

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Special Board Session
January 20, 2021

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Baron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Erik Baron, Scott Shackleton, and Chairman Jim Martin
Present via zoom: Commissioners Ted Postula and Robert Savoie

ALSO, PRESENT: Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Administrator Jim German, Nick Huyck and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.

Present via Zoom: Melissa Schaffer O'Connell, Derek Canute, Amy Hjerstedt, Carmen Fazzari, Jeff Hagen, Taylor Worsham, Suzanne Lieurance, D. Jahn, James Geyer, Karen Senkus, Lana Steinhaus, Marcy Smith, Megan Matyjasik, Cathy Satchell, Joanne Galloway, Bryan Newland, Scott Ellis, State Representative John Damoose, John Petkus, Marlene Murphy, Dane Kuusinen, Kelli Jarvi-Townsend, Melanie Greenfield, Paul Warrick, Allison Youngs, Johnny Fountain, Lisa Young, Marta LaLonde, Rachel Burt, Heidi, and Joshua Adams

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Before calling for public comments, Chairman Martin noted that he hoped that everyone had a chance to look at Resolution 2021-01, further stating that we are not creating a sanctuary city nor promoting everything to be open with no rules.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following voiced their thoughts on the 2021-001 proposed Resolution.

- State Representative John Damoose
- Nick Huyck a representative of the Chippewa County Small Business Owners
- Paul Warrick
- Bryan Newland, Tribal Chairperson for Bay Mills Indian Community
- John Petkus, adult education teacher in Rudyard, MI
- Derek Canute
- Heidi
- Johnny Fountain ~ Trustee DeTour
- Megan Matyjasik

- Amy Hjerstedt
- Kelly Jarvi-Townsend
- Marta LaLonde

Hearing no further public comments, Chairman Martin declared public comments closed at 4:39 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A) State COVID Regulations

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to pass Resolution 2021-01 as presented. A discussion followed before a roll call was taken. Among some of the comments were as follows:

Commissioner Shackleton began by stating that this Resolution is not an open sanctuary county declaration; this is not a manifesto. For the Board to consider a sanctuary county resolution is not being honest with our business people because that's telling them that they can open and are somehow immune to State regulations. He stated, this message is respectful; it's as non-political as possible to say, our restaurants and bars should be able to be open following rules, reduced compacity limits, wearing masks, proper distancing, and being safe.

Commissioner Shackleton also read a letter addressed to Chairman Martin from Mayor Don Gerrie on behalf of the City of Sault Sainte Marie, extending their sincere appreciation for the positive and constructive approach in addressing these issues with the Governor and the State Legislature.

MESSAGE TO THE HON. GOVERNOR WHITMER

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Michigan and of Chippewa County have endured the Covid-19 pandemic for nearly a year, and

WHEREAS, most states have open restaurants and bars including the surrounding states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana all who have higher current daily rates of COVID infection than Michigan, and Michigan is one of only three states in the entire country to have bars and restaurants closed for indoor service in spite of the fact that Michigan has a better 7 Day Average Daily Case Rate than 47 other states. (Source CDC 01/14/2021.), and

WHEREAS, these businesses and the people who work there are a small part of the problem of Spreading COVID, (state statistics show about 5% of spread can be traced to restaurants and bars), yet they alone have been forced closed for several months, and

WHEREAS, the state has placed many burdensome and expensive regulations and restrictions on the operation of these businesses only to shut them down anyway, and

WHEREAS, many restaurants and bars are small businesses who are owned and operated by and employ people in our communities who simply cannot endure the loss of income any longer, and

WHEREAS, we as local government representatives are now hearing from many more people than ever before who are angry and feel that the time to open restaurants and bars for in-house service is long past due,

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Chippewa sends an urgent message to the Governor of State of Michigan; Gretchen Whitmer, that the time is NOW to allow the safe reopening of restaurants and bars. We call on Governor Whitmer to allow these businesses to open Immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the founding of our country and our state, there has always been a functional government of three co-equal branches. The checks and balances are essential as recognized by our Founding Fathers who, in 1787, wrote the greatest document of governance in history: The Constitution of the United States of America. State Representatives and State Senators have been elected from every corner of the state to represent us in state government. They should be involved in decision making of state policies, especially when denials of individual rights are being considered.

And so, we, as the Michigan Supreme Court did, call on the Governor to work with the legislative branch on future restrictions and polices regarding management of the COVID Pandemic.

BE IT CONCLUDED, the Board of Chippewa County, Michigan, does adopt this resolution and that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan House Representative John Damoose, Senator Wayne Schmidt and all Northern Michigan and Michigan Upper Peninsula counties.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Commissioners Baron, Savoie, Shackleton, and Chairman Martin

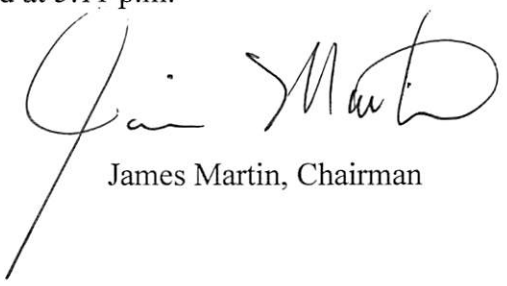
NAYS: Commissioner Postula.

Resolution 2021-01 was declared Adopted.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Catherine G. Maleport, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman