

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625
September 15, 2016

9-21-16
**Unapproved Minutes
Page One**

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,

Absent: Commissioner District 7: Jim Gelios

Others Present, Signing In:

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.

Remove: Discussion with Under Sheriff Miedzianowski

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Non

2016 BUDGET APPEALS & DISCUSSION

Clerk/Register Pamela appealed to the Board to be allowed to hire to fill the vacancy created when a full time employee resigned. At the very least she tried to convince the Board that not less than a part-time employee was needed. She provided a history of savings over the years for not having a chief deputy that resulted in a saving over the years to almost \$400,000.00 and asked that the decision to cut the position earlier be reconsidered. It was discussed that a part-time employee hired would need to work under 30 hours per week and not more than 10, 7.5 hour workdays in a month. Funding of the position was discussed with Clerk Mayfield indicating that partial funding, \$10,000.00 be from the Concealed Pistol License Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to allow the Clerk's Office to hire a part-time employee with discussing regarding partial funding. Motion carried with two nays being Commissioner Majewski and Pitchford.

Don Kolander, Director of Parks and Recreation came before the Board to appeal the elimination of the Parks and Recreation program. He presented an amended budget that he had cut 33% from, well over the requested for cuts sent to other departments. His new proposed included a \$5,000.00 reduction in his own salary. He reminded the Board that the program builds our local economy through tourism. Additionally, the Friends of the Parks was organized to manage fundraising to support the program. They have also created a grant program through Friends of the Parks to build recreational facilities around the county. If Parks and Recreation were to be eliminated, Friends of the Parks would be gone as a result.

It was moved by Commissioner Donald David, seconded by Commissioner Leonard Strouse, to fund the Parks and Recreation Department for FY 2017, with the a new budget of \$13,800.00, as presented. Motion carried with two nays being Commissioners Pitchford and Majewski.

Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski came before the Board to discuss the loss of nine Department of Corrections (DOC) inmates. He indicated that this would allow the filling of the vacancies with Federal Inmates. By doing this, he would generate twice the money that was received for DOC inmates. Miedzianowski stated this could result in a \$500,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 increase in revenue for the county.

Administrator Tracy Byard discussed the need for funding for a new plow truck. Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski suggested they look into leasing a truck rather than purchase. Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger presented a factual piece of information relevant to loans and leases that impacts debt ratio and how this then impacts the percentage rate on borrowed money.

Recess: 9:59 a.m.

Reconvened: 10:12 a.m.

2016 BUDGET APPEALS & DISCUSSION-continue

Kathy Methner, speaking on behalf of Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), came before the Board and presented an alternate proposal seeking a reduced budget rather than total elimination of the funding for MMDC. She spoke to the Board about the importance of this organization to the county and cited an improving economic climate and a return on investments back into the communities. She then suggested a middle-ground solution for funding. Clare County currently matches Isabella County in the amount of \$22,500.00 each per year. The City of Harrison and City of Clare equally contribute \$12,500.00 per year. Ms. Methner suggested that Clare County contribute the same amount as the cities, representing a \$10,000.00 savings for the county. Chairperson Jack Kleinhardt thanked Ms. Methner for her presentation. NO action was taken on the appeal.

Lori Ware, Director of Community Development appeared and requested a need for \$130,000.00 to be included in Budget for FY 2017 for building and maintenance.

County Administrator Tracy Byard discussed recovery court and a request from an employee to receive MERS and health insurance benefits. She also talked about the need for new desks for District Court, amounting to \$4,000.00 and that this had already been included in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Dale Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Karen Lipovsky, to approve the contract presented for technology services with the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 11:46 a.m.

Pamela Mayfield, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Jack Kleinhardt, Chairman
Clare County Board of Commissioners