

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

John 5-17-17
**Unapproved Minutes
April 19, 2017**

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: Sandra Bristol, District 6: Karen Lipovsky, District 7: Jim Gelios

Absent: None

Others Present, Signing In: Ken Hoyt, Marty Johnson, Shari Spoelman, Honorable Roy Mienk, Honorable Tom Evans, Glenna Bradbury.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Strouse, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse, to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Marty Johnson spoke about the Drug symposium "Drugs in the Community" where he learned about the narcotics (opioid and heroin) epidemic in Clare and Gladwin Counties. About 90% of people that use heroin start out using opioids. He learned there were a lot of empty seats because a lot of people didn't show up, people that should be interested such as parents, grandparents, community activists, politicians, health care providers, patients that push for pills, and pharmaceutical companies. Narcotic addiction is not a moral failing or a sin, it's a disease and should be treated as such. This affects people from all walks of life.

Mr. Johnson commended Judge Farrell for his work with this program and Recovery Court along with the young people that spoke out about their addictions. This is something we all should be involved in trying to stop, as leaders in the communities, and all tax payers alike. He hopes next time there is a meeting like this that more people will come out and get involved.

Commissioner Bristol asked if they put together a group at the meeting, or a plan for the change to come about. Undersheriff Miedzianowski answered that it is ran through the Drug Recovery Court and Clare County Community Collaborative Association.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Pete Preston of Preston Community Services, who has a contract with Clare County to provide Equalization Services, Scott Cunningham, Equalization Director and Tina Moore, Deputy Equalization Director, presented the county assessments (4024 Plan) to the Board of Commissioners for their approval and signature by the Board Chair and County Clerk.

Mr. Preston reported a 1.46% increase in assessed value and that does include the factoring for Arthur Township. The taxable value is not set yet, but they are looking at approximately 1.3% increase, which is a \$13,237,081.00 increase in taxable value over last year, and looks like approximately \$60,000.00 increased revenue for the county over last year. This means that people were building and property was selling. Commissioner Kleinhardt commented that this is the first increase there has been in about 9 years.

Chairperson Lipovsky asked if there was anyone representing a township or city present that would object to the Equalization. Hayes Township Treasurer, Maye Tessner-Rood asked if the townships received the reports in a timely fashion to review. Mr. Preston stated they did.

LS
April 19, 2017

Moved by Commissioner Bristol and Seconded by Commissioner Strouse to accept the equalized value recommendation presented by the County Equalization Director of \$1,210,566,001.00 for Clare County. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Commissioner Strouse thanked all three parties for stepping into a tough situation and making it better. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Tracy Byard reported on the Easter Egg Hunt at the Airport, they dropped 3,000 filled eggs for the children and the event was a success. She also provided the Board Members with a packet of legislative information from MAC, and reminded the Board it is budget time again then requested whether the Board wanted her to send the board packets out as usual, or if the Board wanted to provide the department heads with a figure of what their budgets will be, and let them know that is the amount they will have to work with. Chairperson Lipovsky requested that everyone present their ideas to Tracy and the Finance Committee will make a decision of which way to go. Commissioner Bristol stated she would like to first attend the Department Head Meeting on April 28, 2017.

Ruanne Hicks, Animal Control Director gave a report of the past year of 977 road complaints, handled 759 animals at the shelter, 102 bite reports, which involves 2 trips out to visit the animal, they won the most improved medium sized shelter for last year based on what they did at the shelter, not on the building itself. They had an 89% adoption rate and in 2012 they had a 50% adoption rate, which means they euthanized half of the animals in 2012. They hope to reach over 90% adoption rate this year. In 2016 & 2017 they received \$22,800.00 in donations. Between herself and Lori Ware they received \$39,000.00 in grants in the last 2 years, spayed and neutered 106 animals before they left the shelter by using some of the grant money, they have a new program where a vet comes in once a month and spays and neuters community cats, they have spayed and neutered 360 cates for far.

Director Hicks would like to increase the adoption rates from the current \$15.00 to \$30.00. The animals will be spayed or neutered and have all its vaccinations for that \$30.00. Moved by Commissioner Strouse and Seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Animal Shelter adoption fee increase to \$30.00. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Shari Spoelman introduced Corabeth Rowely, Program associate, provides nutrition education, Teagen LeFere's Home Buyer Education and Foreclosure Prevention, Michelle Neff, Extension educator, and Alex Shunk 4H coordinator, and then spoke about many of the things MSUE provides for the community. Ms. Spoelman then provided the Board of Commissioners with the MSUE - annual report. Ms. Spoelman spoke about developing youth in our communities, growing true leaders, growing true leaders, developing good communication skills, providing community service projects for youth, parliamentary procedure workshops, building communication skills for a lifetime, and fun recreational and educational activities along with many other opportunities. Ms. Spoelman spoke about Teegan LaFier's Home Buyer Education and Foreclosure Prevention and how important it is to our community with 12 households having received home ownership education, 25 received money management or budgeting, and worked with 38 households with foreclosure prevention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Justice Committee

Broadband Agreement:

Moved by Commissioner Strouse and Seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve the Intergovernmental Broadband Agreement with Winterfield Township. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

EAG Basic Plan:

Moved by Commissioner Gelios and Seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Clare County Emergency Action Guidelines 2017. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Jury Board Appointment:

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt and Seconded by Commissioner Bristol to appoint Therese Haley to the Jury Board with the term to expire April 30, 2023. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Corrections Officer:

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford and Seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the replace a vacant full time Corrections Officer position in June at entry level pay with already existing budget funds. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Undersheriff Miedzianowski explained that there would be a \$16,000.00 because the employee retiring was topped out on pay scale and the new employee would be starting at the entry level of the pay scale. There was further discussion regarding staffing levels and federal prisoner income. Motion carried.

Sell Old Van:

Moved by Commissioner Bristol and Seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the sale of a 2005 Dodge Caravan Mini Van with other vehicles up for bid. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued
Justice Committee - continued

Jm
April 19, 2017

Commissioner Bristol asked where this van came from and if it was a transport van. Administrator Byard stated that it is the juvenile probate van and it is on its last leg. Hearing no other discussion motion carried.

Purchase of New UPS, 911:

Commissioner Majewski asked for explanation before making the motion. Undersheriff Miedzianowski referred to Jim Shuster, IT Director and he stated that UPS is uninterrupted power supply. It is big battery packs that run the entire 911 center. If the current system fails the 911 center could be down for 24 hours or more before an election can get there to bypass the system.

Moved by Commissioner Majewski and Seconded by Commissioner Bristol to allow Central Dispatch to put out a Request for Proposal for the replacement of their UPS and purchase from existing funds in the 911 new equipment line. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Hearing none motion carried.

Recess: 10:13 a.m.

Back in Session: 10:20 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION - continued

Chief Judge Joshua M. Farrell explained that he and the other Judges, Judge Evans, Judge Mienk, and Judge Klaus, have been anticipating a change with their employee structure in both Gladwin and Clare Counties and there were things that would need to be addressed. There were some proposals to modify the salary of the incoming individuals and try, and assist the courts to provide better assistance with our court staff and other agencies they interact with. Mr. Steven Warpell was hired to replace the Gladwin County Magistrate Michael Greer at the beginning of this year. Judge Farrell then appointed Darrell Schlese and Dr. Moore as Co-Court Administrators. Once Mr. Schlese retires and he is replaced by Nick Madaj, Judge Farrell proposes to appoint Dr. Moore as Court Administrator over both counties and appoint Mr. Warpell and Mr. Madaj to serve as Co-Deputy Court Administrators that way they would all three work together to assist employee issues and interdepartmental relationships. Then we would have a clear structure of Mr. Warpell and Mr. Madaj reporting back to Dr. Moore, who would then report all administrative activity back to the four Judges at their regular meetings. This has been a very contentious disagreement between the Judges. The proposal that came before the Board of Commissioners, that Judge Farrell was not aware of as Chief Judge, was structured that Mr. Madaj's starting salary would be \$60,000.00 with a proposed increase after one year to \$75,000.00. After a large amount of research Judge Farrell proposed a starting salary for Mr. Madaj and Mr. Warpell of \$50,000.00 per year each and Dr. Moore at \$70,000.00 per year. There would then be a performance increases.

Judge Mienk pointed out that they budgeted for and proposed Mr. Madaj's salary of \$60,000.00 per year along with step increases that were approved by this board. Judge Mink believes this starting wage of \$50,000.00 is way below what the wage study showed.

Judge Evans confirmed that on June 1, 2016 the Circuit Court, the Family Division of Circuit Court and the Probate Court submitted a proposed budget, which included the salary of Mr. Schlese's replacement in the amount of \$60,000.00, you, the Board of Commissioners, reviewed and approved that budget. Mr. Madaj accepted this position at that approved wage. Judge Farrell proposed, and you approved a budget paying Dr. Moore \$64,500.00 per year and Mr. Warpell \$44,000.00 per year. Now Judge Farrell stands before you asking you to give Mr. Warpell (13.6%) a raise to \$50,000.00 and Dr. Moore \$70,000.00 (almost 10%) raise, while decreasing Mr. Madaj's wage by \$10,000.00, these already agreed upon wages. He joins in Judge Farrell's request to give a raise to Mr. Warpell and Dr. Moore, but he does not support the cut in Mr. Madaj's wage.

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt and Seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve Judge Farrell's proposal for restructure of the salaries. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Commissioner Strouse asked Judge Farrell if he believes the attorneys hired at the lower wage will stay on for any amount of time. Judge Farrell indicated that he cannot state what either attorney will do, but believes both attorneys are vesting in this community. Hearing no other discussion, motion carried with one opposed.

Commissioner Kleinhardt asked Judge Farrell to comment on the indigent plan that has to be put together. Judge Farrell replied that there is a plan to improve the efficiency of the indigent defense (court appointed defense). This is being mandated by the State that the initial standards that are going to have to be complied with are that they will have to have at least 2 private meeting rooms, all attorneys will have to a minimum of 12 continuing education credits per year, there will have to have an attorney present at all arraignments, all attorneys will be required to meet with their client within 3 business days of their appointment.

Health and Human Services Committee None

Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

Moved by Commissioner Strouse and Seconded by Commissioner Majewski to adopt Ordinance #19-B, Repealing Clare County Ordinances #19 and #19-A. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Commissioner Strouse asked if this was eliminating the Planning Commission. Administrator Byard said it was. Hearing no other discussion motion carried.

Finance and Administration Committee

Statutory Finance Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Gelios and seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of March 14, 2017 in the amount of \$92,696.07, March 28, 2017 in the amount of \$47,706.95 and April 11, 2017 in the amount of \$142,806.76. Motion carried.

Monthly Expenditures

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt and seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of March 2017 in the amount of \$2,569,159.21 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$824,474.75. Motion carried.

Budget Adjustments

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford and Seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Budget Adjustment #17-84, #17-85, #17-88, and #17-91 in the amount of \$91.00, \$ 460,393.0,0 \$61,054.00, and \$12,296.84 to be distributed. Motion carried.

New Voting Equipment

Clerk Lori Martin asked to remove the motion at this time. Chairperson Lipovsky agreed and asked for a reason. Clerk Martin indicated she has not made her final decision on the selection of voting equipment at this time. Chairperson Lipovsky removed the motion. Commissioner Kleinhardt asked why we decided to go with the vendor we are. Clerk Martin indicated that no decision has been made yet, which is the reason for removing the motion for approval to enter into a grant agreement with the state. Commissioner Kleinhardt agreed to let Clerk Martin save her update on the situation for the Clerk's Report section of the meeting.

Replacement Employee

Moved by Commissioner Bristol and Seconded by Commissioner Majewski to allow the Treasurer to hire two replacement full time employees, with funds for wages to come from the 518 fund. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Commissioner Majewski asked why two, did they both quit, and Administrator Byard confirmed they both quit. Commissioner Majewski also asked if these positions would be posted for internal employees and Administrator Byard confirmed they do post internally. Hearing no other discussion motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Majewski and Seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve Resolution 17-13 to allow the Clare County Veterans Affairs to repay the \$160,000.00 loan received from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Loan Fund as per approval by the Board of Commissioners on May 6, 2015 and per the Updated pro forma. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Chairperson Lipovsky asked if this was a revision. Administrator Byard explained that the resolution approved last year for the same thing was a pinch off so they have to do a deficit elimination plan. Commissioner Strouse asked if anything had been paid back since last year or is it still the same amount and they each reviewed their board packet and discovered their own answers. Hearing no other discussion a roll call was asked for.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Resolution adopted

Moved by Commissioner Strouse and Seconded by Commissioner Gelios to allow the replacement of the Clerks T1 15 Rated 1814 cash safe in the amount of \$2,282.00 with funds to come from contingency. Chairperson Lipovsky asked for discussion. Commissioner Majewski asked why the funds are coming from contingency. Clerk Martin indicated that the prior Clerk did not build into her budget for unexpected repairs and she does not have the funds in her budget. Hearing no further discussion motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Lori Ware gave a report of the 9 different grants she has been working on throughout the county. She then invited the Board of Commissioners to walk through and view the progress of the adult day care facility. Chairperson Lipovsky relayed a message from Summerfield Township Supervisor, Carrie Harris, that she could use some help with zoning. Director Ware acknowledged that she had already been asked and agreed to help.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Lori Martin reported she has been attending many meetings, seminars, and conferences and she is learning a lot and making many good contacts. Clerk Martin commented on the Drug Symposium that she attended the evening before and how informative it was. Clerk Martin then reported about the many hours her and her staff has spent researching, investigating and negotiating in order to select a vendor to supply Clare County with their new election equipment.

TREASURER'S REPORT - None

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chairperson Lipovsky requested any Board Member that plans on attending the Department Head meeting on April 28, 2017 notify Administrator Byard so the meeting can be posted if 4 or more Members attend. Senator Darwin Booher was at a meeting in Grayling and reported the last year the DNR Trust Fund had \$560,000,000.00 set aside for 72 projects and only 2 got done. Other counties up north are having problems with their budget.

VICE CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Vice Chairperson Kleinhardt reported that Hatton Township lost their long time Treasurer, it was a very emotional evening as they appointed their new Treasurer. He also spoke about a newspaper article he read regarding the opioid epidemic, and he believes the medical profession needs to do more to control the prescriptions being written. An injury is where a large number of addictions start in order to manage the pain they are prescribed pain medications.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Majewski reported Cops and Doughnuts is opening a new store in Mt. Pleasant. He then commented on Equalizations earlier report on the increase of taxes. He loves to see more revenue for the county, but hates seeing the increase of taxes for the citizens. He asked if anyone realizes that Clare County has the highest rate for children living in poverty at 38%, and wishes there was something they could do to help. Commissioner Majewski has attended all his meetings. The loss of the personal property tax was a huge hit on a lot of the townships.

Commissioner Bristol has been attending her township meetings and committees. She attended the Parks and Recreation meeting and she discussed a handicap bench that they are working on with a roll out mat that allows wheelchairs to get down by the water at Wilson State Park then the bench will allow them to actually get into the water with their friends and families. Parks and Recreation is also looking for a dark space for people that want to watch the sky/stars. Commissioner Bristol then reported that Representative Wentworth was at the MTA (Michigan Township Association) and he gave a report that MDOT has been padding their budget with an extra 190 employee positions that were never filled, and that those funds were cut out of their budget this year.

Commissioner Pitchford has been attending her meetings. The Village of Farwell Board is having problems resulting in the resignation of one board member.

Commissioner Strouse has been attending his meetings. He also spoke about the widespread drug problem.

Commissioner Gelios has been attending his meetings. The City of Harrison City Market is coming along. Hayes Township was pleased all 3 commissioners attended their meeting this month. They awarded their trash pickup contract to Waste Management, and are having a big problem with blight. Consumers Energy was at the MTA meeting and they are installing new smart meters on all homes.

Administrator Byard reported that at the MMDC (Middle Michigan Development Corporation) Breakfast with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan he talked about people being double charged for insurance both through their health insurance and car insurance and how he is trying to push for Michigan to get rid of no fault car insurance.

UNFINISHED BUSINES

None

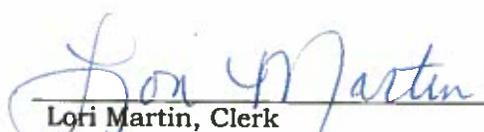
NEW BUSINESS

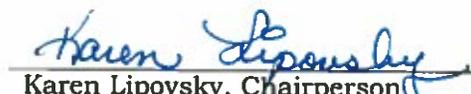
None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Glenna Bradbury, Surrey Township Clerk, was there representing the Clerks that were in favor of the ES&S election equipment and was interested to hear what Clerk Martin had to say about the equipment. Further she was glad to hear Clerk Martin tabled her decision for now.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.


Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners


Karen Lipovsky, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners