

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
June 16, 2022

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Savoie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, and Chairman Jim Martin

ABSENT: None

ALSO, PRESENT: Administrator Kelly Church, Cathy Maleport, Clerk, Marlene Murphy, Gary Suriano, Peggy Suriano, Marta LaLonde, Bev Eavou, Jim and Michele Traynor, Sharon Johnson, Walter Johnson, Nicholas Mitchell, Dani King, Calvin Carter, John Petkus, Chippewa County Sheriff Mike Bitnar, Karen Senkus, Keith Schuler, Diane Possamai, and Gay Mather. *Present via zoom:* B Wiesner, Christy Meilstrup, Linda Basista and Paul Warrick

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to add to the agenda Resolution 22-12 - *Special Tribute and Recognition for Brian Amell*. It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Postula, 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 Shackleton, to approve the May 12, 2022, 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 McLean, 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

- *Paul Warrick* appeared before the Board via Zoom expressing his opposition to any efforts to an audit in Chippewa County concerning the 2020 Elections.
- *Marlene Murphy* appeared before the Board to commend the Commission for their resistance for not jumping on the audit band wagon and suggested that the county and city clerk repeat an information session that they did at Bayliss Library in 2018.

- *Angie McArthur*, on behalf of EUP Connect Collaborative, appeared before the Board and provided an update on the needs in our region, referencing broadband.
- *Nicholas Mitchell*, a resident of Pickford and a student at Northern Michigan University appeared before the Board to express his strong opposition to an audit of the Chippewa County Election.

The following people spoke on behalf of the True North Patriots, questioning the integrity of the 2020 Elections as well as requesting a forensic audit of such.

- *Peggy Suriano* ~ read a written statement prepared by Melanie Greenfield.
 - *Marta LaLonde*
 - *Gay Mather*
 - *Bev Eavou*
 - *Diane Possamai*
 - *Sharon Johnson*
- *Gary Suriano* appeared before the Board and asked the commission to consider changing meeting times to 5:00 p.m. or 5:15 p.m. so that people could attend after work.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

A) Resolution 22-08 Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve Resolution 2022-08 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (LDFA)

WHEREAS, the City of Sault Ste. Marie pursuant to the provisions of Act 281 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1986, established the City of Sault Ste. Marie Local Development Finance Authority (the “Authority”) and designated the boundaries of the Authority’s Development area created in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the LDFA seven (7) member Authority; shall include one (1) member appointed by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioner, does hereby make the appointment of the elected and/or acting County Treasurer to the Local Development Finance Authority for a term that does not expire, unless revoked by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners confirms the appointment of the County Treasurer elected and/or acting to the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Local Development Finance Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the term of this appointment shall pass from County Treasurer to County Treasurer elected and/or appointed, until revoked by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Jim Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

B) Resolution 22-09 Opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 & 4732

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve Resolution 2022-09 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09
RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN
HOUSE BILLS 4729, 4730, 4731, & 4732**

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for-profit corporation from Seattle, WA, has been lobbying the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation that undermines the integrity of Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the legislation that Zillow is lobbying for would require the Register of Deeds and Treasurer Office across the State of Michigan to provide for-profit corporation copies of any official records maintained by those offices at a significant discount or, in some instances, free of any charge. As a result, the taxpayers will be responsible for picking up the tab for providing the records and the financial burden created by the loss of revenue for these offices; and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, Zillow and other for-profit corporations will have the ability to demand the manner in which the Register of Deeds and Treasurer must provide copies of official records; and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, they would impose new restrictions and limits on what Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards and would burden Michigan taxpayers with the cost of providing records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations;

WHEREAS, Zillow and other corporations will capitalize on selling publicly owned records. provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing Michigan residents at a higher risk for fraud and theft; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerk, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League are united in opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, & 4732.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Chippewa County Board of Commissioners OPPOSE Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, & 4732, as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of Michigan taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Beau LaFave, Representative Julie Calley, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

C) Resolution 22-10 Special Tribute Elli Devuono

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve Resolution 2022-10 as follows:

***SPECIAL TRIBUTE
2022-10
ELLI DEVUONO***

Let It Be Known, that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the employees and residents of Chippewa County, to express their wish of good health and happiness upon her retirement.

Elli Devuono has served the citizens of Chippewa County in a manner above reproach, and for this we extend our thanks. Elli Devuono has provided outstanding services for the past twenty-three plus years.

Elli Devuono has taken personal pride in her work with Chippewa County Health Department serving the community as a Clerk/Vision and Hearing Technician and has worked hard to continue the improvements of the Health Department.

Elli Devuono through her persistence, her personal standards and her insight to helping her fellow co-workers and the citizens of Chippewa County.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon her retirement from Chippewa County Health Department, this document is signed and dedicated to honor *Elli Devuono*, for her many contributions to Chippewa County, and the individuals she served so well. We join together to extend to *Elli Devuono* a gracious thank you for a job well done, and wish her continued success in which she so richly deserves.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

D) Resolution 22-11 Imposing 2022 Property Tax Levy

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve Resolution 2022-11 as follows:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION # 22-11

RESOLUTION IMPOSING 2022 PROPERTY TAX LEVY PURSUANT TO MCL 211.24e, 211.34, 211.34d, 211.36, 211.37, and 211.44a, AND NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF 2022 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, **6.1143 mills**, which is the County allocated millage, after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2022, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other anticipated and authorized County operating millages, i.e., EMS millage of .4250 mill, Road millage of .9821 mill, Recycling Programs millage of .4971 mill, Senior Programs millage of .7456 mill, and Animal Shelter millage of .0994 mill, after application of the "Headlee" and other applicable millage reduction fractions, will be levied and collected on December 1, 2022, 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 2022 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 2022 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: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve Resolution 2022-12 as follows:

E) Resolution 22-12 Special Tribute and Recognition of Brian Amell

SPECIAL TRIBUTE AND RECOGNITION 22-12
Brian Amell

Let It Be Known, that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the employees and residents of Chippewa County, to express their wish of good health and happiness upon his retirement, and

Brian Amell began working for Chippewa County on June 7, 1995 and after twenty-seven (27) years with the County will retire from service on June 30, 2022;

Brian Amell has helped take care of the historic Chippewa County Courthouse and the County Building, including the Chippewa County Correctional Facility and has worked hard to maintain the buildings, grounds and services necessary for the buildings to function for the employees and those that visit;

Brian Amell visits to the offices will be missed, his sense of humor and sometimes lack of sense of humor cannot be replaced.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon his retirement from Chippewa County, this document is signed and dedicated to honor **Brian Amell**, for his contributions to Chippewa County, and for his many years of public service and particularly for his work in Chippewa County. We join together to extend to **Brian Amell** a gracious thank you for a job well done, and wish him continued success and for many years of good health and enjoyment in his retirement.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Don McLean, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Martin

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

F) UP 911 Authority Administrative Policy Board Appointment of Greg Postma

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to appoint Greg Postma to the UP 911 Authority Administrative Policy Board. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

G) Juneteenth Court Order

It was the Board's consensus to follow the collective bargaining agreement to the extent possible.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2022

Chairman – Commissioner Savoie

AGENDA ITEMS

CCHD FYE 9/30/2021 and County FYE 12/31/2021 Audit Approval

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept and approve the FYE 9/30/2021 of the Chippewa County Health Department and the FYE 12/31/2021 draft Audits of Chippewa County and to authorize its distribution upon being finalized. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Health Department – EMR – Samsung Tablet Purchase - \$6,503.20

The Committee reviewed a quote from MNJ Technologies to purchase eight (8) Samsung tablets and protective cases for a total cost of \$6,503.20; the purchase is required due to changes from the initial planning of this move to the new electronic medical record (EMR) MATRIX.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the Health Department's request to purchase eight (8) Samsung tablets and protective cases for a total expense of \$6,503.20 from MNJ Technologies. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Health Department – Security Camera System - \$1,679.04

The Committee reviewed one quote to replace the failed camera security system within the Health Department facility; two other quotes were sought with no response. The quote from Accu-Tech at the price of \$1,679.04 was asked to be approved and the waive the County purchasing policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the Health Department's request to replace the security camera system at a cost of \$1,679.04 from Accu-Tech as presented and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Department – Law Enforcement Services Township of Drummond Island

The Committee reviewed a contract to be held between the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office and Township of Drummond Island for the purpose of providing supplemental law enforcement patrol services. Fuel and the 30-day option to terminated the contract was discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the contract for supplemental law enforcement services between Chippewa County Sheriff's

Office and the Township of Drummond Island as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Department – Michigan's First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant \$78,939

The Committee reviewed the grant award letter from the State of Michigan's First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant, which Chippewa County was awarded \$78,939.00 to be used for recruiting equipment, recruitment bonuses, advertisement and specific training for law enforcement and corrections; including Corrections and law enforcement academies. The question of is this grant was going to be renewable was asked by Commissioner McLean.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize receipt of the State of Michigan's First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant in the amount of \$78,939.00; and to establish a special fund within the general ledger for the revenue and expenditures. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Department – Sponsorship to MCOLES Academy

The Committee reviewed documentation from Sheriff Bitnar and his request to sponsor David Hall for the MCOLES Academy which starts in August; with leave of absence, compensation and requirements for the Cadet Program. The academy and travel costs will be covered by MiWorks and 12 weeks of pay through the First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant, if eligible or the County would be responsible for approximately \$9,048. Mr. Hall has agreed to utilize 4 weeks of his vacation time to offset the 16-week program and committing 5-years of service to the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office, if selected for the sponsorship. The Sheriff also asked that a signing bonus in the amount of \$2,500.00 be authorized upon Mr. Hall's completion of the MCOLES academy and completion of the state certification test and starts full-time Road position with the CCSO. Lengthy conversation regarding establishing a precedent for future employee's sponsorships; the requirements of MCOLES; by paying the cadet. The comparisons used for wages were discussed; because of the differences between the County and the Tribes funding and minimum wage being used. The ability to find employees was also discussed, if approved the County would have a fully trained and educated Deputy, which benefits the County and he will be able to make an impact in the County. Discussion continued.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office Cadet Sponsorship Program as presented and documented; sponsoring David Hall and approving the proposed plan for payment of expenditures and leave of absence from the Corrections Unit. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Animal Shelter - Two Seven Oh Inc. ~ Purchase commercial washer and dryer, \$11,352.00.

The Committee was given updated documentation that the Animal Shelter receiving a \$11,352.00 grant from Two Seven Oh Inc., replacing the \$10,000.00 grant which was previously authorized the Committee to purchase on low bid a commercial washer and dryer. The new grant will cover the quote from Commercial Laundry Sales of \$11,352.00, the Committee was asked to waive the County purchasing policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to withdraw the motion from the May 2022 meetings and to accept the new grant of \$11,352.00 and approve the funds to purchase a commercial washer and dryer from Commercial Laundry Sales at the price of \$11,352.00 and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Veterans Affairs – Veterans Service Grant \$50,000.00

Veterans Counselor Jaci Haske is seeking a \$50,000.00 Veteran Service Fund Grant for Chippewa County to provide advertisement and extra services that are needed to better serve the veterans in Chippewa County. To purchase equipment so that home visits can be facilitated to provide better accessibility and services to the veterans and dependents. The grant also seeks funds to help with snow removal.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Mclean, to approve and authorize signatures for the FY2023 County Veteran Service Fund Grant; with Chippewa County seeking \$50,000.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Michigan Department of Corrections – MOU for multi-function device (MFD)

The Committee reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan Department of Correction (for Probation and Parole) and Chippewa County to install a multi-use printer, copier, fax and scanner to be used by the staff at the Chippewa County Parole/Probation Office. The costs to be paid by Chippewa County's special fund 145.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize the MOU between Michigan Department of Corrections and Chippewa County, for use of a multi-function device (MFD) by the Chippewa County Parole/Probation Office. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Information Systems – Purchase six (6) computers - \$1,016.77/each (Total \$6,100.62)

The Committee reviewed three quotes to purchase six (6) budgeted computers, with the low bid of \$6,100.62 being from Dell Technologies. Five (5) computers for continued upgrades throughout the County and one (1) for upgrade of the crime victim's computer.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the purchase of six (6) computers from Dell Technologies whose low bid was \$6,100.62. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Office of Emergency Management – Title III Project and approval \$2,990.34

The Committee reviewed the documentation of the Title III pass through funding for Chippewa County and the request to utilize the funds to purchase a printer and computer that is used to provide identification cards. The total cost, including the public notice cost is \$2,990.34.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the Title III funding to be utilized to purchase a replace printer from AMC3 Identity at the price of \$1,466.00; a replacement computer from Dell at the price of 1,275.94 and the advertising cost of \$248.40. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Office of Emergency Management – FY2021-22 Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning Program Grant Agreement

The Committee reviewed the request to approve and authorize the documents and materials for the FY2021-2022 HMEP Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant which includes 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 McLean, to approve and except the

FY2021-2022 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) and to authorize the necessary documents. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Surveyor – Plat Book Summary

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the 2022 Chippewa County Plat Book preparation, production and publication. Three quotes were received with a quote from Mapping Solutions being recommended by the Chippewa County Surveyor.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve the quote from Mapping Solutions in the amount of \$19,500.00 to prepare, produce and publish the 2022 Chippewa County Plat Book. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Retirement Plan Advisors – Security Benefits Investment Policy Plan Document Changes

- Chippewa County Health Department Plan
- Chippewa County Plan

The Committee reviewed the same documentation from Retirement Plan Advisors, who are updating their Investment Advisory Services Agreement for Plans 612481000 and 612491000, changing the recordkeeper to Security Benefit.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize to required documents from Retirement Plan Advisors to change the recordkeeper to Security Benefits for both the Health Department Plan 612481000 and the County Plan 612491000. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – May

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to recommend the approval of May County bills and payroll: general claims \$277,891.55 other fund claims \$670,048.14, payroll \$626,842.38, and Health Department claims \$287,717.75 and payroll \$206,852.15 total claims \$2,069,351.97. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

- a. County's attorney current strategy, France v Chippewa County., et al, File No. 2:20-CV-00248**
- b. Collective Bargaining Negotiations/ratification, pursuant 15.268 (c)**

The Finance Board began the closed session at 5:51 p.m. and returned to the open session at 6:40 p.m.

It was moved Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize the collective bargaining agreement between Chippewa County Health Department and Michigan Nurse Association as mediated and presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to accept the June 14, 2022 Finance Claims & Accounts minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

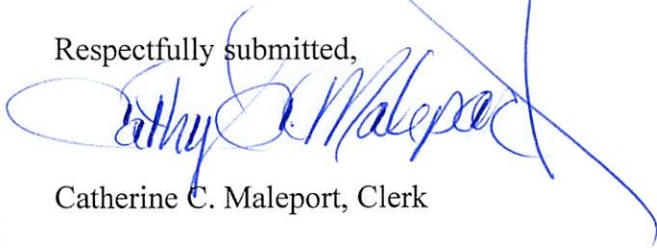
COMMISSIONER REPORTS ON MEETINGS AS BOARD
REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Among some of the comments were as follows:

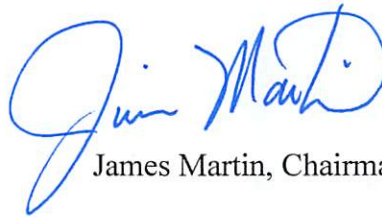
- *Commissioner Savoie* addressed concerns regarding meeting times, and the road construction in front of the courthouse referenced during public comments.
- *Commissioner McLean* commented on Commissioner Shackleton's letter concerning issues with Dominion voting machines.
- Commissioner Postula, Commissioner Shackleton, and Chairman Martin shared their views as to why they oppose a forensic audit of the 2020 elections.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Savoie to adjourn. On a voice vote, the Board adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk



James Martin, Chairman