

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
March 14, 2019

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Chairman Scott Shackleton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Savoie.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don McLean, Robert Savoie, and Chairman Scott Shackleton. Commissioner Jim Martin arrived at 4:51 p.m.

ABSENT: Commissioner Egan

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Moher, Scott Brand, Karen Senkus, Elliot Nelson, Bridget Moher, Tom Farnquist, Les Laitinen, Marian Miller, Robert Malpass, Erin Carter, Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Administrator Jim German and Cathy Maleport, Clerk.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the Agenda with the following addition under Old Business:

- Ice Breaking in the Saint Mary's River

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the February 14, 2019 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, if necessary, forward as appropriate.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following appeared before the Board to report on their research and express their concerns with ice breaking in the St. Mary's River.

- Les Laitinen
- Robert Malpass

Erin Carter together with Elliott Nelson appeared before the Board to introduce themselves. Ms. Carter is the New Michigan State University Director and Mr. Nelson is with the Michigan Sea Grant program. He explained that the Sea Grant program works to help promote sustainable use of coastal resources and promote coastal economy. Mr. Elliott also provided a sampling of what the Sea Grant does across the area.

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

OLD BUSINESS

ICE BREAKING IN THE ST. MARY’S RIVER (*Added to the Agenda*)

A lengthy discussion took place relating to ice breaking in the St. Mary’s River. During discussion, Commissioner McLean raised his concerns, in particular, with the West Neebish Channel and ice breaking. He referenced specific language that reflected the procedures to be followed if the West Neebish Channel had to be opened under an emergency situation.

Chairman Shackleton read an e-mail he received from Mark Gill, director of vessel traffic that stated that there is no plan to open the West Neebish Channel ahead of the 25th of March Lock Opening.

There were no action items.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-05

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BARBARA FORTIN

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve Resolution 19-05 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-05

**RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION AND
SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BARBARA FORTIN**

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

WHEREAS, Barbara Fortin, has served the citizens of Chippewa County through her commitment to the County and its citizens. ***Barbara Fortin*** has provided exceptional service to numerous individuals during her thirty-six years of service, and for this we extend our thanks;

and

WHEREAS, Barbara Fortin, has taken personal pride in her work with the Chippewa County Clerk's Office, the Friend of the Court Office, and the Judges she has worked with; she worked hard to continue the enhancements for Chippewa County's residents, and her efforts have not gone unnoticed by those who benefit from her efforts; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Fortin through her high-performance standards, her kind friendship, her effectiveness, her passion, and her insight has earned her fellow workers' and citizens' utmost respect. Barbara Fortin is a shining example of the commitment needed and selflessly given to serve the citizens of Chippewa County who could not always look out for themselves.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore upon her retirement from Chippewa County, this document is signed and dedicated to honor **Barbara Fortin**, for her countless contributions to Chippewa County, and the individuals she served so well. For her untiring efforts in improving Friend of the Court services for the citizens of this County, we join together to extend to **Barbara Fortin** a gracious thank you for a job well done.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Commissioners Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 19-06

REVISE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve Resolution 19-06 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-06
RESOLUTION TO REVISE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL OF 2003**

WHEREAS, health care costs continue to rise for all Americans and, for some Americans, this increase can be devastating; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the focus of many lawmakers who portray it as an "entitlement" program that costs the Treasury too much money. Technically, the term "Entitlement" is correct but it has an unfortunate connotation; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential medical plan that millions of seniors and disabled individuals depend upon to stay alive. Medicare is not a gift, as the term "entitlement" suggests. Many of the beneficiaries have worked their entire adult life and paid into the system in order to receive this crucial medical plan; and

WHEREAS, due to spiraling costs largely associated with the price of prescription medications, our elected officials find themselves passing on increased costs to those who can least afford that increase, namely senior citizens and disabled individuals who are on Medicare's Part D Drug Program; and

WHEREAS, when congress enacted Medicare Prescription Drug Bill they enacted a law that does not allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for drug prices the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration does; and

WHEREAS, one economist, Dean Baker, estimates that Medicare could have saved approximately \$332 billion dollars between 2006 and 2013 (approximately \$50 billion a year) had the Department of Health and Human Services been permitted to negotiate prices of drugs with the drug companies, as federal agencies do in other programs; and

WHEREAS, rising prescription drug costs have been the primary reason for the increase in health benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of prescription drugs and outrageous profits made by pharmaceutical companies is a systemic problem that significantly affects our state and our nation. It deserves non-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS, we must prevent our elected officials from balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, the elderly and disabled. Increases in premiums and drug costs are unacceptable ways to deal with a flawed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; and

WHEREAS, we must preserve the Medicare program as is currently exists and to do so requires immediate action to cut unnecessary costs, particular in the area of prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, we must revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper, drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, we cannot allow the previously approved bill to stand as adopted at the risk of having the Medicare program be the cause of a staggeringly increasing deficit which will require tax increases or cuts to the rest of the government, nor can we allow the continuance of price increases to our citizens, which may cause many to contemplate discontinuing medically necessary drugs in order to pay their bills, heat their homes and have food on the table.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners goes on record urging our legislators to immediately commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area Federal and State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other Michigan Counties.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Commissioners Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 19-07

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SASSO

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve Resolution 19-07 as indicated below.

For the record, Administrator Jim German thanked Mr. Sasso for his many years of service for this county. He stated, "He has done so much good for War Memorial Hospital and other committees he sat on. He's given me good sound advice before I was County Administrator and after and has done one heck of a job as a public servant."

RESOLUTION 19-07
SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Frank Sasso

LET IT BE KNOWN, that it is with great honor that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to express their appreciation and gratitude to *Frank Sasso*, upon his retirement; through his many years of dedicated service;

WHEREAS, *Frank Sasso*, whose time serving Chippewa County citizens spans thirty-seven years, serving most recently on the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority and the War Memorial Hospital Board;

WHEREAS, *Frank Sasso*, began serving the County residents on the War Memorial Hospital Board January 1, 1981; acting as a member and Chairman of the Board, he also served the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority for a similar term; also as a member and Chair of the Authority,

WHEREAS, *Frank Sasso*, has provided outstanding guidance to Chippewa County over the span of his tenure, with the War Memorial Hospital Board, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority, leading the residents through many changes, upgrades and renovations; he has spent countless hours supporting the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and visitors to Chippewa County and the surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, *Frank Sasso*, has served the citizens of Chippewa County, in a manner above reproach, through his constructive suggestions, his high performance standards, his kind friendship, his professionalism, and his inspiration making Chippewa County a better place to live and visit, and placing him in the highest of categories;

WHEREAS, *Frank Sasso*, is a community member whose major accomplishments and community service have made him a valuable member to the community, who found resolution to

problems and fought for solutions that were best.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to congratulate and express their appreciation to **Frank Sasso** for his many years of community service, in helping to improve the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and visitors.

2. That Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of its residents, extends their continued best wishes and heartfelt thanks to **Frank Sasso** for his many years of professionalism, his community service, and his dedication to excellence in serving the people of this County.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Commissioners Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 19-08

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve Resolution 19-08 as follows:



**Sexual Assault Awareness
Proclamation 19-08**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the statistics surrounding sexual assault are staggering where 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experience experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime; One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old; sexual assault affects men, women, and children of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional; annually, rape costs the U.S. more than any other crime (\$127 billion) costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorder 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 Peppler Resource Center survivors are provided help to rebuild and rejuvenate their life after the trauma through services like counseling, civil legal assistance, housing assistance, safe shelter, and so much more and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, or agency can eliminate sexual assault on their

own, but the community working together to educate the population about sexual violence, prevention, supporting survivors and their families, increasing support for the agencies that provide support services, and challenging the language that promotes the rape culture; and

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

WHEREAS, a commitment to ensuring the safety of the citizens in the county through policy reviews, updating policies, and education of self, youth, and communities. Everyone deserves to feel safe from violence in their county, communities, and relationships.

NOW THEREFORE be it, Resolved, That we, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2019, as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Chippewa County.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Commissioners Martin, McLean, Savoie and Chairman Shackleton

NAYS: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Martin, Chairman – March 7, 2019

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department - Environmental Health Policy 903 - Food Fees

The Committee was provided a comprehensive overview of the request to streamline, simplify and restructure the fixed food fees policy. The Health Department provided a food fees comparison of other health departments; which it appears Chippewa is a little bit higher but close to the others. Also, provided was a detailed breakdown of how the 168 facilities would be affected by the change requested and provided risk-based inspection schedule procedure, regarding the differences between Z and Y facilities. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the amended Environmental Health Policy 903, Fixed Food, which was prepared on March 1, 2019, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Information Systems – ROD Scanner \$7,288.61

The Committee reviewed the three quotes and Information Systems breakdown on current equipment and the cost to replace with new equipment. The low quote of \$7,288.61 includes a trade-in of a \$450.00 credit with GovConnection, Inc.; and would be need to be approved and budgeted to be paid from Special Fund 256 – Register of Deeds Automation Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize the purchase and budget amendment for the purchase of a Production Scanner from GovConnection, Inc., at the cost of \$7,288.61, including trade-in, as quoted. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Aventric Technologies – 6 AED’s

The Committee reviewed the invoice for the purchase of six (6) LP CR Plus AED’s to continue to update the equipment in the Sheriff’s Department; for the price of \$6,594.00 including a \$600.00 credit for six (6) used AED’s. The Committee was asked to waive the purchasing policy, as Administration previously approved the transaction to receive the pricing.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize and approve the purchase of six (6) new AED’s from Aventric Technologies and to waive the County’s purchasing policy, for the price of \$6,594.00, including trade-ins, as quoted. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Out-of-State Travel Sheriff Bitnar

The Committee reviewed a request for Sheriff Mike Bitnar to attend a Rural Sheriff’s Opioid Crisis Conference; as he was nominated and chosen to represent the County for his efforts regarding the opioid crisis.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to authorize the out-of-state travel for Sheriff Mike Bitnar, to attend Rural Sheriff’s Opioid Crisis Conference in Columbus, Ohio. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Bid Summaries

Dodge Charger (1) with trade-in

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the purchase of one (1) Dodge Charger Patrol Unit, with one bid received from O’Connor Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of \$25,543 less trade-in \$1,543.00; total price due \$24,000.00; and meeting bid specifications.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the purchase of one (1) Dodge Charger Patrol Unit at the cost of \$24,000.00, which includes trade-in value of \$1,543.00 from O’Connor Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Mid-size SUV (2) with trade-in

The Committee received the bid summary for the purchase of two (2) Mid-size SUV’s V-6 (AWD only) vehicles; two quotes were received one from O’Connor Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, for Dodge Journey’s and one from Soo Motors Inc., for Ford Explorers. O’Connor having the lower prices of \$57,456.00 less trade-in \$1,500.00; total price due \$55,956.00 for two (2) 2019 Dodge Journey’s.

The Committee received information from the Sheriff on the current shortage of vehicles, and his request to receive a 2018 Dodge Journey with added options of approximately \$7,000.00 instead of waiting 6 to 10 weeks for the delivery of the 2019 Dodge Journey.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to purchase one (1) 2018 Dodge Journey, with an additional option of approximately \$7,000 off the sales lot, instead of one (1) of the 2019 Dodge Journeys at the same price quoted; and to waive the County policy for its

purchase. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Cost Allocation Plan for FY18, 19 & 20

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the Cost Allocation Plan for FY18, 19 & 20; two quotes were received one from Maximus Consulting Services, Inc. and one from MGT of America Consulting, LLC, to provide the County’s cost allocation plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve and authorize the low bid from Maximus Consulting Service, Inc. of \$15,000 (\$5,000 annually) to provide the County’s Cost Allocation Plan for FY18, FY19 and FY20. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance - Claims and Accounts

The Committee reviewed the bills and payroll presented for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to recommend the approval of February bills and payroll as follow: the general claims totaling \$217,361.07, other fund claims \$373,343.93, payroll \$489,621.58, Health Department claims \$232,032.82 and Health Department payroll \$223,048.67 for total claims \$1,535,408.07 and vouchers H-1 through H-317. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to accept the March 7, 2019 Finance Claims and Accounts Meeting Minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

Having completed the Agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 5:34 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Scott Shackleton, Chairman