

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
May 13, 2021

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the 91<sup>st</sup> District Courtroom.

Vice-Chairman Robert Savoie called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Postula led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Erik Baron, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, and Chairman Jim Martin - *via Zoom*

ALSO, PRESENT: Marta LaLonde, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Jim German, Administrator and Cathy Maleport, Clerk. *Present via Zoom:* Don McLean, and Taylor Worsham

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the April 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

The Board's consensus was to acknowledge the correspondence received in the clerk's office and forward it as appropriate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *Chairman Martin* appeared before the Board via Zoom and expressed his support for the Resolutions that are before the Board.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Jim German - provided for informational purposes only - *no action items*.

NEW BUSINESS

**(A) Resolution 2021-05 – Special Recognition Deputy Daniel Kinnear**

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt Resolution 2021-05 as follows:

**RESOLUTION 21-05**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
*DANIEL KINNEAR***

**LET IT BE KNOWN**, that it is with great pride that Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County to express their wish for good health and happiness upon his retirement from the Chippewa County Sheriff Office as Road Deputy on July 22, 2021.

***DANIEL KINNEAR*** started with Chippewa County Sheriff Office as Road Officer in October of 1995, and has been serving the residents and visitors of Chippewa County since.

***DANIEL KINNEAR*** has provided outstanding service to Chippewa County and its residents for over twenty-five years, of which he has spent many countless hours providing safety and justice.

***DANIEL KINNEAR*** has served not only the citizens of Chippewa County, but also its visitors in a manner above reproach, and for this, we extend our thanks for a job well done.

***DANIEL KINNEAR*** performed his duties throughout his tenure with professionalism, selflessness, with care and concern for others, and made a favorable impact on the safety and betterment of life in Chippewa County.

***IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE***, therefore, upon his retirement, this document is signed and dedicated to honoring ***DANIEL KINNEAR*** for his professionalism, his services, and his contributions to Chippewa County; the Chippewa County Board of Commissioner's along with the citizens of Chippewa County, offer a gracious thank you for a job well done, and hope that his retirement will be filled with family, friends, and fun.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioner Baron, Postula, Savoie Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

**(B) Resolution 2021-06 (Draft) Supporting Northern Transitions, Inc. – Ground Maintenance**

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adopt Resolution 2021-06 as reflected below. A brief discussion followed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-06  
SUPPORTING NORTHERN TRANSITIONS, INC  
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

**WHEREAS**, Northern Transitions, Inc. has held the Grounds Maintenance contracts for year-round janitorial and grounds maintenance with the Corp of Engineers at the Soo Locks Park for the past twenty-five years, and is the source of great pride to the community for its thousands of visitors, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners would ask that the operational status of continuity would remain the same as years past, with said maintenance contract held between Northern Transitions, Inc and the Corp of Engineers for the Sault Locks Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners recognizes that maintaining the current provisions of the contract; assists Northern Transitions, Inc.'s programming in serving our community. The National Mall in Washington DC is mowed during the day; with the public present, as the Soo Locks Park has been for many years, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; Code of Ordinances does cover noise in Section 18-7 whereas, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to not make loud noise that would annoy or disturb the quiet and comfort of the citizens; by following the ordinance this would only allow for one hour a day to complete the work, and

**WHEREAS**, any change would impede Northern Transitions, Inc.'s ability to provide these services and would disrupt its dedicated workers. Northern Transitions, Inc. supports twenty individuals who face barriers to work, such as special needs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge the Corps of Engineers to maintain operational continuity of the current contract provisions; to help Northern Transitions, Inc. – Grounds Maintenance to maintain its current programming, which serves both staff and community.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in consideration of the public and in order to not place difficult work requirements on the Northern Transitions, Inc. clients who maintain the park; we ask that the contract be largely unchanged from the years past.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

C) **Resolution 2021-07 – Opposing Michigan Secretary of State “By Appointment Only”**

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt Resolution 2021-07 as reflected below. Commissioner Shackleton communicated that this Resolution asks the

Secretary of State to reconsider and reopen the offices to walk-in business. He explained that this is hugely insensitive to the needs and the servicing of our people in Michigan.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07**  
**OPPOSING MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**“BY APPOINTMENT ONLY”**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change, is an improvement in service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of State called walk in service at the branches an “antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked”; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk in to a branch office for service at *their* convenience; and

**WHEREAS**, not only Chippewa County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that these changes defy common sense in serving the public and is a significant reduction in convenient service; and

**WHEREAS**, some industry changes were positive during the coronavirus and made sense; this change does not as constituents need to be able to transfer vehicles, renew and update driver’s licenses expediently, so that they can prove and provide legal ownership and residency; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services do not completely replace the need for walk in service at the branch offices. Many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State door; and

**WHEREAS**, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who just would like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or even months or drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners hereby **STRONGLY** opposes ‘By Appointment Only’ services for the residents not only in Chippewa County but for the entire State of Michigan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2021

*Chairman – Commissioner Savoie*

#### AGENDA ITEMS

##### Administration – City of Sault Ste. Marie Easement Agreement (Court Street)

The Committee was given a brief overview of the Court Street project, including questions and answers regarding the Easement Agreement, sidewalks, trees, and parking. The Easement was reviewed by legal with changes made; the property is AKA 051-144-200-00 and 051-144-200-50.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve and authorize the Easement Agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County regarding Court Street. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

##### Administration – MMRMA – Retention Fund Balance \$15,000.00

The Administration was informed that Chippewa County is currently not meeting the minimum of 50% of our reported reserves for self-insured retention. To be compliant with the Member Financial Responsibilities Policy, we need to submit \$15,000.00 for our Retention Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize an expenditure of \$15,000.00 to MMRMA for the County Retention Fund; as requested. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

##### Administration – Orion Solutions Allow Roth Deferrals (Dan Emmendorfer)

The Committee reviewed documents from the Orion Solutions Deferred Compensation Employee Plan, in which an employee has asked that the Roth Deferral Amendment be adopted. These are all employee funds with no County match or fees.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve and authorize Orion Solutions Roth Deferral Amendment as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

##### Sheriff Department – LexisNexis Traffic Crash Reporting Agreement (no cost/revenue)

The Committee reviewed the Law Enforcement Agreement dated February 18, 2021, between Chippewa County Sheriff's Department and LexisNexis where the CCSO receives a fee for all Reports purchased from the Commerce portal via LexisNexis.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve and authorize the Law Enforcement Agreement between Chippewa County Sheriff's Department and LexisNexis as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department – Tether Officer Administrator Payrate Increase**

The Committee reviewed a letter regarding the Tether office Administrator and requested a pay rate increase; the letter also included information on the revenue generated from the Tether Office programs to pay for the rate increase.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the pay rate increase for the Tether Office Administrator Brad LaCross to **\$15.70 per hour**. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Sheriff's Department – CCTV/Camera Updated Cost \$226,966.29 (MMRMA Grant \$39,500.00**

The Committee on March 4, 2021, passed a motion authorizing waiving the County purchasing policy and approving the CCTC system with SimplexGrinnell for \$217,890.36. Therefore, the correct quote is \$226,966.29, plus the cost of the possibly needed electrical contractor.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to authorize the \$226,966.29 quotation from Johnson Controls (SimplexGrinnell) and to use the American Rescue Plan monies, if possible. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Finance-Claims and Accounts**

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to recommend the approval of April County bills and payroll: general claims \$238,767.48, other fund claims of \$4,310,402.24, payroll of \$579,555.91, and Health Department claims of \$234,671.78 and payroll of \$317,492.18 total claims of \$5,680,889.59. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept the May 6, 2021, Finance Claims and Accounts minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS


Among some of the comments were the following:

*Commissioner Baron* stated, "On the Secretary of State issue, I'm happy that we're looking into that." He also noted that he believes the Board should look into the voting machines to make sure they're working correctly.

*Commissioner Shackleton* shared a News Release he read that stated the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced today that people fully vaccinated against Covid 19 do not need to wear a mask or practice social distancing indoors or outdoors under almost all conditions.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postma, to adjourn. On a voice vote the Board adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Jim Martin, Chairman