

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
May 14, 2020

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Savoie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don McLean, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton and Chairman Jim Martin.

ABSENT: Commissioner Conor Egan

ALSO, PRESENT: Deputy Administrator Kelly Church, Administrator Jim German and Cathy Maleport, Clerk. *Present via Zoom:* Karen Senkus, Tina Ojala, Katie Chipman Amy Hjerstedt and Erin Carter,

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the regular County Board meeting minutes of April 17, 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to acknowledge the correspondence received in the clerk's office and forward as appropriate.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments were offered

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Jim German - provided for informational purposes only - *no action items.*

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Superior District Library Resignation & Advertise

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve Mr. Hufnagel's resignation and delay advertising and replacement of said position until the Governor's

Stay at Home Order is lifted. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

B) Resolution 2020-09 Special Tribute Employees of Chippewa County

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to adopt Resolution 2020-09 as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2020-09
SPECIAL TRIBUTE AND THANK YOU
EMPLOYEES OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

LET IT BE KNOWN, that it is with great pride that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to thank, and express their appreciation to the Employees of Chippewa County whom did not miss a step, when the COVID-19 pandemic was announced.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY EMPLOYEES, we thank you for making Chippewa County safer, your hard work and perseverance both are truly appreciated. To name everyone individually would be impossible, you know who you are and most of you don't even seek recognition publicly, but you deserve it.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY EMPLOYEES have the responsibility to do their jobs, with little to no room for error, a sincere employee always tries to give their best effort. The County Board of Commissioners admires the employees and elected officials for their dedication and continuing to do their jobs, under the added stresses and concerns of COVID-19.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY EMPLOYEES your dedication and care for Chippewa County and its residents have not gone unnoticed, your hard work has brought peace of mind to the Board of Commissioners, that during this crisis, we have the right people for the job.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE therefore, for your professionalism, your community service, and your dedication to service, The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of its residents, extends a Thank You for a job well done to Chippewa County Employees as you all to serve the people of this County.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner McLean:	<i>Ayes</i>
Commissioner Savoie	<i>Ayes</i>
Commissioner Shackleton	<i>Ayes</i>
Chairman Martin:	<i>Ayes</i>

THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2020

Chairman – Commissioner Savoie

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – FYE 9/30/2019 Audit Presentation – Doug Welton, Anderson, Tackman & Co.

The Committee was updated on the progress of the Chippewa County Health Department's 9/30/2019 Audit; the Health Department had a good year, revenue increased by approximately \$586,000 because of adjustments, lower expenses and revenue matching the prior year. The Audit opinion is Unmodified which is the highest opinion agencies can receive. The Committee was reminded that since the Health Department is fee based and the bottom line can change rapidly.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Mclean, to accept and approve the FYE 9/30/2019 Audit of the Chippewa County Health Department and to authorize its distribution. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Health Department – Pink Ribbon #20-01 - \$1,920.62

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize Pink Ribbon request 20-01 for \$1,920.62. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Central Dispatch –2019 Stonegarden Grant and Documentation

The Committee reviewed the documents related to FY2018 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement that will run from September 1, 2019 to July 31, 2022; the following documents need to be authorized: grant agreement, sub recipient risk assessment certification, certifications regarding lobbying, standard assurances, audit certification and request for taxpayer ID.

Chippewa County Emergency Declaration Extension

The Local County Emergency Declaration Extension was presented to extend for an additional 28 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize signatures for the FY2019 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement for \$195,000.00 and the required documentation noted above; and to extend the Chippewa County Emergency Declaration an additional 28 days. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Public Defender – MIDC – Indigent Defense Budget 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021

The Committee reviewed the proposed Indigent Defense System Budget, which is due May 31st, the funding is similar to the current years with a total budget of \$523,793.20; with the local match of \$228,861.45.

It was moved by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the proposed MIDC – Indigent Defense Budget as presented for 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021; total budget \$523,793.20. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Register of Deeds – Electronic Recording

Register of Deeds Sharon Kennedy is implementing e-recording; there is no cost to the County, as the user pays all fees. Ms. Kennedy sought approval to sign into Memorandum of Understanding contracts currently with CSC, ePN, and Electronic Recording Procedures, which the contracts were attached for review. The Committee was also asked to allow ROD Kennedy to be approved to sign any additional contracts for the e-recording services in the future if other requests are received.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize Register of Deed Sharon Kennedy to sign the MOU contracts with CSC, ePN and Electronic Recording Procedures, as presented and to authorize Ms. Kennedy to sign future MOU's for e-recording if necessary. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Animal Control – Remove & Install Kennel Gates \$4,900.00

The Committee was updated on the difficulties of being able to find contractors for work at the shelter, as prior solicitation has not brought in responses. This project had been on hold, until the gates were received and we had a prior quote of \$5,000, but that contractor did not satisfactorily complete the flooring job. The Committee was asked to approve the quote from Celestino Services LLC, to remove and install twenty-five kennel gates at the price of \$4,900.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the quote of \$4,900.00 to Celestino Services LLC, to complete the gate work at the Animal Shelter. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – County staffing – return to work

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding employees currently working remotely and/or on rotation within their offices, as the Committee agreed that it is time for the employees to return to work or for staff to be furloughed or laid off. It was discussed that the Board and Administration have made and continues to make every effort regarding following the CDC recommendations and guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, but that it can't continue indefinitely. The City of Sault Ste. Marie and many other counties are phasing employees back to work in preparation for reopening to the public. The County has been proactive; including daily screening for all entering the buildings, gloves, cleaning, social distancing and sneeze guards, that are currently on order. The County was previously directed to determine essential staffing and was able to utilize some staff working remotely or on a rotating basis in and out of the building's offices, but now finds it is time to call all staff back to work as of May 11, 2020.

The return of staffing brought up the discussion of masks, and defining where and when employees and those with business in the buildings should be wearing a cloth mask. The guidelines of wearing masks, encourage everyone to wear, unless a medical condition prevents one being worn. Discussion followed extensively regarding all options.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, that the County will continue to phase staff back to full-time and effective May 11, 2020 all staff who are currently working remotely and /or on rotation within their offices, shall return; those employees will have the option to furlough, if requested due to COVID-19 issues. Employees will be encouraged to wear a cloth face masks, if able. The buildings will remain closed to the general public, except by appointment or scheduled Court hearing, until opened by the State of Michigan. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration - COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

The Committee received and reviewed a proposed COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for Chippewa County, that is required by EO 2020-59; and model was provided by the County's Liability insurance provider M.M.R.M.A.; and the provides instruction and guidelines for returning employees to work. The Plan includes guidelines for protective measures and guidelines to follow if, Chippewa County had employees with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. The County has low exposure, and has deemed all staff essential as of May 11, 2020.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded to Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, as presented and having Administration continually review and to add or suspend parts of the plan, as necessary. 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 Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to recommend the approval of April County bills and payroll: general claims \$800,678.14 other fund claims \$4,236,174.89, payroll \$716,338.02, and Health Department claims \$280,491.39 and payroll \$212,723.23 total claims \$6,246,405.95. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton to accept the Finance Claims and Accounts meeting minutes of May 7, 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

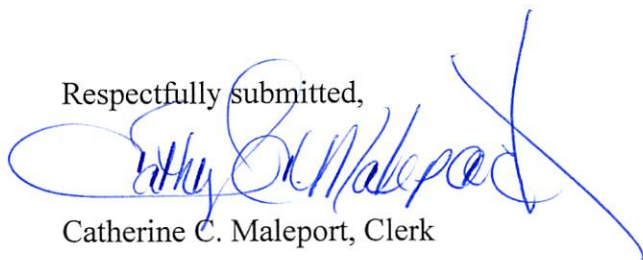
COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Among some of the comments were the following:

- **Commissioner McLean** reported on proposed Hazard pay that is being offered by the State for consideration.
- A discussion took place on recycling which included some complaints received by Commissioner Savoie, as well as, why they're unable to leave a recycling trailer at every township during this pandemic.
- **Commissioner Martin** noted that with what is going on in the country and world right now, we're going to be inconvenienced. He pointed out that all you have to do is look back at World War II, and the inconvenience that our Grandparents endured for six years. We have to keep in mind that on average, 1000 people are dying every day and it hasn't hit here, praise God.

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine C. Maleport", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk

James Martin, Chairman