

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
November 18, 2021

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Thursday, November 18, 2021, in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:30 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:** Tim and Bridgett Moher, Dr. Duman, Dr. Rechner, Marla Bunker, Karen Senkus, Don McLean, Leslie Townsend, Marta LaLonde, Peggy Suriano, Gary Suriano, Erin Daines, Cathy Satchell, Jim and Michelle Traynor, Thomas Moher, Bruce Osborn, Ward Pulfrey, Kelly Church and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.  
*Present via Zoom:* Missy Robbins, Emil Mattson, Suzanne Lieurance, David Jahn, Kevin Kalchik, Taylor Worsham, Nick Huyck, Shirley Farnquist and Stephanie Pins.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the October 14, 2021, Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

***Chairman Martin*** expressed his disappointment in public comments made at the October Board meeting before announcing that Commissioner Shackleton and Commissioner Postula resigned from the War Memorial Hospital Board.

***Tim Moher*** expressed his concerns with the procedure being following concerning the War Memorial Hospital Resolution and read an excerpt from 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Michigan County Government Guide.

***Peggy Suriano*** spoke on Election Integrity.

***Emil Mattson*** addressed his concerns with alleged corruption.

Erin Daines appeared before the Board to provide an update with MSU Extension.

The following appeared before the Board to express their support for the War Memorial Hospital Resolution.

- *Ralph Duman* a physician at War Memorial Hospital
- *Marla Bunker* Vice President of Nursing at War Memorial Hospital
- *Dr. Paula Rechner* a surgeon for 21 years at War Memorial Hospital
- *Dr. Shane Woolever* an Orthopedic surgeon at War Memorial
- *Nick Huyck* a small business owner
- *Nancy Moher* asked the Board to enlighten the citizens of Chippewa County concerning the War Memorial Hospital merger.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **(A) War Memorial Hospital Resolution**

A discussion took place, which included Commissioner Shackleton answering some of Mrs. Moher's questions and noting the upcoming town hall meetings scheduled for November 30, 2021, and December 1, 2021. He also pointed out that the Resolution before the Board was written by their attorney Mr. Fischer, and it's not changing any of the checks and balances in place. He said that all it's doing is extending the lease, giving consent to the affiliation, and allowing a little housekeeping for a Mid-Michigan representative to be on our hospital Board and for us to have a member on their Board. This Resolution does not change anything from the County's perspective of having oversight.

It was then moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to adopt the War Memorial Hospital Resolution as follows:

#### **WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES LEASE AGREEMENT EXTENSION**

**#2021-24**

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners holds a Hospital Facilities Lease Agreement between the County and The Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital, Inc. originally dated November 1, 1986, with lease amendments and being restated in November 1997 and again in May 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to approve an extension of the Hospital Facilities Lease Agreement by 25 years, the extension will run through December 31, 2081; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners consent for The Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital, Inc. changing from a directorship non-profit corporation to a non-profit membership corporation of which MidMichigan Health is the sole member and Chippewa County

War Memorial Hospital will be a subsidiary of MidMichigan Health.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners consent that, as part of the change, the Hospital Board of Trustees can be increased to no more than twelve trustees and that the terms of the At Large Trustees, after the change is made, will consist of three-year term appointments and be limited to a maximum of three consecutive terms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners affirms the existing Hospital Facilities Lease Agreement and its existing amendments, and approves its extension for an additional 25 years, consents to The Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital, Inc. changing from a directorship non-profit corporation to a non-profit membership corporation of which MidMichigan Health is the sole member and The Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital, Inc. will be a subsidiary of MidMichigan Health, and consents to, as part of the change, the Hospital Board of Trustees being increased to no more than twelve trustees and that the terms of the At Large Trustees, after the change is made, will consist of three year term appointments and be limited to a maximum of three consecutive terms.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chairman is authorized to execute a new amendment extending the Hospital Facilities Lease Agreement, which implements and is consistent with this Resolution.

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:** Commissioners Postula, Savoie, Shackleton and Chairman Martin

**NAYS:** Commissioner Baron

**THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Board/Committee/Agency/Authority Applications**

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron to accept the Board/Agencies and Committees applicants. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

According to the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners Policies and Procedures, of the vacancies that will occur on various Boards/Committees/Authority's/Agencies on the dates shown. The current members are noted, as is the term of office. These vacancies will be announced in the local media and the County's website, which will enable interested County residents to submit Application of Interest before 3:00 p.m., on November 15, 2021. The names submitted will be presented to the Board at its regular Thursday, November 18, 2021 meeting, and the applications will lay on the table until the appointments are made at the January 2022 Organizational meeting.

**Department of Veterans Affairs**

Expires 3/31/2022 (4-year appointment)  
1 appointment

**EUP Transportation Authority**

Expires 12/31/2021 (3-year appointment)  
1 appointment

*Applicants: Joseph Cochran  
Brooks Partridge*

*Applicants: Jim German*

**Dept. of Health & Human Services**  
Expires 10/31/2022 (3-year appointment)  
1 appointment  
*Applicants: John Kibble  
Jeffrey Middlestead*

**Hiawatha Behavioral Health Authority**  
Expires 3/31/2022 (3-year appointment)  
1 appointment  
*Applicants: George Kinsella  
Thomas Farnquist  
Jeffrey Middlestead*

**Economic Development Corporation**  
Expires 3/31/2022 (6-year appointment)  
1 appointment  
*Applicants: Kimberly Muller  
John (Jack) Frost*

**Superior District Library**  
Expires 12/3/2021 (3-year appointment)  
1 appointment  
*Applicants: Sheila Bergdoll*

**EUP Regional Planning**  
Expires 12/31/2022 (2-year appointment) \*  
1 appointment  
\*Township level position  
  
*Applicants: Jim Moore*

**War Memorial Hospital, Inc.**  
Expires 12/31/2021  
1 appointment (4-year appointment)  
  
*Applicants: Jim German  
Holly Kibble  
Jeffrey Middlestead  
Ted Postula*

**(B) Resolution 2021-27 – Opposing Vaccine Mandate from the Federal Government**

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve Resolution 2021-27 as follows:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
**Opposing Vaccine Mandate from the Federal Government**  
RESOLUTION #2021-27

**Whereas**, President Biden has directed the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an emergency temporary standard requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to require their employees to be fully vaccinated or to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing; and

**Whereas**, the County of Chippewa has more than 100 employees and as could be subject to this emergency temporary standard from OSHA as proposed; and

**Whereas**, the Board is the employer of County personnel and would be charged with enforcing the vaccination/testing mandate, and while it encourages its employees to get vaccinated, it also supports their choice on whether or not to be vaccinated and opposes the federal government mandating that they be fully vaccinated or weekly tested; and

**Whereas**, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 testing where individuals have no symptoms

could lead to false determination of COVID-19 and result in unnecessary isolation and contact tracing, which would needlessly impair its resources; and

**Whereas**, the Board has recognized that in states or cities with mandatory vaccinations of employees that many employees have quit rather than be vaccinated; and

**Whereas**, Chippewa County cannot afford to lose a significant number of employees, especially in public safety as a result of the proposed mandate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Chippewa opposes a mandate from the federal government to require all employees to be fully vaccinated or be subject to weekly testing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chippewa County Administration be directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the White house, OHSa, Michigan Association of Counties and the County Employees.

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:**

YEAS: Commissioners Baron, Savoie, and Shackleton

NAYS: Commissioner Postula and Chairman Martin

**THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**(C) Resolution 2021-28 – Special Tribute Honoring Sharon H. Kennedy**

Commissioner Savoie stated that Sharon Kennedy was a **remarkable, dedicated** employee for Chippewa County for over 40 years; no one was dedicated more than she was. It was the consensus of the Board that **Ms. Sharon Kennedy** was a very special lady and will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Savoie stated that Sharon Kennedy was a **remarkable, dedicated** employee for Chippewa County for over 40 years; there is no one dedicated more than she was. It was the consensus of the Board that **Ms. Sharon Kennedy** was a very warm special lady and will be sorely missed.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to adopt Resolution 2021-28 as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2021-28**

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING  
*Sharon H. Kennedy***

LET IT BE KNOWN, that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to express their appreciation and to honor **Sharon H. Kennedy** following her death for her decades of services to the Chippewa County, serving in both the Equalization Department and as Register of Deed.

**SHARON H. KENNEDY** was a special community citizen and leader; we recognize this outstanding individual of the community who is representative of all that is good in leadership, responsibility, enthusiasm and inspiration. Such characteristics embody the attributes for success in any area of work and will not only bring personal satisfaction but also contribute to the well-being of many others.

**SHARON H. KENNEDY** served thousands of constituents, starting with Chippewa County in October of 1981, with a brief separation from the County in 1988; and returning as Equalization Director August 14, 1989; and eventually serving a dual role, created by Sharon herself to serve the citizens of the County while saving money, as the Register of Deed/Equalization Director after being appointed in 1994 and elected each term since then.

**SHARON H. KENNEDY** has worked diligently and tirelessly examining, documenting and recording all manner of documents affecting real estate of Chippewa County residents; she offered high professional standard for the Chippewa County Register of Deeds Office;

**SHARON H. KENNEDY** has brought opportunities, solutions, and much advancement to our County. Throughout her tenure **SHARON H. KENNEDY** has shown professionalism; selflessness; care and concern for others; and a woman who has stood up for her principles time and again.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, upon her recent death this document is signed and dedicated to honor **SHARON H. KENNEDY** for her services and her contributions to Chippewa County and the citizens she has served.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chippewa County will lower our flags to half-staff for five days starting Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, which will represent each of the decades **SHARON H. KENNEDY** worked in.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Commissioners Baron, Postula, Savoie, Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDINGS GROUNDS AND JAIL, LEGISLATIVE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2021

*Chairman – Commissioner Baron*

#### Agenda Items

##### Building and Grounds

##### Animal Shelter Renovation Project

Shelter Manager Holly Henderson updated the Committee on a proposed renovation /revamping of the Animal Shelter via a private donation. To move forward with the project, a design would be needed with

estimated costs of the construction. The Committee was asked to approve authorizing a proposal from Dynamic Design Group Inc. who has experience with shelters to include the new shelter in Delta County, with the price ranging from \$6,600 to \$10,000.00 for the two-phase project: Phase A being the preliminary Design Phase and Phase B the project estimate phase, the funds to pay for this project would come from Fund 285 Animal Shelter Donations. This project was not bid out due to the specialty of the shelter needs.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the professional design and engineering fees from Dynamic Design Group, Inc. for the two-phase services for a potential Animal Shelter renovation. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Clock Tower**

The Committee reviewed an estimate from Lumichron Commercial Clocks to visit the Courthouse to inspect the clock and provide an estimate to repair/replace the clock hands and include pricing for restoring the clock dials/faces, as well as, replacing the mechanical clockworks with a new automated system.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize the estimate of \$777.12 for Lumichron Commercial Clocks to inspect the Courthouse Clock Tower and provide estimates. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Legislative and Natural Resources**

#### **Sheriff Department – License Plate Reader Project**

#### **Sheriff Department – License Plate Reader Project**

Undersheriff Greg Postma updated the Committee on an upcoming Stonegarden funded project adding license plate readers in Chippewa County. The funding has been approved for the next two years for approximately \$160,000-\$170,000 per year, with the Border Patrol seeking to get LPR coverage in the EUP. The LPR will be used to identify targeted information only; law enforcement would be able to establish patterns and convoys and help law enforcement with drug trafficking, human trafficking, Amber alerts, wanted persons, and stolen vehicles.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize and support the License Plate Reader project, utilizing Stonegarden funding for cameras to be placed in Chippewa County. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Information Technology**

#### **Social Media Archiving**

The Committee was given an update on the necessity for having social media archiving, as the information is subject to FOIA; case law shows that entities using social media platforms are responsible for retrieving the information, and the media forums openly state they do not retain deleted information. Information Systems did two demonstrations and recommended Archive Social for these services at a first-year cost of \$4,990.00 (regular pricing of \$5,988/year) for their mid-grade featuring: unlimited accounts, unlimited storage, and 3500 records/month with no overage fees. This has been budgeted for FY2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve and authorize adding social media archiving with Archive Social at the first-year cost of \$4,990.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Chairman Martin, to approve the November 10, 2021, Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information Technology Committee meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

# FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2021

Chairman – Commissioner Savoie

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Health Department Programming Updates**

- Home Health update
- Home Care/Private Duty update
- Hospice update

The Committee received and reviewed the programming data for the Health Department's Home Health, Home Care/Private Duty, and Hospice programs. Each program's services were discussed, including the care provided each program: cost coverages, statistics, and Performance Improvement Projects (PIP) identified from the recent CHAP accreditation. The QAPI Coordinator position has been filled to ensure chart reviews and training are completed.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to acknowledge oversight, and the programming updates for Home Health, Home Care/Private Duty and Hospice services provided by the CCHD have been reviewed. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Surveyor – Grant No. BCC 22-17 - \$122,892.00 Grant County contributions \$15,000.00**

The committee reviewed Grant No. BCC 22-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and Chippewa County; and the 2022 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation. The grant is from 1-1-2022 to 12-31-2022, for \$107,892.00, with Chippewa County contributing \$15,000 for a total FY2022 project amount of \$122,892.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve and authorize signatures for Grant No. BCC 21-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and Chippewa County; and the 2022 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation in the amount of \$107,892.00 with Chippewa County contributing \$15,000.00 for County Remonumentation. 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 October County bills and payroll as follows: general claims \$240,909.69, other fund claims of \$2,207,003.69, payroll of \$584,120.26, and Health Department claims of \$210,951.39 and payroll of \$212,320.99 total claims \$4,055,306.02. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept the November 4, 2021 Finance Claims and Accounts Minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

- A) Attorney Strategy/Current Litigation
- B) Union Negotiations

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to move into closed session, to discuss with the County's attorney trial and/or settlement strategy in the pending lawsuit, as well as, discuss Union Negotiations.



**A roll call vote was taken as follows:**

*Commissioner Baron*            *Yes*  
*Commissioner Postula*        *Yes*  
*Commissioner Savoie*         *Yes*  
*Commissioner Shackleton*     *Yes*  
*Chairman Marin*                *Yes*

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to exit the closed session wherein we discussed with the County's attorney trial and/or settlement strategy in the pending lawsuit as discussion on the open record would have been detrimental to our position. Also discussed were Union Negotiations.

**A roll call vote was taken as follows:**

*Commissioner Baron*            *Yes*  
*Commissioner Postula*        *Yes*  
*Commissioner Savoie*         *Yes*  
*Commissioner Shackleton*     *Yes*  
*Chairman Marin*                *Yes*

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Martin declared we are now in open session.

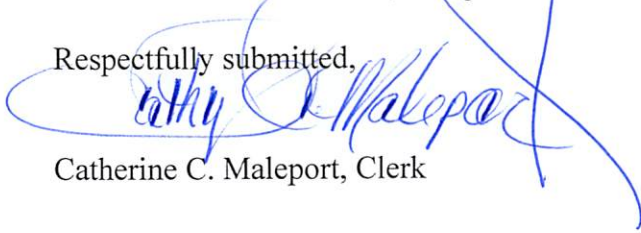
COMMISSIONER REPORTS ON MEETINGS AS BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Among some of the comments were as follows:

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, that the Road Patrol negotiated contract that was discussed in the closed meeting be approved. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to adjourn. On a voice vote, the Board adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Jim Martin, Chairman