

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

Harrison, Michigan 48625

1-17-18 *JS*
**Unapproved Minutes
December 20, 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: Tim Smith, Jason Vaughan, Joseph Stragea, Marty Johnson, and Don Kolander

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Majewski, to approve the Minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Cassandra Parker, Clare County Legal Advocacy Program for Women's Aid Service introduced herself to the Board. She is working at getting the women's committee started again, and wanted to inform the Board that she is excited to be in Clare County full-time.

Joseph Stragea, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 105, Lake Michigan, addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding his concerns of renewal of their contract. They are a senior meal site for Clare County. Lori Phelps offered to speak about the poor condition of the site and what they need to do to get it cleaned up and make it a presentable site for Clare County. Mrs. Phelps and Mr. Stragea agreed to meet at a later date to discuss the issues she is having with the Lake site in hopes to come to an agreement on cleaning it up.

COMMUNICATIONS LIST

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator, Tracy Byard received a call from the DNR regarding purchasing a piece of property in Lake George adjacent to the boat landing. Their intentions are to move the public access off of Main Street and have the entrance to the DNR easement off of Forest Boulevard. The basis of their request is to have more space for parking and launching boats. The Board of Commissioners decided to go along with what Lincoln Township recommends after their next meeting. Administrator Byard also passed out a copy of the 2017 Budget for the Board to review.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Tim Smith from Smith and Johnson, Attorneys, out of Traverse City, Michigan appeared in front of the Board of Commissioners regarding Michigan's Municipal Opioid Litigation. He is representing several cities in the State of Michigan in a lawsuit against several drug manufacturers and distribution centers, including McKesson Drug Company. After a major investigation against these companies, it was determined that these companies are failing to follow federal guidelines pertaining to the manufacturing and distribution of opioid pain medications. The counties are the municipal entities that are bearing the largest cost in fighting this epidemic. The Board of Commissioners invited Mr. Smith to return to attend the January meeting, to allow them time to research and discuss this litigation so they are able to make an informed decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Justice Committee

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve a \$1,000.00 stipend for Assistant Prosecutor Claire Kaisler, who will be the 24/7 on call attorney from December 22nd through January 6th, 2018.

Roll call vote revealed:

Yeas: (0)

Nays: (7) being Commissioners Kleindardt, Bristol, Majewski, Pitchford, Gelios, Strouse, and Lipovsky

Motion failed.

Moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Gelios to allow the Clerk to hire a temporary employee for the Courts. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Gelios to approve Resolution #17-29, Clare County petitioning the West Michigan Regional Pathology Services Authority Board to amend the Authority Agreement to allow participation in the Authority by the County of Clare as a party to the Agreement. Commissioner Majewski is concerned about the liability to Clare County. After discussion, the Board asked Administrator Byard to contact Attorney Dave Stoker and request, in writing, his recommendation in joining this contract. Motion tabled until the January 17, 2018 meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Homeland Security Grant Program Intergovernmental Agreement between WMSRDC and Clare County. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Sheriff Department/IT to enter into an IGS with the City of Clare to assist the City of Clare in getting cell phones that will be paid by them in reimbursing the county on the county plan. Motion carried.

B. Health and Human Services Committee

Moved by Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Gelios to allow Senior Services to borrow \$100,000.00 maximum for needed renovation on the Harrison Senior Center from the Delinquent Tax Fund, to be paid back with interest. Commissioner Bristol questioned the specific plans and funding of this project. Lori Phelps responded that Treasurer Jenny Beemer Fritzinger offered to fund the project using the Delinquent Tax Fund, the same as when they built the Animal Shelter. Regarding the plans for the project, Lori Phelps introduced our new Building Official, David Lipovsky, who has already sought bids for the project. Motion carried

C. Physical Resources and Economic Development Committee

Moved by Commissioner Majewski, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to appoint Kevin Smith and Martin Johnson to the Parks & Recreation Board, with terms ending December 30, 2020. Motion carried.

D. Finance and Administration Committee

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Strouse to approve the Statutory Finance Committee meeting minutes of November 20, 2017, and December 5, 2017 in the amount of \$48,417.08 and \$50,123.06. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Pitchford, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the expenditures for the month of November 2017 in the amount of \$1,655,153.67 with the General Fund expenditures totaling \$878,617.47. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve Budget Adjustment #18-11, 18-12, 18-13, 18-15, 18-18, 18-21 and 18-22 in the amount of #24,000.00, \$37,074.59, \$10,500.00, \$60,000.00, \$15,000.00, \$7,318.00 and \$11,069.00. Motion carried.

Recess: 10:20 a.m.

Back in Session: 10:31 a.m.

The Board acknowledged the letter to Judge Marcy Klaus regarding monies held in escrow, from Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger. 16-17103-DE

Moved by Commissioner Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Majewski to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting dates as presented with dates consistent with the third Wednesday of every

month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Lipovsky requested the Wednesday, April 18th, 2018 meeting be moved to Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 due to a scheduling conflict. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve the Finance meeting dates as presented with dates consistent with the off week of payroll beginning at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

CLERK/REGISTER OF DEED'S REPORT None

TREASURER'S REPORT None

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chairperson Lipovsky attended all of her meetings. She also visited Grayling and learned about Windfarms. She went to the MTA and has several meeting this afternoon.

VICE CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Commissioner Kleinhardt commented on the earlier discussion regarding the opioid epidemic. He is concerned about the Federal Government not being accountable for the activity of these drug manufacturers and distributors.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Gelios attended a meeting at Hayes Township where he learned that the Township conducted a survey in regards to putting their own police department on the ballot. As of their last meeting, the survey tallied 2 to 1 against doing that. Their contract with the Sheriff's department ended in July.

Commissioner Strouse represented the County on the Shamrock Lake Board. The meeting consisted of himself and 3 other board members. They talked to the majority of the property owners who said they wanted to dredge Shamrock Lake. They took it to the City of Clare Board, whom also approved it. It will be \$12,000.00 per property owner in an assessment on their taxes. They intend to raise \$1,200,000.00 to purchase their own dump trucks, and other equipment to dredge the lake and haul it out to the Clare City Airport.

Commissioner Pitchford also expressed her heartfelt concerns regarding the opioid epidemic and how awful the addiction can be as well as the detoxification process.

Commissioner Bristol attended her meetings including the Road Commission meeting. She has not been able to attend the Community Action meetings because of scheduling conflicts. She is looking for an alternate to attend on her behalf when she is unable to. Commissioner Pitchford volunteered to be the alternate for Commissioner Bristol.

Commissioner Majewski attended all of his meetings and tries to visit the meal sites once every couple months.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Clare County Civil Infraction Ordinance has been tabled awaiting revisions being made by Attorney Dave Stoker.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Lori Martin informed the Board of Commissioners of the staffing issues she is having in Circuit Court. She is currently down one employee who is off on unpaid administrative leave. After meeting with the Circuit Court Judges, she was informed that their case load has increased substantially. She is requesting the Board of Commissioners approve her to hire another full-time court clerk to eliminate the overtime hours and amount of stress on our circuit court clerks.

Moved by Commissioner Strouse, seconded by Commissioner Bristol to approve the Clerk to hire a new full-time court clerk.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Motion carried.

Don Kolander, from the Parks and Recreation Commission appeared in front of the Board of Commissioners to discuss property owned by Friends of Parks. Mr. Kolander stated while making revisions to their by-laws, he noticed that part of their responsibility is to establish property that has to be owned by the County. Approximately 5 years ago, Isabella Bank gave 11 acres to Friends of Parks along the rail trail just west of Farwell. The purpose was to develop a park there, but it is mostly wetlands and the DEQ made it difficult for them to do so. Mr. Kolander is asking if the County is interested in taking over this property to use as a rest stop, with benches and waste receptacles along the rail trail.

Chairperson Lipovsky requested Administrator Byard look into what the liability insurance would be for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Kleinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to go into CLOSED SESSION for Pending Litigation.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

Nays: (0)

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION BEGINS: at 11.48 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION ENDS: at 12:14 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:14 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Bristol and Seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to accept the recommendation of Attorney Field and proceed accordingly. Chairperson Lipovsky did not ask asked for discussion, as it was discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

Prosecutor, Michelle Ambrozaitis approached the Board of Commissioners in regards to their denial of her request for \$1,000.00 stipend for Assistant Prosecutor Claire Kaisler at the meeting this morning. The Board of Commissioners were unaware that she was asking for a Budget Adjustment, using monies from the OWI Forfeiture Fund.

Moved by Commissioner Gelios, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to approve a Budget Adjustment for the Prosecutor's office to cover the \$1,000.00 stipend for Assistant Prosecutor Claire Kaisler, who will be the 24/7 on call attorney from December 22nd through January 6th, 2018.

Roll call vote revealed:

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

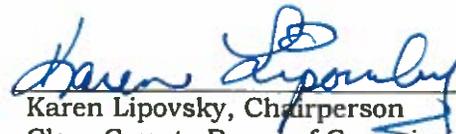
Nays: (2) being Commissioners Strouse and Majewski

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Lori Martin, Clerk
Clare County Board of Commissioners



Karen Lipovsky, Chairperson
Clare County Board of Commissioners