

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Regular Session
March 14, 2024

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Traynor lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Present: Damon Lieurance, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, James Traynor, and Chairman Jim Martin

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kelly Church, Administrative Assistant Cady Bauers, Clerk Steven Woodgate, and 6 members of the public. 2 members of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Board Meeting – February 15, 2024

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the Clerk's office and send to the appropriate place in a timely manner. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Eavou talked about the State passing legislation that takes away local control of the zoning regarding windmills and solar panels, and there are petitions going around to try to stop it.

Phylis Reed, President of Neebish Island Improvement Association, Lori Miller, and Simon Langner spoke about work to improve relations with EUPTA ferry services and the shortened ferry schedule.

Dave Ulrey spoke about his concerns about a land title not being cleared up.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Kelly Church provided for informational purposes only – *no action items*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2024-06

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

2024-06

Don McLean

Let it Be Known, that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join with the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, and the residents of Chippewa County, to extend a thank you for a job well done to Don McLean.

Don McLean since 2012 has dedicated his services at the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, and will complete his twelve years of service on March 31, 2024.

Don McLean through his untiring efforts and expertise has served the citizens, helping to improve Chippewa County, as a place to live and to do business

Don McLean through his constant and consistent work of serving the County, serviced as the Chippewa County EDC Board Chairman since 2014 for which he exhibited personal integrity and a high level of professionalism.

Don McLean through deep personal commitment, improved Chippewa County not only to his work on behalf of the Economic Development Corporation and the County, but also his family, friends, co-workers, and students he taught.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon his departure from the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, it is altogether fitting and proper that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners should

honor Don McLean, for his years of service and dedication to Chippewa County.

Adopted this 15th day of February 2024

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Jim Martin, Damon Lieurance, Bob Savoie, Scott Shackleton, and Jim Traynor

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information
Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Building, Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information Technology Committee was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Traynor called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Additions/Deletions and Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Agenda Items

Building and Grounds

Courthouse Clock Repairs (Lumichron's Ian Macartney via Zoom)

The Committee reviewed the proposals to repair and replace certain clock parts, so that all four sides are in working order. Option 1 replaces the central-drive motor, dial gears, universal joints, clock hands with an automatic clock and bell controller; including bell striker parts – parts totaling \$16,580.00. The installation time, travel and expenses with owner training will cost \$12,266.00. The Committee also discussed the option of \$4,275.00 which would return the clock dials to original translucent while applied to the inside of existing glass, as well as, complete restoration with glass in-fill or acrylic in-fill, costing additional of \$36,910.00 and \$22,974.00 respectively. All work is completed from inside the bell tower. Discussion and review of the options continued

with questions and answers regarding the tower clock and bell repairs, including getting a quote for painting cast iron.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve Option 1 of the Lumichron Commercial Clocks proposal totaling \$28,846.00 for parts and installation; plus, an additional \$4,275.00 to return the clock dials to original translucent white for a total price of \$33,121.00. The Committee will also review the cast iron painting quote.

Commissioner Shackleton offered an amendment to the motion to add the quote of 11,400 to refinish the numbers on the Courthouse clock. It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to amend the Courthouse clock repairs. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

MMRMA – Builders Risk Insurance \$2,655.00

The Committee reviewed the billing for builder risk insurance for the Sheriff's Storage Building through MMRMA at the cost of \$2,655.00 for the life of the construction.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the builders risk insurance through MMRMA at the cost of \$2,655.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Storage Building – Change Order and Construction Timeline

The Committee reviewed a change order for the Sheriff's Storage Building; to add a 12'W X14'H overhead door on the west side at the cost of \$8,300.00. The Committee also reviewed the timeline for the storage building.

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the 12'W X 14'H overhead door change order, as presented for \$8,300.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Other

Administrator Church shared information from ABM's Michael Decker, a company that performs energy evaluation to help reduce energy and operational expenses. No action was taken, as the buildings have had these completed in the past.

The Committee was also advised that Sheriff Bitnar will be working on counters and cupboards for the meeting room area of the storage building, an expense that has been budgeted through Fund 232.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

No additional comments.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, seconded by Commissioner Leurance, to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Savoie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was available via Zoom.

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment

Correspondence and Informational Items

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Audit Presentation and Approval FYE 9-30-2023 (Anderson Tackman & Co)

Ken Talsma from Anderson, Tackman and Company provided a presentation of the Chippewa County Health Department audit and financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. The audit indicates that the financial statements and reports follow the government auditing standards and is classified as an unmodified opinion, a clean audit. The Health Department did show a loss of \$811,078, leaving the unrestricted fund balance of \$1,072,123.00. There were no findings and Mr. Talsma spoke about the Home Health and Hospice losses a couple of times, regarding a potential letter from the State of Michigan, if there is a loss for a third year in a row and he spoke about the fund balance; which should be between 10%-15% of the following years expenditures.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department Audit FYE 9/30/2023 as presented and to publish and release where necessary. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Annual Write-offs - \$168,038.60

The Committee reviewed the annual write-offs for the Health Department; these write-offs are for services provided through 9/30/2023 (more than 365 days old). The write-off is lower this year due less immunizations. The Committee reviewed these and prior years write-offs; noting that these write-offs are being monitored and assuring these are not the systemic issues that the Health Department previously had.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department write-offs for services provided through 9/30/2023 as follows: Environmental Health \$394.00, Public Health Insight \$9,841.88; SHACC \$5,456.82; Hospice \$35,312.85; Home Health \$116,804.05; and SHACC dental \$229.00 for a total of \$168,038.60. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Office of Emergency Services – 800mhz Pager Project – Title III Funds

Office of Emergency Services Director Greg Postma ask the Committee to review a 800mhz Pager Project utilizing Title III Funds; to help the Townships migrate to the MPSCS 800mhz system which is critical to emergency communications within the County. The Title III funds would be used as follows: \$24,000.00 for pager talk group fee through MPSCS (16 Fire Departments @\$1,500.00 each) and \$77,400.00 for 129 pagers at \$600.00 per pager. The plans for future Title III for 2025 and 2026, 40 pagers and 39 pagers respectfully.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Title III 800mhz Pager project as presented for FY2024; \$24,000.00 for fire department pager talk group (16 Fire Departments at \$1,500/department) and \$77,400.00 to purchase 129 pagers at \$600.00 per pager. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Defender – Whisper Room \$16,121.00 (waive policy)

The Committee reviewed the invoice for the MIDC requested Whisper Room that will be installed into the back of the District Courtroom at a total price of \$16,121.00 which will be paid through the MIDC Grant; the Committee was asked to waive the County purchasing policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the invoice from Whisper Room, Inc, in the amount of \$16,121.00 and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Public Works Agreement with the City of Sault Ste. Marie

The Committee reviewed the updated Public Work Agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Chippewa County Sheriff Office, to provide public work crew through community correction, this Agreement will have an automatic renewal on July 1st for up to five (5) year, unless terminated by either party with a 90-day notice.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the public works agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sheriff's Office. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Rudyard School Resource Officer Program

The Committee reviewed a request from Sheriff Bitnar regarding Rudyard Area Schools having a full-time School Resource Officer, which Rudyard would be will to reimburse the County 10 months of the wages, fringes, including equipment costs and a new vehicle.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize a new full-time Road Deputy position, if needed and approved by Rudyard Area School, to be the School Resource Officer at Rudyard Area Schools, with Rudyard Area Schools reimbursing the County for 10 months of the wages, fringes, and equipment expenses related to the position.

Commissioner Savoie commented this is very valuable and commended Rudyard Schools for coming up with the funding to hire the full time deputy.

On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Sheriff's Storage Building Change Order – sand/gravel - \$33,900.00

The Committee reviewed the change order presented through U.P. Engineers from contractor Arbic Construction, Inc. for additional sand and gravel extensions of 15' to the north, west and east sides of the project; based on the new site plan provided by UPEA on March 4, 2024. A total cost of \$33,900.00

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the sand and gravel change order, as presented for \$33,900.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Police Package Patrol Truck \$51,522.00 from Fund 232 (waive & budget)

The Committee reviewed a request from Sheriff Bitnar to purchase a 2024 Silverado Police Package Truck, which was not budgeted for in FY2024, the Sheriff is trying to work around the delays in delivery of vehicles which the County has gone through, as we are still waiting for delivery of a truck that was approved for purchase in October 2022. We are told delivery will be in the next 4 to 6 weeks. The state bid price from Berger Chevy from Grand Rapids is \$51,522.00; the Sheriff is requesting that the County purchasing policy be waived and that a budget amendment be approve to purchase the vehicle from Fund 232.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize, the purchase of a 2024 Silverado Police Package Truck from Berger Chevy for \$51,522.00; to waive the County's purchasing policy and to authorize a budget amendment for Fund 232 for the purchase. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Approve (2) SUV's bid - \$88,970.00

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the two (2) Dodge Durango Police/Pursuit package SUV's, which are AWD; one timely bid was received from O'Connor's Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in the amount of \$88,970 (\$44,485 per vehicle). A second bid was received late and not opened.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the bid from O'Connor's Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram to purchase two (2) Dodge Durango, Police/Pursuit package SUVs, at the price of \$88,970.00 (\$44,485 per vehicle) as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Control – Animal Protection Millage Language

The Committee reviewed the Animal Protection Millage Proposal, not a renewal, but an increase from .100 mills to .175 mills; which will generate approximately \$230,700 annually, this language was reviewed by legal.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Animal Protection Millage Proposal for the August 2024 election as follows:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTION MILLAGE PROPOSAL

(This proposal, if approved by the voters, will permit the COUNTY to fund the Chippewa County Animal Shelter to be used solely as a facility that does not euthanize for space, and, as such, the funding will be used to provide medical and supplemental care for the health, safety, and well-being of the animals housed and cared for at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter as well as pet adoption assistance, including spaying and neutering, to Chippewa County community members.)

Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN be increased by .175 mill (\$0.175 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six years, being 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030, inclusive to provide operating funds to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter to be used exclusively to allow the facility to not euthanize for space, and to provide medical and supplemental care for the health, safety, and well-being of the animals housed and cared for at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter as well as provide financial assistance to Chippewa County community members, who income qualify, for spay and neuter, and shall the County levy such millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year (2025) an estimated \$230,770?

YES _____

NO _____

On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Nationwide Deferred Compensation Transfer Documents (Authorize)

- **Administrative Services Agreement (County and Health Department)**
- **Transition Kit (County and Health Department)**
- **Fixed Applications (County and Health Department)**
- **Fixed Applications (County and Health Department)**
- **Morgan Stanley – Consulting Agreement**

The Committee the reviewed the required documents to continue the process of moving the County Employee’s to one deferred compensation plan with Nationwide through Morgan Stanley.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize and approved signatures for the Nationwide Deferred Compensation Plan transfer documents for Nationwide and Morgan Stanley, as presented and referred above. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Release RFQ for Copier Machines (Clerk and Public Defender)

The Committee reviewed the RFQ for copiers for the Clerk's Office and the Public Defender.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the request for quotations for two copiers to be released, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – February – County and Health Department

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of February County bills and payroll: general claims \$279,989.31, other fund claims \$1,120,321.96, payroll \$604,645.00, and Health Department claims \$398,003.89 and payroll \$225,308.17 total claims \$2,628,268.33. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

Commissioner Martin spoke about the efforts to fight against the Legislation that is preempting local control for solar and wind developments; and a bipartisan effort to gather signature to restore local control of zoning regulations.

Chairman Comments

Chairman Savoie let the Committee know that a similar HB (5278); which is no longer under consideration; was looking at a similar legislation to eliminate local control.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, for the minutes to be approved, filed, and accepted as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Savoie mentioned that the Commission does not have any regulatory control over EUPTA Transportation regarding the Neebish Island ferry problems. Commissioner Savoie understands the dilemma and it is unfortunate, but he thinks it comes down to funding. Commissioner Lieurance encouraged the residents of Neebish Island to contact their State Representative and Senator because that is where the funding comes from. Commissioner Lieurance also spoke about the wind/solar zoning. The Board passed resolutions supporting the ballot initiative. Commissioner Shackleton stated petitions are needed in this area. Commissioner Traynor spoke about the prison having a SWIFT response team and will assist local departments if needed. He also spoke about the prisons needing workers. Chairman Martin talked about the solar and wind zoning issues.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Lieurance to adjourn, accordingly. The Board adjourned at 5:13 p.m.


Steven Woodgate, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman