

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
April 9, 2018

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Chairman Shackleton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Present: Commissioners Conor Egan, Jim Martin, Don McLean, Robert Savoie, and Chairman Scott Shackleton

Absent: None

Also Present: Scott Brand, Jim Traynor, Sheriff Mike Bitnar, Undersheriff Greg Postma, Brad Ormsbee and son Scottie, Carrie Lemaster, Karen Senkus, John Lechner, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, to approve the agenda as presented. Hearing no second, Commissioner McLean withdrew his motion.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to add to the agenda, under new business, item E as follows: GPS Enabled Patrol Units for the Sheriff's Department. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of March 12, 2018 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- John Lechner addressed the Commission with his concerns with the courts and law enforcement.
- Undersheriff Greg Postma provided information to the Board regarding the benefits GPS capability patrol cars would provide to the department and citizens of Chippewa County.

- Expanding on Undersheriff Greg Postma’s information regarding GPS Units in Patrol Cars, Bradley Ormsbee informed the Board of the dark spots in Chippewa County referencing the Southern end of the County and also out by Paradise. He also provided an update of the Road Commissions’ undertakings together with information referencing how the New Funding is being spent.
- Carrie Lemaster, Life and Health Department Supervisor at Superior Insurance Agency introduced herself to the Board and indicated that if anyone had any questions, she would be happy to answer after the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT– Jim German, given for informational purposes only – *no action items*.

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Resolution 18-06 – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve Resolution 18-06 as follows:

Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation 18-06 April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the statistics surrounding sexual assault are staggering with 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men experience sexual assault at some point during their life; sexual assault affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can be devastating for not only the survivor, but also for the family and friends of the survivor; at the Diane Pepler Shelter victims are provided help to rebuild and rejuvenate their life after this experience by providing them services like counseling, legal help, housing assistant, shelter, and so much more and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to

prevent sexual assault, support victim/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victim/survivors; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing sexual violence, and to hopefully increase the number of conversations our community can have about healthy relationships;

NOW THEREFORE be it, Resolved, That we, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2017, as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Chippewa County.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Yeas: Commissioners Egan, Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

Nays: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED

(B) Resolution 18-07 – Supporting Michigan Indigent Defense Act and Its Existing Local Cost Share

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve Resolution 18-07 after discussion as follows:

RESOLUTION 18-07

SUPPORTING MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE ACT AND ITS EXISTING LOCAL COST SHARE

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners supports the Michigan Indigent Defense Act and its efforts to insist upon fair and equal justice for low-income and indigent defendants; and recognizes the need for indigent defense options within the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that individuals should not be denied equal access to justice based on financial ability and the State of Michigan (State) has failed to provide competent representation to indigent defendants, thus failing to meet the state and federal constitutional obligation of a right to an attorney to all individuals; and

WHEREAS, it is also recognized that while equal access to justice is a fundamental constitutional right, the expenses related to providing these vital services must not be unfairly shifted to county and local governments; and

WHEREAS, through the enactment of PA 93 of 2013, the Michigan Indigent Defense Act, local systems responsibility for the cost are equal to the system's average annual expenditure in the three fiscal years immediately preceding the creation of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), less the money received from partially indigent reimbursements with the remaining costs to meet the MIDC-created standards being paid by the State; and

WHEREAS, submitted plans for compliance by the counties were significantly higher in cost than the State expected; the State is now trying to back out of its statutory obligation; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder's Fiscal 2019 budget includes provisions for indigent defense that would increase the budget on the counties and does not uphold the state's responsibilities in funding provisions; so

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the County of Chippewa is opposed to the Governor's proposed adjustments to the Indigent Defense Program and Local Cost Sharing within his fiscal year 2019 budget plan, and urges lawmakers to properly fund state standards from state resources, as per PA 93 of 2013.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Yeas: Commissioners Egan, Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

Nays: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED

(C) Resolution 18-08 – Special Tribute Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve Resolution 18-08 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-08

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT MICHAEL SCHROEDER**

WHEREAS, *Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder* has served the Michigan State Police for 25 Years; these 25 years have all been served from the Sault Ste. Marie Post; *Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder* is also a graduate of Northern Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, *Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder* has worked diligently and tirelessly at

upholding and exemplifying the highly professional image of the Michigan State Police; ***Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder's*** work ethic, his integrity and his attention to detail have earned him the highest regard by all his fellow Troopers, his peers and his supervisors; and

WHEREAS, *Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder* will retire from service with the Michigan State Police, from the Sault Ste. Marie Post in May of 2018 with 25 years of service to the Michigan State Police; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners respectfully dedicates this document to honor and thank ***Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder*** for his many years of public service with the State of Michigan and especially for his work in Chippewa County.
2. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends their best wishes to ***Detective Sergeant Michael Schroeder*** for many years of enjoyment upon his retirement.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Yeas: Commissioners Egan, Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

Nays: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED

(D) Resolution 18-09 – Special Tribute Sergeant Kathy Morton

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve Resolution 18-09 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-09

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF SERGEANT KATHY MORTON**

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Kathy Morton* was accepted and graduated from the Michigan State Police 108TH Recruit School in October of 1993; and began her career at the White Pigeon Post and is ending her career from the Sault Ste. Marie Post; and

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Kathy Morton* has worked thoroughly and diligently at upholding and representing the highly professional image of the Michigan State Police; ***Sergeant Kathy Morton's*** work ethic, her integrity and her attention to detail have earned her the uppermost regard by all her fellow Troopers, her peers and her supervisors; and

WHEREAS, *Sergeant Kathy Morton* will retire from service with the Michigan State Police, effective May of 2018 for 25 years of service to the Michigan State Police, serving the followings locations: White Pigeon Post, Southwest Enforcement Team Central, MSP/FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, East Lansing HQ, 5th District Regional Dispatch, Southwest Enforcement Team East, Battle Creek Post and ending her career at the Sault Ste. Marie Post; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners respectfully dedicates this document to honor and thank ***Sergeant Kathy Morton*** for her many years of public service with the State of Michigan and especially for her work in Chippewa County.
2. That the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners extends their best wishes to ***Sergeant Kathy Morton*** for many years of enjoyment in her retirement.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Yeas: Commissioners Egan, Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

Nays: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED

(E) GPS Units for Patrol Cars (*Added to the Agenda*)

13 Units ~ the cost breakdown with the new offer is as follows:

\$80.00 Per Sending Unit (Free Now)
\$30.23 Vehicle Harness

\$30.23 Total for Cars 13 Cars = \$392.99
\$18.95 per vehicle per month 13 Cars = \$2,956.00

Total for First year = \$6,349.19
Following years = \$2,956.00

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to add GPS units to the Sheriff's Patrol Cars. A discussion followed; Undersheriff Greg Postma answered all of the Commissioners' concerns in addition to providing information to the Board regarding fees. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL/EQUALIZATION/TRANSPORTATION/HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEMS

1) 2018 County Equalized Values

Equalization Director Sharon Kennedy reviewed the process of arriving at equalized values, including land value, economic condition factor, appraisal, and sales studies, the assessor and boards of review function in the process, and ultimately the role of county and state in establishing equalized value.

Ms. Kennedy went on to present the 2018 County Equalized Values. The total 2018 Equalized Value for the county is \$1,347,238,100. She explained that the values presented on the report are the basis for completing the State required forms which must be completed and sent to the State before the end of April. The equalization process and the valuations presented were discussed in detail.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, that the equalized values as presented by Equalization Director Sharon Kennedy be adopted as reported and that all state required forms regarding same be completed and filed as required by statute. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

2) 2018 Tentative Taxable Values

As an informational item, Equalization Director Kennedy also presented the *Tentative 2018 Taxable Values* and explained the capped value formula as it relates to taxable values. It was explained that the county's projected tentative taxable value is \$1,140,631,390 which is a projected increase of \$26,222,094 over the County's 2017 value. The final taxable values for the county will be calculated in May, after preliminary State equalization occurs and after school operating exemption information has been provided by the local assessors.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the Tentative 2018 Taxable Values presented by Director Kennedy be accepted in the minutes. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

3) Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Director Kennedy reviewed the process of establishing the County's operating millage rates, the time table involved, and the necessity of holding a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing at the June 11th meeting of the County Board of Commissioner's.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, that the information presented be accepted into the minutes and that the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing be scheduled for the June 11, 2018 meeting of the County Board, and that Director Kennedy, as soon as the necessary data is certified and compiled, submit the pertinent information to the Administrator's Office and the Board so that the hearing may proceed within the deadlines established by law. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to accept the Personnel/Equalization/Transportation/Health and Social Services Committee meeting minutes of April 5, 2018 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Martin, Chairman – April 5, 2018

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department Audit – Ken Talsma, Anderson, Tackman & Co.)

The Committee was presented the FY2017 Health Department Audit, included were the financial statements, activities, components units, major fund for the year ended September 30, 2017, including graphs presented by Anderson, Tackman & Company's Ken Talsma. Mr. Talsma presented and reviewed various documents while answering Committee questions throughout the presentation. The Health Department did receive an unmodified opinion (which is the best opinion), with prior comments being corrected including the weaknesses of the Health Department accounts receivables, there were no new finds, the new OPEB report provided by Jefferson Solutions was discussed, and as the liability projection has decreased, based on the new standards of GASB's. The Health Department's cost settlements are currently running similar to other Health Departments, being only one year behind. The Health Department's Home Health was discussed at length as due to the spread of overhead, it appears that HH had a loss during FY2017, when it actually made approximately 10%, if the overhead, which includes Administration and Retiree Health expenses, as those areas do not have a revenue source. The Committee thanked staff for their hard work, and indicated that the services provided by the health department staff are top notch. Mr. Talsma and the Committee indicated they are pleased with the direction of the Health Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept and approve the FY2017 Audit of the Chippewa County Health Department and authorize its distribution. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

Health Department – Pink Ribbon 18-04 - \$72.00

The Committee reviewed Pink Ribbon request 18-04 for \$72.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize Pink Ribbon request 18-04 for \$72.00. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

Health Department – Geneva Quantum Payroll System \$1,210 and \$25/month

The Committee reviewed the Chippewa County Health Department request to replace the existing Runtime version Software for the payroll system. This was not budgeted for FY18 and the cost will be spread to all programs. The cost of the Runtime version and installation is \$1,210 and \$25 monthly support fee.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve and authorize the Geneva Software Co, to replace existing Runtime version 12.06 for the payroll system at a cost of \$1,210.00 and a \$25 monthly support fee. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously*

Carried.

Department of Veterans Affairs – Out of State Travel

The Committee reviewed a budgeted request for out of state travel for the Veterans Counselor Jaci Haske to attend the National Association of County Veterans Services Offices in Reno, Nevada, from June 2nd through the 8th, 2018. Counselor Haske will be applying for a grant to get the travel expenses refunded. She has been successful in receiving these grant funds for prior travel. Committee members indicated that they have received nothing but positive feedback from her office, was impressed with her outreach activities and commended Counselor Haske for doing a good job.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the out to state travel request for Veterans Counselor Jaci Haski to attend the National Association of County Veterans Services Office in Reno, NV from June 2nd to the 8th, 2018 with the stipulation that she does apply for grant funding to support it. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

Recycling Program Proposition Millage Request

The Committee received and reviewed the Chippewa County recycling Program Proposition Millage Request seeking approval to place a millage renewal request for .50 mill, for 4 years, being 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, inclusive to provide funds for the development and continued operation of the Chippewa County Recycling Program on the August 2018 ballot. This proposal will permit the County to renew and continue the millage which was previously approved by the electors in 2014 to fund the recycling program in Chippewa County, ballot as follows.

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM
PROPOSITION MILLAGE REQUEST**

Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on all taxable reals and tangible personal property in Chippewa County Michigan be increased by the amount not to exceed .50 mill (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 4 years, being 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, inclusive, to provide funds for the development and continued operation of the Chippewa County Recycling Program, and shall the County levy such millage for said purpose? The estimate of revenue the County will collect if this millage is approved and levied in 2018 is \$575,000. (This is a renewal of the millage that expired with the 2017 tax levy)?

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the Recycling Program Proposition Millage Request, August 2018 language, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

Ambulance and Fire protection Millage Restoration

The Committee reviewed the memo from Director Missy Robbins clarifying this millage request is a restoration not a renewal, since the language was not put on the ballot in 2017. This proposal will permit the County to restore and continue the millage previously approved by the electors in 2014 to fund Ambulance and Fire Protection County-wide, and ballot will be as follows:

**AMBULANCE AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROPOSITION MILLAGE REQUEST**

Shall the expired previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Chippewa County, Michigan of .4280 mill (\$0.4280 per \$1,000 of taxable Value) which was reduced to .4275 mill by the required millage rollbacks, be reinstated at .4275 mill (\$0.4275 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 4 years, being 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, inclusive for the purpose of continuing to provide funds for the public services of Ambulance and Fire Protection county-wide with the provision that the levy be disbursed in the following manner: 35% administration, training, and communications operations, and 65% to be disbursed pro-rata based on Taxable Valuations to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Townships of Chippewa County, Michigan? The estimate of the revenue the County will collect if this millage is approved and levied in 2018 is \$495,000. (This is a renewal of the millage that expired with the 2017 tax levy)?

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Ambulance and Fire protection Proposition Millage Request, August 2018 language, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

Animal Shelter – New Kennel Gates by Donation thru a Pay Pal Account

The Committee was asked to authorize a Pay Pal account specifically for individuals to be able to sponsor new kennel gates at the shelter. The doors would have the donors name engraved at the top.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to authorize the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter to establish a Pay Pal Account – specifically for the new kennel doors project, and to make sure that proper financial controls are in place. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

CLOSED SESSION-Union Bargaining and Contracts

A brief discussion followed the closed session regarding the PAOM (Road Patrol) tentative agreement dated April 5, 2018; since this contract has binding arbitration (312); the Committee felt this was the best agreement that could be negotiated, binding arbitration is costly, administratively and legally, this is a peaceful solution to a four year agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve the POAM (Road Patrol) contract with the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners conditionally; as long as POAM members approve, if rejected by POAM it is understood that all prior offers will be removed and binding arbitration will continue. On a voice vote, the motion carried with Commissioner Martin voting Nay.

FINANCE – Claims and Accounts

The Committee reviewed the bills and payroll presented for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to recommend the approval of March bills and payroll as follows: general claims totaling \$290,519.28, other fund claims of \$181,787.80, payroll of \$686,656.23, Health Department claims of \$99,152.05 and Health Department payroll of \$192,308.12; total claims of \$1,450,423.48 and vouchers H-1 through H-271. On a voice vote, the motion was *Unanimously Carried*.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to accept the Finance Claims and Accounts Committee meeting minutes of April 5, 2018 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 McLean complimented the Equalization Department and thanked Equalization Director Sharon Kennedy for all that they do. He also recognized the need for her office to get the variety of trainings that they're required to have.
- Commissioner McLean also noted that Delta Airlines, part of the County's Airport received a designation of "Station of the Year" for that particular class of Airport.
- Commissioner McLean also reported on the MACC conference and Veterans program he attended. In regards to the Veteran's, he noted that our county is on average above on compensation, pensions, education, vocational and employment and below average on medical benefits.

Having completed the agenda items; it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Scott Shackleton, Chairman