

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
April 15, 2021

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:30 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: Captain John Larson, Patrick Moher, Peggy Starr, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Jim German, Administrator and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.
Present via Zoom: Don McLean, Chuck Moser, Karen Senkus, Robert Laitinen, Dennis McShane, Nick Huyck, and Tim Moher.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the March 11, 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 Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the clerk's office and forward as appropriate. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Moher appeared before the Board to respond to a Commissioner's response to conflict of interest allegations.
- Robert Laitinen, manager of the Chippewa County Road Commission, appeared before the Board to address the importance of the approval of the proposed renewal of the Road Maintenance Millage being placed on the August ballot.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

(A) Appointment to road Commission, fill vacancy that expires 12/31/2024

One Appointment Needed to fill vacancy; expires 12/31/2024

Candidates: David P. Deatruck, Gary Graham, Bill Hopper, Nicholas Huyck, Jesse Knoll, Chuck Moser, Tom Sibbald, James Traynor

On a roll call vote: Round 1

Commissioner Baron – *Nicholas Huyck*
Commissioner Postula – *Chuck Moser*
Commissioner Savoie – *Tom Sibbald*
Commissioner Shackleton – *Nicholas Huyck*
Chairman Martin – *Chuck Moser*

On a roll call vote: Round 2

Commissioner Baron – *Nicholas Huyck*
Commissioner Postula – *Chuck Moser*
Commissioner Savoie – *Chuck Moser*
Commissioner Shackleton – *Nicholas Huyck*
Chairman Martin – *Chuck Moser*

Chuck Moser having received the majority vote, was appointed to the Chippewa County Road Commission for a term to expire: 12/31/2024.

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Resolution 2021-04 – Resolution Special Recognition of Chief John Riley.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to adopt Resolution 2021-04 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF CHIEF JOHN RILEY**

WHEREAS, *Chief John Riley* began his career with the City of Sault Ste. Marie in February 2011, after 20 plus years of services with Center Line, Michigan as Public Safety Officer; and

WHEREAS, *Chief John Riley* will retire from service with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, after serving 10 plus years; and

WHEREAS, *Chief John Riley* has worked diligently and tirelessly at upholding and exemplifying the professional image of the Chief of Police; through his work ethic, integrity and his attention to detail *Chief John Riley* has earned the respect from all of his supervisors, his peers and citizens he has served; and

WHEREAS, *Chief John Riley* during his career received many accolades, serving on various Boards, including the Chippewa County 9-1-1 Advisory Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners respectfully dedicates this document to honor and thank *Chief John Riley* for his many years of public service with the City of Sault Ste. Marie and especially for his work in Chippewa County.

2. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends their best wishes to *Chief John Riley* for many years of enjoyment in his retirement.

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) Equalization

- I. 2021 Equalized and Tentative Taxable Values (*see attached*)
- II. 2021 Personal and Real Property Totals -Form L-4024 (*see attached*)
- III. Establish Truth in Taxation Public hearing for June 17, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to adopt the 2021 Equalized and Tentative Taxable Values, the 2021 Personal and Real Property Totals and Establish a Truth in Taxation Public hearing for June 17, 2021. (*See attached*) The Commission commended Ms. Sharon Kennedy and her staff for the excellent job and all their work. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources
and Information technology Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 17, 2021

Chairman – Commissioner Baron

Agenda Items

Building and Grounds

Sheriff Department – Community Corrections Building Plan

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's proposal to relocate the Community Corrections to remove the testing space outside of the current area; for security and safety reasons. The addition would eliminate the use of the public restrooms for testing and reduce the number of people needing to enter the County Building. Before the pandemic, this issue was not as noticeable. UPEA revised the previous estimate, utilizing current material pricing.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the project to add an approximately 20' x 30' addition in the existing covered parking area on the south side of the County Buildings; at an estimated cost of \$120,000 to \$150,000; plus 8% or \$12,000 to U.P. Engineers and Architects for the typical architectural and engineering fees for the project; the motion also waives the County policy for the UPEA services. Funding of this project to be from the upcoming COVID Relief Funding the County will be receiving. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Legislative and Natural Resources

Policy 101 – Bylaws and Rules of Procedure Update

Policy 230 – Sick Leave and Sickness and Accident Insurance Benefit

Update Application of Interest

The Committee reviewed two policy changes to Policy 101 Bylaws and Rule of Procedure; changing 1.5 to 'Thursday'; 1.6 adding 'District Court'; 5.2 changing to 'three' and 11.3 adding 'For proposed minutes, please contact the County Clerk.' Policy 230 Sick Leave and Sickness and Accident Benefit – D removing 'for any reason except discharge for just cause.' The Committee also reviewed the Application of Interest changes adding a question about felony or misdemeanors and adding the party affiliation to the Jury Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve and authorize the changes to Policy 101 – Bylaws and Rules of Procedure Update, Policy 230-Sick Leave and Sickness and Accident Insurance Benefit and the Application of Interest, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Baron, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to accept the Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information Technology Committee Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2021

Acting Chair – Commissioner Shackleton

AGENDA ITEMS

Circuit Court Drug Court – Purchase and Sales Agreement with Premier Biotech, Inc.

The Committee reviewed a purchase and sales agreement made between Chippewa County Drug Court and Premier Biotech, Inc.; Biotech, Inc. will be replacing Redwood Toxicology for comprehensive testing and panels required for Drug Court Testing.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve and authorize the Purchase and Sales Agreement with Premier Biotech, Inc. and Chippewa County (Circuit) Drug Court, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Friend of the Court – Consulting Services Agreement MGT of America Consulting, LLC

The Committee reviewed the consulting services agreement between Chippewa County Friend of the Court and MGT of America Consulting, LLC, who provides the Title IV-D claiming services. The Committee was informed of the contract pricing increasing to \$5,200, which is the first pricing increase since 2010 when the price was \$3,200.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve and authorize the Consulting Services Agreement by and between Chippewa County, Michigan, Friend of the Court and MGT of America Consulting, LLC, as presented, costing \$5,200.00 annually. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Public Defender – MIDC 2022 Proposed Budget and Standards Analysis

The Committee was given a brief update on the Public Defender's Office and the upcoming deadlines for the 2022 budget, and the plan for compliance with the MIDC's standards. The Committee was asked to authorize the release of the Public Defenders 2022 Budget, upon review of the Administrator, to meet the April 27th deadline.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to authorize the release of the 2022 Public Defender's proposed budget and plan for compliance with MIDC's standards upon Administration review. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Animal Shelter – North Superior Property Services – re-do upfront flooring & waive County policy.

The Committee received and reviewed information from the Animal Shelter requesting to have the up-front flooring re-done with a concrete-based flooring system that is stain/chemical resistant, anti-microbial abrasion-resistant. This is 1125 square feet of flooring that will cover the following: the main vestibule, office, breakroom, bathroom, laundry room, cat room, mid and back hallways.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to accept and authorize the estimate from North Superior Property Services to prep and install a new flooring system, at a cost not to exceed \$13,500 and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Chippewa County Road Commission Proposed Millage Language

The Committee reviewed the Millage Renewal as presented for the August 2021 election.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Road Maintenance and Repair Proposition Millage Renewal for the August 2021 election as presented below. Commissioner Savoie noted that this is a Renewal not an increase and money well spent.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROPOSITION
MILLAGE RENEWAL**

(This proposal will permit the County to continue the millage previously approved by the electors in 2016)

Shall the previously voted increase in the 15 mill limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution for general ad valorem taxes within Chippewa County, Michigan of 1.000 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) which was reduced to .9879 mill by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at .9879 mill (\$0.9879 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 5 years, beginning 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for Repair and Maintenance of Roads within Chippewa County and streets within the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Village of DeTour, and shall the County levy such renewed millage for said purpose? The estimate of revenue the County will collect if this millage is approved and levied in 2022 is \$1,300,000, of which a portion will be disbursed to the City of Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority pursuant to statute.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

Administration – Senior Services and Programs Millage Proposal

The Committee reviewed the new millage proposal for Senior Services and Programs for Chippewa County, with an update provided by CLM Community Action Agency's Executive Director Dennis McShane.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to approve the Senior Services and Programs Millage Proposal for the August 3, 2021 election as presented below. It was noted that this does include an increase.

**SENIOR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS
MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

(This proposal will permit the County to increase its tax levy by .75 mills to provide operating funds for Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Senior Services and Programs in Chippewa County and will replace the millage previously levied for this purpose)

Shall the tax limitation imposed under article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution for general ad valorem taxes within Chippewa County, Michigan be increased by .75 mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of four years, being 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, inclusive for the purpose of providing operating funds to continue and enhance Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Meals Programs and Chippewa County Community Action Agency's Senior Services in Chippewa County, thereby raising in the first year (2021) an estimated \$910,000?

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

Administration – Abilita – Telecom Retainer

The Committee was asked to update an expiring contract with a telecom retainer for services with Abilita. Abilita had a 36-month contract that saved the County and CCHD approximately \$106,000, and the Administration wishes to continue to utilize their expertise.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize the Telecom Retainer with Abilita showing a net shared savings of \$385.00 per month. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance – Claims and Accounts

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, to recommend the approval of March County bills and payroll: general claims \$425,323.27 other fund claims \$734,045.81, payroll \$573,357.34, and Health Department claims \$259,223.04 and payroll of \$180,388.49 total claims \$2,172,337.95. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept the April 8, 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 Shackleton, Commissioner Postula and Mr. German responded to allegations made during public comments.

Chairman Martin, thanked Senator Wayne Schmidt and State Representative John Damoose for the royal treatment the Sault High girls swim and dive team received in Lansing.

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 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Jim Martin, Chairman