

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
June 11, 2021

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Thursday, June 11, 2021, in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Savoie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Administrator Jim German, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, CC Administrator Tina Ojala, and Cathy Maleport, Clerk. *Present via Zoom:* Don McLean, Lana Steinhaus, Missy Robbins, and Doug Mitchell.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to add to the agenda the County Administrator's employment contract under New Business 10d. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the May 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the May 13, 2021, Public Hearing minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the clerk's office and forward as appropriate. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *Don McLean* responded to Commissioner Baron's comments during the Commissioner's remarks at the May meeting concerning the integrity of the election process and voting equipment.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. German announced that after 30 years of public service, it is time for him to retire. He thanked the Commissioners, Staff, and the Citizens of the County for one heck of a ride.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **A) Rescind – Resolution 2020-18 ‘Authorize the Continuation of the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Chippewa’**

Commissioner Shackleton Baron noted that he requested that we look into and consider this, the last discussion we had was that we would coordinate this end to the Declaration of the State of Emergency with the Governor's saying that all mask mandates and restrictions will come off on July 1st and make this an end to the declaration of the State of Michigan with the Governor We vote the Declaration of Emergency.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to revoke the Declaration of Emergency (2020-18) effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The Board's consensus was that they're just not under those conditions anymore that would warrant the Declaration of Emergency. The only thing this may affect will be the ability to participate in meetings via zoom. They will still zoom for constituents.

## **CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS A RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION 2020-18 AS OF JULY 1, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners resolved on November 12, 2020 that it was in the best interest of the Board to Declare a State of Emergency for the County of Chippewa; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, coordinating with the State of Michigan “MI VACC TO NORMAL”, and will rescind Resolution 2020-18 effective July 1, 2021; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with Section 10 of 1976 PA 390, as amended, hereby declare a “state of emergency” over and effective July 1, 2021 Resolution 2020-18 be rescinded.

### **A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS**

**AYES:** Commissioners Erik Baron, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, and Chairman Jim Martin

**NAYS:** None

**THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

NEW BUSINESS

**(A) Letter of Support – Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Inclusion in Federal NPIAS**

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to table this Letter of Support to be voted on at the next regular Board meeting due to lack of information from both sides.

**(B) Resolution 2021-08 – Imposing 2021 Property Tax Levy Pursuant to MCL 211.24e and Notice of Certification of 2021 County Tax Levy.**

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt Resolution 21-08 as follows:

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION # 21-08**

**RESOLUTION IMPOSING 2021 PROPERTY TAX LEVY PURSUANT TO MCL 211.24e, 211.34, 211.34d, 211.36, 211.37, and 211.44a, AND NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF 2021 COUNTY TAX LEVY**

**WHEREAS**, CHIPPEWA County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect its allocated and voted property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require each Michigan County to levy and collect its allocated millage in the summer; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, **6.15 mills**, which is the County allocated millage, after application of the “Headlee” millage reduction fraction shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2021, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all other anticipated and authorized County operating millages, i.e., EMS millage of .4275 mill, Road millage of .9879 mill, Recycling Programs millage of .5000 mill, Senior Programs millage of .7500 mill, and Animal Shelter millage of .1 mill, after application of the “Headlee” and other applicable millage reduction fractions, will be levied and collected on December 1, 2021, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Treasurer of each city, village, and township in CHIPPEWA County is directed to account for and deliver the County tax collections for 2021 in accordance with the provisions of statute pertaining to such collections; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution constitutes certification of the levy of the County millages as above described and as set forth on the attached 2021 TAX RATE REQUEST (L4029); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be delivered to the Treasurer of each City, Village and Township in CHIPPEWA County.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**(C) Resolution 2021-09 Resolution to Accept Investment Policy (Bi-annual review)**

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt Resolution 21-09 as follows;

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT INVESTMENT POLICY #21-09**

**WHEREAS**, Act No. 20 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1943, (MCL 129.91) as amended authorizes County Treasurer's to invest county surplus funds in certain specified investments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to authorize the County Treasurer to invest surplus funds of the County in those investments permitted by MCL 129.91; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has, in accordance with MCL 129.95, adopted an investment Policy, which gives the County Treasurer the authority to invest surplus funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Act No. 40 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1932 (MCL 129.12) as amended requires the Board of Commissioners to provide by resolution for the designation and deposit of public money coming into the possession of the County Treasurer, in one or more financial institutions in the proportion and manner as provided by the resolution,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners authorize the Chippewa County Treasurer to invest surplus funds of the County in accordance with applicable statutes as modified or restricted by the County's Investment Policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chippewa County Treasurer is authorized to deposit all public money coming into his or her possession in any financial institution doing business and having a place of business in the State of Michigan, all of which financial institutions are hereby designated as authorized financial institution of public monies in accordance with MCL 129.12

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**(C) Chippewa County Administrator's Employment Contract – added to the agenda**

Commissioner Shackleton thanked Mr. German for everything he's done over the years, stating that he's been a loyal, solid administrator and tackled many issues. He explained that if action is not taken 90 days in advance, Mr. German's contract would automatically be renewed for three years, which does not make sense due to him retiring at the end of August.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, that the Administrator's contract does not be renewed.

The Board individually congratulated Mr. German and stated they appreciated his years of service.

On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

June 10, 2021

*Chairman – Commissioner Savoie*

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Health Department – FYE 2020 Audit – Dough Welton, Anderson, Tackman & Co.**

The Committee was updated on the Chippewa County Health Department FYE 9/30/2020 Audit, with an overall net increase of **\$212,872.00**. The Audit opinion is Unmodified, which is the highest opinion agencies can receive. The Committee was reminded that since the Health Department is fee-based and the bottom line can change rapidly.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept and approve the FYE 9/30/2020 Audit of the Chippewa County Health Department and to authorize its distribution. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Health Department – Bid Summary Car Sale**

The Committee reviewed the summary for the sale of a 2012 Dodge journey, as is.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the sale of the 2012 Dodge Journey, as is, to Peter Merchand at the bid price of **\$1,500.00**. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Administration – Employees STD-LTD-Life-Voluntary Life Insurance**

The Committee reviewed documents breaking down the employer-paid short-term, long-term, and life insurance options and the employee paid voluntary life insurance provided y 44 North. The administration did telephone conferences with the Lincoln and the Standard for questions and overviews.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the quote provided by Lincoln National Life Insurance, with an approximate savings of **\$4,668 per year**. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Treasurer – Annual Report of Balance in Land Sale Proceeds Accounts**

The Committee reviewed the Annual Report of Balance in Land Sale Proceeds Accounts provided by County Treasurer Carmen Fazzari, following MCL 211.78m (8)(h). The Committee was reminded of the continued statewide legal proceedings, which could change the outcome based on the Court Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to acknowledge receipt of the Annual Report of Balance in Land Sale Proceeds Accounts, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Circuit Court – Fiber Optic Upgrades - \$10,959.16 waive the policy.**

The Committee was updated on a necessary fiber-optic upgrade in the Courts. The existing fiber has become inadequate to support new networking hardware and the increased use and dependability of telepresence services to conduct court-related functions. This upgrade is necessary to prevent any court proceeding from being negated by equipment failure. This upgrade was going to be proposed for FY2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to authorize the **\$10,959.16** quotation from Custom Technology to upgrade the fiber optic and to waive the County's purchasing policy due to the urgency of the project. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Central Dispatch/OES – 2020-2021 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Program Grant Agreement & required documentation.**

The Committee reviewed the request to approve and authorize the documents and materials for the FY2020-2021 HMEP Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant, including the grant agreement, subrecipient risk assessment certification, certifications regarding lobbying, standard assurances, audit certification (EMD-053), and request for taxpayer ID.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve and accept the FY2020-2021 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) and to authorize the necessary documents. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Central Dispatch/OES – Personnel request**

The Committee reviewed a request from Director Michelle Robbins regarding staffing at Central Dispatch due to turnover and upcoming retirements and losing potential employees when the starting wage is discussed. This, along with mandated overtime and the stress of the work the dispatchers do, also has two other employees actively seeking other employment. She requested that she bring her two current part-time staff to full-time immediately to cover a shift and vacation schedules. She is also asking that part-time dispatchers start at the 79-hour scale rate of \$15.70 and then go to \$16.00 per hour upon completion of training, which is .01 cent less than the starting union pay.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the request as presented, moving two current part-time dispatchers to full-time immediately and to increase the

starting rate of pay to \$15.70 for part-time dispatchers and then increasing them to \$16.00 per hour upon completion of training. 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 May County bills and payroll; general claims of \$348,968.80, other fund claims of \$852,119.40, payroll of \$574,344.04, and Health Department claims of \$241,989.14 and payroll of \$103,874.96 total claims \$2,121,296.34. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept the June 10, 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 Savoie* announced that he hated to see Jim go.
- *Commissioner Baron* congratulated Jim on his retirement and reported on an MTA meeting he attended. He also noted that he did tour the Great Lakes Resource Center and asked for some Covid relief funds that the County is supposed to be receiving. He also noted that Bruce Township installed playground equipment for the kids, and Dafter Township is looking at putting a pavilion up out by the ball fields.

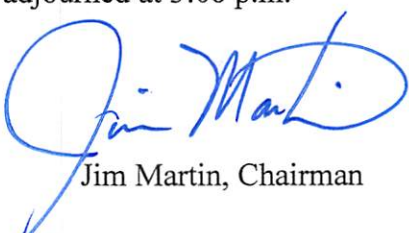
A brief discussion was held regarding Covid funds, and it was noted that the regulations are changing every week and very limited of what it can be used for.

*Commissioner Martin thanked Mr. German again for his years of service.*

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adjourn. On a voice vote, the Board adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

  
Jim Martin, Chairman