

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
May 12, 2022

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Thursday, May 12, 2022, in the 91st District Courtroom.

Vice-Chairman Robert Savoie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Clerk Cathy Maleport led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners, Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, and Scott Shackleton

ABSENT: Chairman Jim Martin

ALSO, PRESENT: Gay Mather, M. Sue Pavlat, Michele Kiiken, Marta LaLonde, Peggy Suriano, Gary Suriano, Sara Eisinger, Diane Possamai, Gretchen Roekle, Melanie Greenfield, Nicholas Mitchell, Bev Eavou, Brian Bush, Tony Wizauer, David Satchell, Cathy Satchell, Michele Traynor, James Traynor, Don McLean, Colleen Lavey, Tom Meehan, Christine McDowell, Brendan Wiesner, Jason Kronemeyer, Greg Postma, Administrator Kelly Church, and Cathy Maleport, clerk. *Present via Zoom: B Wiesner, Kalvin Carter-Center for Change and Tiffany Escherich*

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, 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 Shackleton, to approve the April 14, 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 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

- *Jason Kronemeyer, Bruce Township Trustee and the Project Director for the EUPConnect Collaborative*, appeared before the Board to provide an update on activities happening at the local, state, and national levels and asked the Commission to consider allocating a percentage of their ARPA Funds to help with the data collection.
- *Nicholas Mitchell* a resident of Pickford and a student at Northern Michigan University spoke on the importance of broadband and encouraged the Commission to put some of the ARPA funds back out into Chippewa County for broadband.

- *Kalvin Carter on behalf of the Center for Change Northern Michigan Advocacy* appeared before the Board to inform the Board that their celebration on May 6, 2022, was a great success and noted the highlight of the event was honoring long time county employee Sharon Kennedy Register of Deeds and Equalization Director.

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.

- *Marta LaLonde*
- *Michele Kiiken*
- *Peggy Suriano*
- *Melanie Greenfield – Chairman of True North Patriots*
- *Bev Eavou*
- *Gay Mather*
- *Gary Suriano*
- *Tom Meehan*

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Resolution 22-05 Appreciation and Recognition of Erik Baron

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve Resolution 2022-05 as follows:



RESOLUTION NO. 22-05

RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF Erik Baron

LET IT BE KNOWN that is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to express their appreciation and gratitude to **ERIK BARON** for his service as a member of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners.

ERIK BARON, for his service to the County of Chippewa and the Townships he represented, for his contributions to this Board and Agencies he was appointed to while being on the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners.

ERIK BARON, was an advocate to not only the County and its employees; but also supports and continues to support various projects throughout the area; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join with the residents of the area in thanking **ERIK BARON** for his services to the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, and FURTHER, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extend their thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the residents of Chippewa County, for his contributions and wish him continued success in which he so richly deserves.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, and Scott Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

B) Resolution 22-06 Special Tribute and Recognition Michelle Robbins

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve Resolution 2022-06 as follows:



SPECIAL TRIBUTE AND RECOGNITION 22-06

Michelle Robbins

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 and as she prepares for the new and exciting experiences that lie ahead.

Michelle Robbins has served the citizens of Chippewa County in a manner above reproach, and for this we extend our thanks. **Michelle Robbins** has provided outstanding service to thousands of individuals for more than thirty-three years.

Michelle Robbins has taken personal pride in her work with Chippewa County and has worked hard to continue the improvements for the safety and well-being for all Chippewa County residents and its visitors. Her career started in the Sheriff's Department, moving to the Prosecutor's Office and then to Office of Emergency Services/Emergency 9-1-1 and retiring as the OES/E 9-1-1 Director.

Michelle Robbins through her constructive suggestions, her high-performance standards, her kind friendship, her

professionalism, her enthusiasm, and her insight to her fellow workers and citizens place her in the highest of categories.

Michelle Robbins has brought recognition to Chippewa County, the community and as Director of Office of Emergency Services/E 9-1-1. The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Chippewa County, extends their appreciation to a Department Head, friend and guide who is thoughtful, caring, involved and dedicated, and who made a favorable impact on the betterment of life and well-being in Chippewa County.

Michelle Robbins has seen many positive changes in Chippewa County and has guided us through a pandemic by making sure that all the agencies were informed and educated on the needs of those we serve.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon her retirement from Chippewa County, this document is signed and dedicated to honor *Michelle Robbins*, for her countless contributions to Chippewa County, and the individuals she served so well. For her untiring efforts in improving the welfare of the citizens of this County, we join together to extend to *Michelle Robbins* 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 Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, and Scott Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

C) Resolution 22-07 Seeking to Change “By Appointment Only” at Secretary of State

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to approve Resolution 2022-07 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07
RESTATING 2021-07**

**SEEKING TO CHANGE THE
MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE
“BY APPOINTMENT ONLY”**

WHEREAS, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, 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, residents of Chippewa County traveling to Sault Ste. Marie from Drummond Island or Paradise are already traveling over an hour and cannot always schedule their trips and should

have the availability to walk-in to the Secretary of State; 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 continues to **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 restated previously approved Chippewa County Resolution 2021-07 and amended Resolution 2022-07 be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties; asking the State of Michigan to change the policy and make walk-in appointment available again.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, and Scott Shackleton

NAYS: None

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve Resolution 2022-3 as follows:

D) Support and Authorize Tax Allocation Board Proposal Ballot Language to be placed on the November 8, 2022, Ballot as follows:

**RENEWAL AND ALLOCATION OF OPERATING MILLAGE
WITHIN THE COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA**

Shall a renewal of separate tax limitations be established for a period of 4 years (2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 inclusive) for the County of Chippewa and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8 mills as follows:

	Mills
County of Chippewa	6.15
Townships	1.65
Intermediate School District	.20
TOTAL	8.00

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Ted Postula, Robert Savoie, and Scott Shackleton
NAYS: None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONAL, EQUALIZATION AND APPORTIONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 27, 2022

Chairman – Commissioner Postula

Personnel – Office of Emergency Services/ E 9-1-1 Director

The Committee was updated on the internal posting for the opening of Office of Emergency Services. E 9-1-1 Director position; with one resume received and letter of interest received from Undersheriff Greg Postma. Comments of thanks and praise were offered for retiring Director Michelle Robbins.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve hiring Greg Postma, effective June 6, 2022 as the Office of Emergency Services/E 9-1-1 Director. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Personnel – Non-Union Wages

The Committee reviewed the non-union full and part-time wages pay scale for the County and Health Department employees with annual estimates provided for the seventy full-time and sixty-one part-time employees. The non-union personnel have not received an increase in pay since 2020, a ten plus year comparison of increases given to union groups and the non-union group for review. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize effective June 1, 2022 a 0.25 cent per hour increase for the non-union pay scale for the County and Health Department personnel. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Further discussion regarding Animal Control part-time staffing an additional 79-hour position was requested by Administration, due to staffing changes at the Shelter. The 79-hour position would replace hours lost due to recent staff changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve effective June 1, 2022, a second 79-hour position for the Animal Shelter; this change will be reflected on the new

pay scale. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Personnel – Non-Union – Security Officers

The Committee was updated on the continued difficult of hiring part-time security officers/bailiffs, as County wages do not compete locally with similar jobs. The Committee reviewed a proposal that would bump the part-time employees in Department 149 only, to start at the fourth step on the part-time scale (\$14.44 currently and \$14.69 effective 6-1-2022). Discussion followed including estimates of cost for the change.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the pay scale for Department 149 – security officers/bailiffs only to start at the fourth step of the part-time pay scale; effective June 1, 2022. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Personnel – School Resource Officers – Equipment & Personnel

The Committee was asked by the Sheriff for approval to start ordering equipment that will be needed for the school resource officers that is being established from the Boards prior action utilization the Medical Marijuana Revenue. The Sheriff's Department is checking into SRO training and developing school presentations for school bullying, anti-drug, internet safety, etc. and requesting on ordering the necessary equipment. Discussion continued with regards to the program and SRO hires.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commission Shackleton, to approve the request to start purchasing the necessary equipment needed for the additional school resource officers and to set-up the necessary line items within the Special Fund. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to authorize two new positions for School Resource Officers within the Sheriff's Department. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Personnel – Designated Assessor

The Committee was updated on the requirement from the State Tax Commission that the County have a Designated Assessor to serve as the unit's Assessor of Record. Former Equalization Director Sharon Kennedy will need to be replaced, Administration reviewed the prior documents and applications and is recommending that Ms. Tina Fuller be appointed; this appointment and interlocal agreement will need to be approved by the County Townships and then sent to the State of Michigan for approval of the petition and the agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to accept and authorize the County to name Ms. Tina Fuller as the Designated Assessor, replacing former Assessor Sharon Kennedy and upon approval from the township units and City of Sault Ste. Marie and the State of Michigan acceptance. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Postula, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to accept the April 27, 2022 Personnel, Equalization and Apportionment/Transportation/Health and Social Services Committee meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2022

Chairman – Commissioner Savoie

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Medical Resource Group – Medical Space Lease

The Committee reviewed documents previously provided via email regarding a request from Medical Resource Group, to lease the use of one (1) exam room one (1) day per week at the rate of \$500.00 per month from the Chippewa County Health Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize the signature for the medical space lease between Medical Resource Group and the Chippewa County Health Department, at the rate of \$500.00 per month for one (1) exam room one (1) day per week. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Health Department – Write-offs through 9/30/2021 (Total \$80,863.02)

- Public Health Insight \$23,077.27
- Environmental Health \$662.00
- SHACC Insight \$2,997.08
- SHACC dental \$400.00
- Home Health \$49,471.67
- Hospice \$4,255.00

The Committee reviewed the annual write-offs for the Health Department; these write-offs are for services provided through 9/30/2021 (more than 365 days old).

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve the Chippewa County Health Department write-offs for services provided through 9/30/2021 as follows: Public Health Insight \$23,077.27; Environmental Health \$662.00; SHACC Insight \$2,997.08; SHACC dental \$400.00; Home Health \$49,471.67 and Hospice \$4,255.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Department – Body Scanner \$199,500.00 purchase from Fund Balance of Fund 232

The Committee reviewed prior information received from Sheriff Bitnar regarding the purchase of a body scanner to eliminate most of the smuggling that is occurring in our facility. This purchase is supported by MMRMA and they have a model policy for the County to use. The quote for the body scanner includes multi-year coverage for maintenance and upgrades, if needed. The Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner cost is \$139,000, five years of additional warranty \$37,500, wall-mount monitor with touchscreen \$2,500; added thermal scanner to record subject temperatures is \$20,000.00 and \$500.00 for a small counter top for a total of \$199,500.00. The County purchasing policy would need to be waived.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize to use fund balance from Fund 232 for the quote from Tek84 to purchase the Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner, adding five additional years of warranty, thermal camera and wall mount touchscreen monitor for a total cost of \$199,000 plus an additional \$500 to add a new counter and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Department – Out-of-State Travel

The Committee reviewed a request for out-of-state training for the School Resource Officers to attend SRO Basic Training (National Association of School Resource Officers) in Michigan City, Indian.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve the out-of-state training for two (2) school resource offices to attend SRO Basic Training in Michigan City, Indiana. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Animal Shelter - \$10,000.00 grant from Two Seven Oh Inc. ~ Purchase commercial washer and dryer, low bid and budget amendment.

The Committee was updated on the Animal Shelter receiving a \$10,000.00 grant from Two Seven Oh Inc., which the Shelter Manager would like to direct to purchasing a commercial washer and dryer. Quotes have not been received, Administration asked for authorization to approve the low bid for the commercial washer and dryer and a potential electrical quote should services need to be upgraded.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to accept the grant and approve the funds be used to purchase a commercial washer and dryer for the CCACS and allowing Administration to approve the low bid. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Copier Bid Summaries

- **Prosecutors Office**
- **Circuit Court (For transcripts)**

The Committee reviewed the two bid summaries for the Prosecutor's Office and the Circuit Court transcripts, the same copiers were quoted for each office Bizhub 300I from National Office Products and Ricoh IM 3500 from Sault Printing Company. The bottom-line pricing and breakdown using a number of copies per year was provided.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve and authorize purchase of two Konica Minolta Bizhub 300I from National Office Products; one (1) for the Prosecutors Office at the price of \$4,114.36, with a \$1,000.00 trade-in and one (1) for the Circuit Court transcripts at the price of \$3,700.53. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Caribou Lake Dam Inspection

The Committee was updated on the need for the Caribou Lake Level Control Structure, Dam ID 1941 to have a routine inspection (SOM requires every three years). The Committee was provided with a copy of the prior report and a quote from Ayres Associates Inc. to complete the inspection for \$2,300.00. This will be paid from Administration's professional services line item. Discussion and questions followed regarding how the County became to be in charge of this dam.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve and accept the quote from Ayres Associates Inc. in the amount of \$2,300.00 to complete the required inspection for the Caribou Lake Level Control Structure, Dam 1941, per SOM requirements. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Release County Plat Book RFQ

The Committee reviewed the Request for Quotations for the 2022 Chippewa County Plat Book for release to receive quotes. Questions about electronic availability and if are printing less was brought up.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to approve release of the RFQ for the 2022 Chippewa County Plat Book. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance - Claims and Accounts - April

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to recommend the approval of April County bills and payroll: general claims \$355,076.16 other fund claims \$4,316,891.77, payroll \$604,847.53, and Health Department claims \$615,144.92 and payroll \$220,499.54 total claims \$6,112,459.92. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance – ARPA Funds – Government Services

The Committee reviewed the latest ARPA compliance report as \$7,254,605.00 was provided to the County because of revenue loss due to Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. The County has used Guidehouse Services to help navigate the information that has been continually updated with multiple final rulings and the options of use for the monies. The final rule/guidance effective April 1, 2022 provided new standards for those receiving less than \$10 million. Committee members offered their feelings with regards to the ARPA funds; Commissioner Shackleton stating that the Board is fiscally responsible to the constituents and that County has taken a lot of hits, needing to add expenditures to the budget, how the Final Rule changed allowing entities receiving less than 10 million are allowed to keep the funds for general government services and that using these funds as a pass-through were not eligible in the past without a contract for services. Commissioner Martin is not comfortable giving these monies out, even if eligible, because the future is uncertain, we needed to give raises to maintain services and those increases will compound. Commissioner Savoie spoke about the pandemic and the cost to the County in overtime and staffing needs for the departments and that government services is the business we are in and we need to pay our bills first; he also noted that we still have opioid revenue coming and he believes that will have restriction that should help with the drug problems. Commissioner Postula was not in agreement as he thought we owed a public hearing to the entities seeking funds from the County's ARPA. The public hearing (work session) was previously spoken about when it was thought the Commission as a whole was going to need to figure out how to divvy up the funds with those that had reached out. It was noted that the County did receive about eight requests for the funds early in the process, but once the rulings came out it was clear that we could keep the funds for operations.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to utilize the ARPA funds in accordance with the rules set forth for government services; to cover eligible expenses back to March 3, 2021, if allowable.

A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Postula stating that he voted against it in Finance and has since given it much thought, indicating that he wished we had plans for it before we took it but hated to lose it.

Commissioner Shackleton communicated that the problem was that they kept changing the rules. They finally changed the rules stating any Governmental Entity that receives less than 10,000,000 can keep it and use it for their standard governmental services.

Commissioner Savoie noted that with the pandemic, they spent money; basically, they did some deficit

spending with plans to get on top of it. He further stated that they do not know where they will end up financially in a year or two, so sitting on this money right now is the smartest move they can make. He referenced the Michigan Constitution and communicated services the county government is obligated to provide to the citizens.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Postula, to accept the May 10, 2022, Finance Claims and Accounts minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Commissioner Shackleton explained that Commissioner Baron resigned from the Board because of employment issues effective April 30th. He indicated that that particular seat is up for election in November, and there are candidates on both the Democratic and Republican sides. The Board is required to fill the vacancy within 30 days and it made sense to go back to the previous office holder in the interim.

It was then moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Postula, to appoint Mr. McLean to fill the remainder of that seat.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Commissioner Postula:	Yes
Commissioner Shackleton	Yes
Commissioner Savoie	Yes

Don McLean received a unanimous vote and was appointed to the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners to fill the vacancy to expire 12/31/2022.

The Oath of Office was then given to Commissioner Don McLean by the clerk.

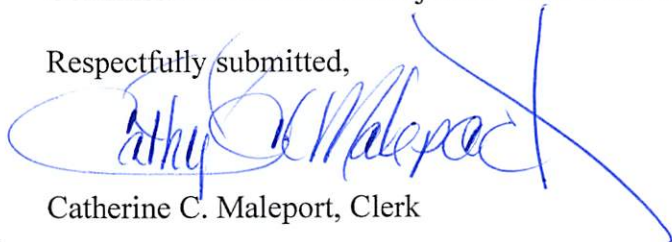
COMMISSIONER REPORTS ON MEETINGS AS BOARD
REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Among some of the comments were as follows:

- No comments were offered

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner McLean to adjourn. On a voice vote, the Board adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk



Robert Savoie, Vice-Chairman
Acting Chair