

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 13th day of August, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Scott Shackleton, Don McLean, Jim Martin, Conor Egan and Robert Savoie

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner McLean and seconded by Commissioner Martin.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-18
OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 6049 AND SENATE BILL 1025**

WHEREAS, House Bill (HB) 6049 and Senate Bill (SB) 1025 seek to completely restructure the tax assessing qualifications, process and boundaries of local assessing units in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, HB6049/SB 1025 will impose a huge financial burden on Chippewa County as well as Michigan's other counties and local units because its mandates will require increased staffing levels and office space while providing a woefully inadequate 1% administrative fee and undefined "start-up funding" to compensate the counties and other local units for the drastic expenses that will surely accompany the new mandates; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 will put Chippewa County at odds with its local units of government by requiring the County to take the 1% administration fee from the local units to pay for our increased costs; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 changes the manner in which local boards of review (BOR) are conducted. By putting specialized BOR's at the county level, HB 6049/SB 1025 has the potential to strip elected township supervisors and local assessing units of control over the tax assessing process, depriving them of the ability to account for unique conditions and values unknown to county-wide, regional and/or statewide assessing units but well known in the local units; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025 appears to have been designed without any input from existing assessors or their associations and the previous drafts were not made public to the counties and townships directly affected by its sweeping changes until nearly ready for introduction into the Michigan Legislature. In this context, it is difficult to view HB 6049/SB 1025 as anything other than a power grab generating from Lansing reducing the standing of local units of government with their own constituents; and

WHEREAS, there are no guarantees that quality education will be available locally or even regionally to allow for the increased certifications levels imposed by HB 6049/SB 1025; and

WHEREAS, HB 6049/SB 1025's proposed levels of certification for assessors will not achieve the results that are being sought. The real problem is inadequate assessing practices, not levels of certification. The solution lies in appropriate oversight of assessors by the State Tax Commission, not simply imposing increased educational requirements that may be impossible to achieve, may not be relevant to the needs of the local unit, and will not eliminate inadequate assessing practices; a common sense approach should be encouraged and supported by the State Tax Commission and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County views HB 6049/SB 1025 in its current form as an unconstitutional unfunded mandate which does little or nothing to accomplish its stated goals; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes HB 6049/SB 1025 and asks that it be referred back to the House Tax Policy Committee and the Senate Finance Committee until the funding issues and other problems identified above can be properly addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to all counties in Michigan, Michigan House Representatives Lee Chatfield, Senator Wayne Schmidt and Governor Rick Snyder.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Scott Shackleton, Chairman, Chippewa County Board of Commissioners

Catherine C. Maleport, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Chippewa County at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Catherine C. Maleport, County Clerk