

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Chippewa County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Ted Postula, Don Cooper, Rita Dale, Richard Timmer, Aaron Hopper, Jim Moore and Chairman Earl Kay

Also Present: Tim Dolehanty, Controller, Scott Brand, Evening News, Don and Chris McLean, Mary Piralli, Sue Short, Lowell Ulrich, Probate Judge, Sharon Kennedy, Register of Deeds, and Diane Cork, County Clerk

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve the minutes of December 22, December 29, 2003 and January 5, 2004 as presented by the Clerk. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kay deviated from the agenda by introducing Don Michaels from the U. S. Forestry Service. Mr. Michaels invited Mr. Rudy Johnson to come forward to be presented a U.S. Forestry Honor Award, Region 9, for his dedication in keeping the Hiawatha National Forest clean of illegal dumping materials. Mr. Johnson has organized an annual event (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in May) with volunteers to gather debris from the national forests for the past few years.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Don McLean read the following statement:

“At last month’s HBH meeting in St. Ignace we again listened to a report about how much had been accomplished since HBH was formed and the present CEO took control.

The report again made reference to new buildings, new group homes, how much money has been accumulated and how he had cleaned up the mess left by the previous agency.

These so called accomplishments dealt with things-building and money.

This would be wonderful if HBH was a construction or architectural firm or a bank, but HBH is a mental health agency charged with the treatment and care of the mentally ill.

The mentally is who are the least able, among us, to take care of themselves.

The HBH management and most of the Board members chose to turn away from a number of people who again tried to explain the ways HBH had mishandled situations with the result being the death of a member of their family.

HBH continues to boast of the new buildings, new landscaping, high employee moral with paid college tuition, pad staff recognition luncheons, Ford Expeditions, special bonus payments and pay increases while other governmental agencies have had to cut employee pay.

HBH does this while taking extreme measures to keep the public from coming forward to point out the serious problems within the agency. Problems so serious that people have died.

We believe this is wrong.

We believe that HBH has forgotten it is a public agency which is supposed to be answerable to the public.

We ask you to continue your efforts to bring about change so no other mentally ill persons die because of misdirected policies aimed more at new buildings and employee moral instead of client treatment and care.”

CONTROLLER’S REPORT – Tim Dolehanty

Mr. Dolehanty explained that the names of W. W. LaJoie, Dr. Leif LaLone and Donald Sawruk had been approved for consideration at the December 8, 2003 County Board meeting.

On a roll call vote: Commissioners Jim Moore, Richard Timmer, Chairman Kay, Rita Dale, Aaron Hopper and Ted Postula voted for W. W. LaJoie. Commissioner Cooper voted for Donald Sawruk.

Having received 4 or more votes, W. W. LaJoie was appointed to the War Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for a term to expire December 31, 2007.

It was moved by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Timmer to adopt Resolution #04-01 as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO  
USER FEES ON CANADIAN LOCKS**

**WHEREAS,** the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners has been informed that the federal government of Canada has or seeks to impose a user fee on the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada lock; and

**WHEREAS,** imposition of user fees on the Canadian lock could result in financial harm to the users, with the total annual fee collection a comparatively trivial amount gained by the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site; and

**WHEREAS,** the Canadian Lock and United States locks have historically been toll free, and all of the locks operated in the best interest of both Canadian and United States users; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners believes that the Curtis Act is applicable in this situation, and that it should be used, if necessary, to counter any fees imposed on vessels using the Canadian lock.

**NOW. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners urge Congressman Bart Stupak, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow and Governor Jennifer Granholm to strongly oppose any action of the Canadian government in the levy of fees on the Canadian Lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and further, to resolve the matter in accordance with agreements reached between both countries.

On a roll call vote, Commissioners Ted Postula, Don Cooper, Rita Dale, Richard Timmer, Aaron Hopper, Jim Moore and Chairman Kay vote yes to adopt the above resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Hopper, to adopt Resolution #04-02 as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO NAME BOARD CHAIRMAN  
AS SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION GRANT ADMINISTRATOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth has notified the County of the need to appoint the Board Chairman, by resolution, as the County's Survey and Remonumentation Grant Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to comply with grant requirements and agrees that appointment of the Board Chairman to this function is proper and appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners names Board Chairman Earl Kay as its administrator for the Survey and Remonumentation Grant.

On a roll call vote, Commissioners Ted Postula, Don Cooper, Rita Dale, Richard Timmer, Aaron Hopper, Jim Moore and Chairman Earl Kay voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

This concluded the Controller's Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Personnel – Rita Dale – January 7, 2004

Prosecuting Attorney Brian Pepler recommended appointment of Gail Tinker to the vacant Legal Secretary I position in his office. If approved, Ms. Tinker would transfer from the Equalization Department under provisions of the internal transfer policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Postula, to recommend promotion of Gail Tinker to the vacant Legal Secretary I position in the Prosecuting Attorney's office following the provisions of the internal promotion policy.

On discussion: Commissioner Cooper asked whether or not this position could be left vacant because of the County budget restraints. Prosecutor Pepler felt he definitely needed that position filled.

On a voice vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Cooper voting no.

Register of Deeds/Equalization Director Sharon Kennedy appeared before the Committee to discuss the Data Entry I position to be vacated by Gail Tinker. Ms. Kennedy proposed increasing the hours of the Equalization Department and Register of Deeds staff to 40 hours per week through June 1 as an alternative to filling the Data Entry I position. She stated funds are already budgeted in the Register of Deeds Automation Fund to cover that department, and funds currently budgeted for the Data Entry I position could be utilized to cover additional hours worked by Equalization Department staff. Controller Tim Dolehanty presented cost estimates for the proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to recommend approval of the temporary 40-hour workweek for the Register of Deeds and Equalization Department staffs through June 1, 2004, as presented.

On discussion: Commissioner Cooper asked Controller Dolehanty what the cost savings would be. Mr. Dolehanty stated that the saving would be approximately \$24,000 through June 1.

On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to accept the report of the Personnel Committee as given. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Equalization & Apportionment – Jim Moore – No meeting  
Health & Social Services – Ted Postula – No meeting  
Building, Grounds & Jail – Earl Kay – No meeting  
Transportation – Ted Postula – No meeting  
Legislative & Natural Resources – Richard Timmer – No meeting  
Computer – Don Cooper – No meeting  
Finance, Claims & Accounts – Rita Dale – January 8, 2004

Controller Tim Dolehanty briefly reminded the Committee of the 87% increase imposed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan for health insurance stop loss

coverage in 2004. He introduced Jack Gordon of Best of America to present an alternative to the Blue Cross proposal.

Mr. Gordon discussed how his agency could reduce the cost for the stop loss coverage. He stated it would be necessary for the Board to formally name him as the County's agent before he could access the necessary records to determine the amount of the savings. Mr. Gordon stated the Board could revoke his status as agent at any time and the County would not be billed for his work to determine the amount to be saved.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Moore, to recommend naming Jack Gordon of Best of America as the County's health insurance agent. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Public Defender Elizabeth Church presented a draft independent contractor agreement with Jennifer Miller for defense of state prison inmates.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Timmer, to recommend approval of the independent contractor agreement with Jennifer Miller for defense of state prison inmates. On a voice vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Cooper voting no.

Mr. Dolehanty presented a draft agreement with Marquette General Hospital to provide substance abuse education services for inmates held in the county jail at an annual cost of \$6,240. He stated the County is required to provide this service to those held in the jail.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Hopper, to recommend approval of the agreement with Marquette General Hospital to provide substance abuse education services at an annual cost of \$6,240, as presented.

Commissioner Cooper asked if any other agencies could provide this service and Mr. Dolehanty said he had contacted Sault Tribe and the cost was triple.

On the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to recommend the approval of general fund claims of \$52,783.14 and other fund claims of \$24,630.06, total claims of \$77,413.20, vouchers 35115 through 35194 and A-1 through A-12. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dale, supported by Commissioner Cooper, to accept the report of the Finance, Claims Accounts Committee meeting as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

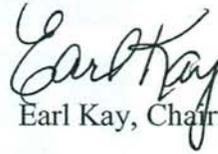
**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Having no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Cooper, supported by Commissioner Timmer to adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously and the Board did adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane S. Cork, Clerk



Earl Kay, Chairman