

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

**Harrison, Michigan 48625**

*Lu* 11-14-17  
~~Unapproved Minutes~~  
October 18, 2017

**Meeting was called to Order at 9:01 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:** Jerome E. Burger, Robert & Vickie Buckley, Lisa Ashley, Al Demarest

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse, to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Bristol, to approve the Minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol, to approve the Closed Session Minutes of the September 20, 2017, and September 27, 2017 meetings. Motion carried.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carl Parks, Clare County Drain Commissioner held a meeting at the Clare Library referencing the Little Tobacco Drain/Flood Zone. He reported that he has applied for a FEMA Grant that will allow them to purchase property from area businesses and homeowners, of those who choose to sell, to get them out of the flood zone. The reason for this is if they stay in the flood zone and something happens, the county and the drain commissioner would be liable. There was concern how this would affect the tax base in the City of Clare. The property would be turned over to the Drain Commission, which would then be turned over to the City of Clare to build a park, or whatever they choose, other than a structure. They are hoping to start this project by the summer of 2018. This is strictly voluntary on the homeowners' behalf.

**COMMUNICATIONS LIST** None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Tracy Byard has been working on the Compliance Plan with the State for indigent defense. It will be on the next agenda. She met with Karen Moore in Gladwin County and the plan is due November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Michelle Ambrozaitis, Clare County Prosecuting Attorney and Holly Nash, Victim Advocate of the Northern Michigan Mobile Child Advocacy Center, introduced their new employee, "Trigger" a canine advocate. Trigger will be available to meet and spend time with children of abuse and help make their experience somewhat better.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION CON'T**

Rihan Issa and Magdalena Lopez from Women's Aid Service provided pamphlets to be distributed throughout Clare County promoting Domestic Violence Awareness. They presented statistics of how many individuals they helped during Fiscal Year 2017, being 70 Clients, 639 Sessions, and 525 hours. Jim Gelios has been on the Women's Aid Committee for several years, and he feels it is time to step down and allow Sandra Bristol to be appointed at the beginning of the year.

Margaret McAvoy, Isabella County Administrator/Controller, Jim Horton, Isabella County Commissioner, David Ling, Isabella County Commissioner and Steve Hall, Director of the Central Michigan District Health Department appeared to request that the Clare County Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution to amend the CMDHD Sanitary Code by adding a new article VIII to approve regulations for the inspection of onsite sewage disposal systems and private water supply systems at the time of property transfer. They have had to appear in front of each County Board in their District, to request approval to amend the Resolution, which only affects Isabella County, not Clare County. They spoke of the increasing levels of Ecoli in the rivers, streams and lakes in Isabella County, due to the improper function of septic systems. This Resolution would enforce homeowners to have their septic systems inspected prior to the transfer of ownership.

Steve Strussman, met with a local Real Estate Board regarding this ordinance. He feels that adopting this ordinance could cause huge problems; that not enough research has been done. He thanked the Board for taking their time and requested they talk to their townships before making a decision to adopt such a resolution in Clare County.

It was moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Resolution #17-26 to amend the Central Michigan District Health Department Sanitary Code.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (5) being Commissioners Pitchford, Bristol, Majewski, Kleinhardt, and Lipovsky.

Nays: (2) being Commissioners Strouse and Gelios.

Absent: (0)

Resolution adopted

Al Demerest, a concerned taxpayer, spoke of the rehabilitation of the Little Tobacco Drain in Clare and Isabella Counties. He attended a meeting in July of 2015 that decided if the project to purchase the property of owner's in the Flood Zone would move forward or not. It was voted at that time to move forward with the project. He is very concerned about the funding of this project and does not believe that FEMA has available monies with all the recent hurricanes and storms in our Southern States. He stated there was a meeting held last week to discuss the purchase of these properties. Out of the 54 homeowners that were invited to attend, 11 of those appeared and elected to participate in the process to sell their property. He asked the Board of Commissioners to give great consideration before approving this project to proceed.

**Recess: 10:50 a.m.**

**Back in Session: 11:00 a.m.**

Pete Preston, Equalization Director, and Tina Moore, Deputy Equalization Director, appeared before the Board stating it was that time of year where the Board of Commissioners establish the levy of taxes for all of the units. This process has to do with the 4029 form, where each unit, including the Intermediate School District provide the Equalization Department with the mileage rates they intend to levy in the winter taxes.

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to accept the Apportionment Report, as presented, and authorize the Equalization Director to spread the tax roll. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Justice Committee**

Moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Gelios to approve the County Child Care Budget Summary (DHS-2091). Motion carried

Moved by Commissioner Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Drug Court Grant Program FY 2018 Contract. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve a wage increase of \$1.50 per hour for the Recovery Court Coordinator, Lisa Ashley. This position is funded by Grants. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve Recovery Court to hire intern, Lisa Harrington, as a part-time employee, 18 hours per week @ \$15.00 per hour, retroactive to October 1, 2017. Motion carried.

**B. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee**

Moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Kleinhardt to approve the Agreement for Extension Services provided by MSU to Clare County Annual Work Plan FY 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Gelios to reappoint the following members to the DPW Board, Lester Vida, Brian Tomaski, Alan Jessup, Russ Hamilton and Sam Russell with terms to expire September 30, 2020. Motion carried.

The motion to approve the Clare County Civil Infraction Ordinance has been tabled until the next Board of Commissioners Meeting. The County ordinance violations bureau is empowered to accept admissions of responsibility for County civil infractions for which County ordinance violation notices have been issued and served by authorized officials, and to collect and retain civil fines for such admissions as prescribed in this article.

**C. Finance and Administration Committee**

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol and seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of September 27, 2017 and October 10, 2017 in the amount of \$ 42,856.36 and \$ 287,855.74. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol and seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of September 2017 in the amount of \$ 2,727,731.53 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$ 760,586.08. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to appoint the following members to the Board of Canvassers, Louis Adams, Democrat and Carron Neville, Republican with terms to expire December 31, 2021. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve an updated contract with the Medical Examiner's Office. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse and seconded by Commissioner Gelios to approve the Clerk's office to replace the Chief Deputy Register of Deeds. Motion carried.

**CLERK/REGISTER OF DEED'S REPORT**

Clerk/Register of Deeds Lori Martin was not able to attend, Chief Deputy, Joy Bringold recorded the minutes on her behalf.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzing reported that the 2018 Dog Licenses are on sale. The second land auction was set to end October 9<sup>th</sup>, but has been extended for all counties until October 30<sup>th</sup>. BS&A, the county's accounting software vendor will be here the week of the October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The project is expected to be completed by January 2018. She is also in the process of beginning audits.

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to go into CLOSED SESSION for Attorney-Client Privilege.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION BEGINS: at 11:59 a.m.**

**CLOSED SESSION ENDS: at 12:21 p.m.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:22 p.m.**

**CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Chairperson Lipovsky attended her normal meetings as well as the MTA. She asked the Board individually if they felt it was necessary to hold another Board Meeting each month or if one is still sufficient. The Board unanimously responded that they felt one (1) Board Meeting per month is sufficient, unless they find it necessary to hold a Special Board Meeting.

**VICE CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Kleinhardt attended his meetings. He noted that he will be in Lansing on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October for a Transportation Meeting in which he plans to address the Mackinaw Island Conference.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT**

Commissioner Bristol attended her normal meetings. She asked the Commissioners if they had an issue with exploding targets on their property. She plans to talk to Representative Jason Wentworth next Monday regarding this issue. Commissioner Bristol also suggested reformatting the agenda to only vote on items that they have been informed of prior to the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Pitchford has been attending her meetings with nothing new to report.

Commissioner Majewski has been attending his meetings with nothing new to report.

Commissioner Gelios attended his normal meetings as well as The Hayes Township Board Meeting. He was impressed at how efficient their meeting was; 17 items on the agenda and the meeting lasted 1 ½ to 2 hours. He said they accomplish this by holding workshops to discuss the issues prior to the Board Meeting. He suggested Clare County do the same.

Commissioner Strouse attended his normal meetings. He is concerned about State Government infringing upon our rights and laws passing that shouldn't be. There was discussion about the CMDHD Sanitary Code regarding the presence of EColi in Isabella County. In order for Clare County to be included, the Board of Commissioners would have to initiate it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Hoyt was asked his thoughts on the discussions, and he replied that he was surprised the Board of Commissioners voted yes to amend the resolution in Isabella County with as limited information as they had. Commissioner Majewski and Commissioner Kleinhardt both reminded Ken that it ONLY affected Isabella County, not Clare County.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was discussion regarding the Personnel Manual, hotel room reimbursement rate. The Board of Commissioners decided to leave the maximum amount of reimbursement at \$150.00 per night. Prior approval needs to be obtained if the room rate exceeds \$150.00.

Renee Haley, Director of Veterans Services, requested the Board of Commissioners to put \$1,500.00 back into her travel budget to attend the Michigan Association of County Veterans Training Conference in Reno, Nevada. This is a (1) one week long training that Ms. Haley feels will be extremely beneficial to her. The conference will take place in June of 2018.

It was moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to allow Renee Haley to travel out of state for a training conference and put up to \$1,500.00 in her budget for travel expense. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

  
Lori Martin, Clerk  
Clare County Board of Commissioners

  
Karen Lipovsky, Chairperson  
Clare County Board of Commissioners