

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
May 11, 2015

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Present: Commissioners Conor Egan, Raymond 'Rudy' Johnson, Jim Martin, Don McLean and Chairman Scott Shackleton

Absent: None

Also Present: Scott Brand, Chippewa County Treasurer Marjorie Hank, Chippewa County Public Defender Robert Stratton, III, 50<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge James Lambros, Chippewa County Prosecutor Dennis McShane, Circuit Court Administrator Tina James-Ojala, Sheriff Robert Savoie, Jim Traynor, Shirley Farnquist, Lynn Farnquist, Lisa Gauthier, Christine Sams, Tom Farnquist, Sherrie Lucus, Kristina Dennison, Anna Bonacci-Slater, Joe and Joan Claxton, David Martin, 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 Egan, to add to the agenda Resolution 15-08. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve the agenda as amended. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the regular County Board meeting minutes of April 13, 2015 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 Martin, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the Clerk's Office and, if necessary, forward to the appropriate committee. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Tom Farnquist appeared before the Commission to thank the Commissioners for their preliminary support at the last meeting for a drug court and wanted to address their financial concerns. He provided documents stating all the statistics, listing an array of facts reflecting how drug courts save money, in addition to their many benefits.
- Lynn Farnquist appeared before the Commission in support of Chippewa County establishing a Drug Court. She read a heartfelt e-mail she received from Jackie Vincent who was unable to attend and knew that the Commission was going to be considering establishing a Drug Court.
- Shirley Farnquist also appeared before the Commission, noting first, that her involvement in FAN started way before anything happened to her family and provided information reflecting the benefits of having a drug court and financial concerns.
- Kristina Dennison, with the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, appeared before the Commission to present an update on some of the things that they have been doing on behalf of the conservation district. In addition to their Michigan Invasive Species Grant Funding, she indicated that they were also able to receive some funding from the DNR, under their deer range improvement program, *DRIP FUNDING*. They were able to secure \$14,000.00 to provide over \$500.00 in supplies, to 20 private land owners that are adjacent to state land to increase deer habitat range.

**Administrator's Report** – Given for informational purposes only.

### New Business

**(a) Re-affirm the appointment of Jim Shogren to replace Robert Wilson on the Department of Veterans' Affairs Board of Directors – term to expire March 31, 2016.**

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to re-affirm the appointment of Jim Shogren to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Board of Directors for a term to expire March 31, 2016 and also ask that they prepare a resolution recognizing Robert Wilson for his many years of service. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Resolution 15-08** (*added to the agenda*)

It was moved by Commission Egan, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve resolution 15-08 as follows:

A discussion followed, Chairman Shackleton explained that this Resolution is dealing with Big Box Stores that are successfully appealing a tremendous reduction in their valuations and eroding the tax base. Such stores are being re-evaluated as if their store was vacant. It was also noted that we need a legislative fix as this doesn't just erode the tax base; it also puts that tax burden on everyone else. Their discussion yielded, the consensus of the Board that this Resolution be distributed widely.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15-08**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL OF TAX TRIBUNAL RULING**

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, know of many appeals of a Final Opinion and Judgment entered in the Michigan Tax Tribunal through-out the Upper Peninsula of Michigan;

WHEREAS, many Upper Peninsula Counties are appealing the ruling of the state of Michigan's tax tribunal ruling, which significantly reduces the ad valorem property tax assessments of modern home improvement store properties located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and,

WHEREAS, each property was valued after the store's construction in accordance with its existing use as a home improvement store; and,

WHEREAS, each property owner appealed the ad valorem tax assessment levied by the townships to the Tax Tribunal asserting that the properties must be valued as if they were vacant and unoccupied retail buildings;

WHEREAS, the Tax Tribunal ruled in favor of the property owners and substantially reduced the property tax assessments. Such ruling will impact the ability of the local governments to provide support services at the current level and to cover the expenses to install and maintain the municipal infrastructure needed for the development of the big box stores.

WHEREAS, this ruling will also eliminate the ability to generate the funds for continued growth, jobs, and economic development.

WHEREAS, taxing units will experience heavy long-term financial losses for future years under Proposal A, which effectively prevents the taxing units from raising the taxable values significantly in future years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners supports the appeals of all the Upper Peninsula Counties and that the properties should be valued by considering the existing use and the present economic income of the land and structures at the time of assessment.

FUTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners requests that the Legislature study and provide a permanent solution that will preserve the tax base of all our local communities.

#### **A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS**

AYES: Commissioners Egan, Johnson, McLean, Martin, and Chairman Shackleton.

NAYS: None

#### **RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

### **FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Martin, Chairman

May 7, 2015

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **Drug Court Presentation**

After a brief recess in the meeting, Judge James Lambros was asked a few questions about the program, which he stated is focused on breaking the cycle of addiction early. He indicated this program will be run rigidly and offenders will not be enrolled in the program multiple times. Judge Lambros thanked the individuals who have so diligently been working on the establishment of the Chippewa County Drug Court. The Committee had the Drug Court projections, the grant, statistics from other Counties and a letter of support from Circuit Court Judge Pavlich at hand. A brief discussion followed – noting that this program is about helping to save individuals and families who are affected by the current drug problems in Chippewa County. The projection noted that the grant is an annual state grant that runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, with the projections showing a County match of \$5,552.88 for the current grant and an approximate match of \$19,659.80 for the next grant, if funding is received. It also broke down the personnel, fringes, contractual, supplies, publishing and travel for the proposed Chippewa County Drug Court through 50<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and support the 2014 Application for Michigan Drug Court grant Program – 50<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court for a Drug Court in Chippewa County, based on the projections and information provided. A discussion followed which included finances, in addition to the many benefits of a drug court. On a voice vote, the motion was carried.

##### **Approve – Blue Cross Blue Shield Inmate Renewal**

The Committee received a copy of the renewal Administrative Services Contract (ASC) for the term of July 2015 through June 2016, with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Administrative Fees of 11% remain the same as the previous years.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield Administrative Services Contract for Chippewa County Inmates for a term of July 2015 through June 2016 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

##### **Approve – Career Development Plan per AFSCME**

The Committee received and reviewed the Career Development and eligibility of AFSCME employees to obtain assistance through the County for continuing their education – a plan has been approved by Prosecutor McShane, in support of Franci DeCoe – to receive a reimbursement of \$1,200 per Union contract.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioners McLean, to approve the \$1,200 Career Development reimbursement to Franci DeCoe. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

##### **Approve – MOU with State of Michigan for the Child Care Fund**

This MOU *Memorandum of Understanding* between the State of Michigan Department of Human Services and County of Chippewa is to define the roles and responsibilities of the parties, in providing financial support for the child care fund services in Chippewa County. The Committee was notified that this is not a change to the current handling of the information and is only a formality. The State of Michigan gave us the option of taking over the process, but there are no benefits in doing so.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioners Johnson, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Michigan Department of Human Services and County of Chippewa to define the roles and responsibilities of the parties, for the financial support of the Child Care Fund. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Approve – Virginia Walters Fund utilization**

The Committee received information from Treasurer Margie Hank regarding the request from the Health Department to utilize the funds to train in-house staff as CPR instructors and to purchase training equipment, which would follow with the intent of the fund. The fund would then be closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioners Egan, to approve the request from the Health Department to utilize the Virginia Walter Fund savings account of \$4,491.69 to train and purchase equipment for CPR instructors, and to close the account. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Bid Summary - Sheriff Vehicles**

The Committee received and reviewed the bid summary for the purchase of two patrol vehicles. Two bids were received and both met bid specifications.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the low bid from O'Connor Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for the purchase of two 2015 Dodge Chargers with Police package for the total purchase price of \$47,034. A discussion followed, which included the importance of looking into getting trade-ins, as part of the process, listing such as a separate item for the vehicles that we're getting rid of next year. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

#### **Bid Summary – Cost Allocation Plan**

The Committee received and reviewed the complete bid packets via e-mail for the Cost Allocation Plan for FY 15, 16 & 17. The Cost Allocation Plan is necessary in order to recover indirect costs the State and Federal government required and approved A-87 county-wide cost plan be prepared annually to identify all indirect costs eligible for reimbursement; the plan identifies and maximizes the recoverable costs incurred by the county to provide contracted services under federal awards. The report is utilized primarily by the Friend of the Court and Prosecutor's IV-D programs and is also used annually for Probate Court funding.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the low bid from Maximus Consulting Services in the total amount of \$10,500 or \$3,500 per year for the FY15, 16 & 17 Cost Allocation Plan. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## **Jail Maintenance**

### **Approve Heat tapes for drain pipes on South side - \$2,775**

The Committee was updated on a couple of maintenance items that have been brought to the Administration's attention that need to be taken care of. The Committee reviewed the proposal to install heat tape for the drain pipes in the covered parking area on the South side of the jail.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to approve the quote from Roy Electric Co., to install heat tape in the drain pipes in the covered parking area on the South side of the Jail, for an amount not to exceed \$2,775.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Approve roof repairs 20x50 area**

The Committee reviewed the second item brought forward by Maintenance staff regarding patching of a 20'x50' area on the upper southeast corner of the jail that needs repairs. After a discussion the Commission asked that Administration seek two additional quotes, and authorized Administration to go with the low bid.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to authorize the Administrator to seek two additional quotes on the 20x50 area of the jail roof and to authorize the most prudent quote for repairs of the 20x50 area. 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 April bills and payroll as follow: the general claims totaling \$309,340.72, other fund claims \$4,098,590.83, payroll \$453,659.92 and total claims \$4,861,591.47 and vouchers H-1 through H-338. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Committee Comments**

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to change the Finance Committee meetings to 2:00 p.m. for the months of June, July and August. A discussion followed which included moving the Finance Meetings to the 91<sup>st</sup> District Courtroom because of the acoustics in the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Courtroom; such was moved by Commissioner Martin in the event Judge Church is able to accommodate the request.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept the Finance Claims and Accounts Committee meeting minutes of May 7, 2015 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## COMMISSIONERS REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS

- Commissioner McLean stated that he hoped that the Drug Court is a step in the right direction in recognizing mental health issues. He noted that his daughter was both dual diagnosed referencing an e-mail provided by Jacki Vincent, that Christine Lundquist read during public comments. He also stated that he wanted to acknowledge that our work is just beginning relative to the helping of people in need, and that hopefully we can get a group together as eager to work on mental health issues as the people that have worked on the drug issue.
- Commissioner Martin noted, if you ask anyone that is in Corrections, the number of people who are incarcerated because they have mental health issues, are astronomical and unfortunate.
- Commissioner Egan noted that mental health issues remain one of those taboo issues that people do not like to talk about. It's much easier to label someone as a criminal, or as an outsider, than it is to actually try to help them. It is something very important that needs to be addressed.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Egan, that the Board adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion carried and the Board adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

Scott Shackleton, Chairman