Agreement numbers: CSFOC17-18001 and CSPA17-18002, between the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Clare County Friend of the Court and the Clare County Prosecuting Attorney. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve Resolution #16-16, Master Agreement Resolution and Project Authorization Resolution to Master Agreement NO. 2017-0035 authorizing the Chairman for the Clare County Board of Commissioners to execute said agreement for and on behalf of the Clare County Board of Commissioners and that the Director of Clare County Transit Corporation is authorized to enter into and execute on behalf of the Clare County Board of Commissioners all such project Authorizations with the Michigan Department of Transportation for passenger transportation related services for the Agreement period.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (1) Commissioner Donald David

Resolution adopted.

It was suggested by Commissioner Pitchford that discussions begin right now for the next budget year that we look at ballot language for preparation of a possible millage for road patrol and/or a MSU extension millage. Commissioner Jim Gelios agreed that a consensus of the Board is needed to look at a road millage next year. Clerk Mayfield pointed out that next year is an off year and any election you may hold the Board may have to fund the whole thing. Commissioner Kleinhardt suggested concentrating on a road patrol millage.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Kleinhardt asked for discussion on the Court Management Council Agreement Terry Walters, Bill Borushko and Charles Hinman from Gladwin County were present.

Bill Borushko explained that basically what the management council agreement provides is the 2 counties working together and making sure that all jointly funded positions and changes or requests for those positions must go through the Council for approval. In the past a proposal would come into one county and get passed then the second county gets told it was already passed by the first county. This would set a council of a couple people from each board and as well as members from the court, including the Chief Judge, and all requests and changes would come before the council for a decision. Last year there were two positions combined in Friend of the Court and there were two salaries that were just combined into one lump sum and that is not how this should have been combined. This agreement would only be for positions that are jointly funded. It was moved by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Dale Majewski to enter into this Court Management Council Agreement with Gladwin County. Motion carried.

Commissioner Samantha Pitchford and Commissioner Dale Majewski were assigned to serve on the council. Initially, a meeting was set for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in Clare County with Clare County to take meeting notes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE**

Meeting adjourned 11:05 a.m.

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Pamela Mayfield, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
Jack Kleinhardt, Chairman  
Clare County Board of Commissioners