

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
September 10, 2020

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the 91st District Courtroom of the Chippewa County Building.

Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via Zoom. Commissioner Shackleton 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, Lana Steinhaus, Suzanne Lieurance and Taylor Worsham.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to enter into closed session, pursuant to Section C of the Open Meetings Act, 267, P.A. 1976, as amended being MCL 15.268(c). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Commissioner McLean</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Savoie</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Shackleton</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chairman Martin</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion carried 4-0 at 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Martin declared that the closed session is over; it was then moved by Commissioner Savoie, Seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to return to the open Meeting of the Board. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Commissioner McLean</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Savoie</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Shackleton</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chairman Martin</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion carried 4-0 at 5:26 p.m.

Chairman Jim Martin called for a brief recess to go into a Public Hearing at 5:27 p.m.

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<i>Commissioner Shackleton</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Chairman Martin</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion carried 4-0 at 5:26 p.m.

Chairman Jim Martin called for a brief recess to go into a Public Hearing at 5:27 p.m.

The Board returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the August 13, 2020, 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 Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, 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) EUP Regional Planning – Letter of Support for EDA CARES Grant

Commissioner McLean provided information on the Merit Network's project as Merit is looking to add 70 miles of fiber to bring internet service to more of our residents. He indicated that they want a letter of support to do this in Chippewa County, and we're simply saying we'll support this for our residents.

It was moved by commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve a Letter of Support. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. *(see attached)*

(B) UPCAP – Letter re: Tax Tribunal Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the Letter regarding The Tax Tribunal Appointment. Commissioner Shackleton summarized it and communicated that this is a person on the Tax Tribunal who has supported the dark stores and what they've been doing. He further noted that most commissions across the Upper Peninsula have been writing letters similar to this because it has significantly hurt the Upper Peninsula. *(See next page)*

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners
319 Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Phone: (906) 635-6330
Fax: (906) 635-6325



Jim Martin
Don McLean
Conor Egan
Bob Savoie
Scott Shackleton

September 10, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, we are expressing our unanimous opposition to the reappointment of Victoria Enyart to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Her prior positions have been an obstacle to the Dark Store Reform and have resulted in a financial loss of millions from local and state government due to flawed interpretations of state tax laws.

As Michigan attempts to move forward in these financially unsure times, closing this tax loophole will be critical for Michigan's future. We respectfully request that you rescind your decision to reappoint Ms. Enyart to the Tax Tribunal.

Sincerely,

Jim Martin, Chairman
Chippewa County Board of Commissioners

cc: Upper Peninsula State Legislators
MAC
UP County Clerks
UP County Treasurers
UPPER Peninsula Legislative Coalition Members
Sharon Kennedy, Chippewa County Equalization Director

Chippewa County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2020

Chairman – Commissioner Savoie

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – 2020-2021 Budget & Contracts

The Committee reviewed the proposed CCHD 2020-2021 budget, with a budgeted \$1,700 surplus, that includes three new reporting units due to COVID-19 and allows for two more full-time nurses. The Health Department allocation from the County would remain the same as 2019-2020 at \$204,000. This budget is presented with no loss of any programming to the citizens of Chippewa County.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the 2020-2021 CCHD budget as presented; including authorizing the Health Officer's signature on the various maintenance and support contracts, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Department – Correctional Healthcare Companies Renewal - \$347,976.15

The Committee reviewed the continued Health Care Services 2020-2021 with Staffing Enhancements. The renewal includes a 5.8% consumer price index increase; plus adding 24 hours per week of Registered Nursing at an annual cost of \$73,068.60. The additional staffing is needed to keep up with INS standards and to cover the weekends. The renewal annual price with additional staffing will be \$347,976.15.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize the Correctional Healthcare Companies renewal; which includes additional Registered Nursing hours. The total annual amount \$347,976.15, without any ADP adjustments per the contract, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff Department – Body Camera System - \$65,323.90

The Committee reviewed the quote and the letters explaining the necessity to replace our current body cameras with new. The quote from Axon includes 3 sets of news cameras during the 5-year period, with extended batteries; the Department will be receiving 15 in total; and writing a MMRMA Rap Grant to help cover some of the cost.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to authorize the purchase of 15 Axon Body 3-NA10 Cameras at the price of \$65,323.90; and to waive the County's purchasing policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Office – Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding - \$47,423.40

The Sheriff's Department was awarded \$47,423.40 from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF); to be utilized for COVID-19 expenses to maintain public safety through prevention, preparation and response during the pandemic. The contract is due back by November 30, 2020; this is strictly a reimbursement-only grant.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept and authorize the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding of \$47,423.40; which is a reimbursement-only

grant through the Michigan State Police and the Department of Justice. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Prosecuting Attorney – Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding - \$8,857.40

The Prosecutor's Office was awarded \$8,857.40 from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF); to be utilized for COVID-19 expenses to maintain public safety through prevention, preparation and response during the pandemic. The contract is due back by November 30, 2020; this is strictly a reimbursement-only grant.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to accept and authorize the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding of \$8,857.40; which is a reimbursement-only grant through the Michigan State Police and the Department of Justice. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

MIDC/Public Defender contracts – FY2021- Legal Services – Glenn Sarka

Upon review; the Committee approved the contract as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the FY2021 Legal Services contract for Glenn Sarka, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

50th Circuit Drug Court contracts

The Committee reviewed contracts for the 50th Circuit Court Drug Court from ML Consultant and Great Lakes Recovery Centers, Inc. for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the 50th Circuit Drug Court contracts for 2020-2021 for ML Consultants and Great Lakes Recovery Centers, Inc. as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Discontinue John Hancock Deferred Compensation

The Committee was asked to administratively closed the 115736 Chippewa County Courthouse John Hancock Deferred Compensation Plan, as we no longer have any participants, not is there any funding left with John Hancock.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve and authorize the discontinuance quote and discontinuance letter to administratively closed the 115736 Chippewa County Courthouse Deferred Compensation Plan with John Hancock. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Supplemental Animal Control Services 2021-2022

The Committee reviewed the updated Contract for Supplemental Animal Control Services with the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Animal Control. The contract is currently under review for approval at the City level.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve and authorize signature for the Supplemental Animal Control Services between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County for 2021-2022. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Release Snow Plowing Bids

The Committee reviewed the two sets of snow plowing bids for 2020-2021.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the release of the snow plowing bids for the 2020-2021 season. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Administration – Multifunction Copier machine Bid Summary
Equalization Office**

The Committee reviewed the bid summary to replace the color copier in the Equalization Office; three bids were received timely and met specifications and included a trade-in. The cost per click were taken into consideration for awarding this bid.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the bid from National Office Products at a cost not to exceed \$3,771.73, for a Konica Bizhub C250i. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Office

The Committee reviewed the bid summary to replace the copier in the Sheriff's Office; three bids were received timely and met specifications and included a trade-in. Service response time was taken into consideration for awarding this bid.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the bid from National Office Products at a cost not to exceed \$3,651.65, for a Konica Bizhub 368. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Concrete Sidewalk Restoration

The Committee reviewed a solicited bid to change sidewalks on the north end of the Courthouse, to help eliminate the snow/ice falling directly onto the current walkway by moving the walkway. Additional bids have been sought with no response.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the bid from Superior Finish Carpentry to add sidewalks at the north end of the Courthouse building, to help eliminate snow/ice falling liability, at a cost not to exceed \$8,200.00 and to waive the County Purchasing Policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Clock Arm Restoration

The Committee reviewed another solicited bid to fix the arm on the Clocktower of the Courthouse; including added liability coverage for the contractor at the Administrator's request.

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Shackleton, to approve the bid from Superior Finish Carpentry to repair the clock arm on the Courthouse; restoration bid \$9,100 and project insurance \$3,500 and to waive the County Purchasing Policy. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance - Claims and Accounts

It was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner Mclean, to recommend the approval of

August County bills and payroll: general claims \$433,612.25 other fund claims \$2,603,997.46, payroll \$651,285.49, and Health Department claims \$265,818.85 and payroll \$102,039.41 total claims \$4,056,753.46. 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 September 3, 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**PERSONNEL/EQUALIZATION & APPORTIONMENT/TRANSPORTATION/
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

September 10, 2020

Acting Chairman – Commissioner Shackleton

FOC/PA-CRP-Support Coordinator transfer proposal

The Committee received a proposal to have the Support Coordinator position absorbed into the Friend of the Court Office and to change position descriptions and grades within the current FOC staffing; by combining the CRP contracts, the County would initially save \$5,000, eliminating the PA-CRP contract; plus, additional savings even after the pay grade changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the Support Coordinator transfer and absorb functions into Friend of the Court and to move forward organizationally with the proposed change, with raises to be budgeted into the FY2021 budget. If the raises are not feasible or justified, then hire the position into the FOC office. Commissioner Savoie noted that either way they go, if we give a pay raise to assume the duties or if we hire, it is a cost-saving to the County, this is in the County's best interest, and we should commend Prosecutor Rob Stratton for that.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Building Clerk Grade 7

The Committee reviewed the updated job description for the Administrative Assistant/Building Clerk, Grad 7, Non-Union; this change is due to the resignation of Danielle Girvin, effective September 18, 2020.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to approve the non-union grade 7 job description for the Administrative Assistant/Building Clerk and approve the position, unfreeze the salary of the Building Official and give the Administration the authority to decide on the wage scale, if the hire is from within the County. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, seconded by Commissioner Savoie, to accept the Personnel/Equalization & Apportionment/Transportation/Health & Social Services Meeting minutes of September 10, 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner McLean reported on the recent meetings he attended. Among some of the comments were the following:

MTA meeting

He noted that Register of Deeds Sharon Kennedy explained the changes in the assessment process.

Community Action meeting

He assisted with issues between Chippewa Luce Mackinac and their primary funding issues with UPCAP.

Upper Peninsula on Area Progress UPCAP meeting

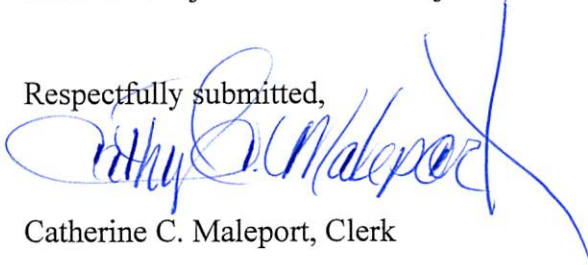
They reviewed and approved funding for the Community Action Agency's Senior Citizens programs. They also discussed the approval of a Resolution supporting HB 4590.

EDC Meetings

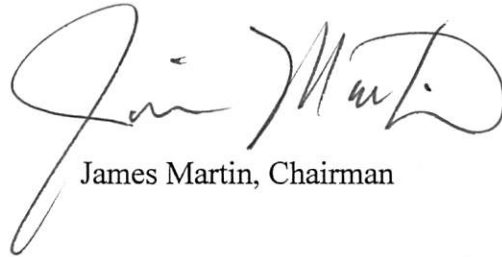
- They will be getting a new general aviation terminal.
- They're assisting UP Shavings with State permits working on grant applications for new buildings.
- Michigan Launch Initiative and the Command Center which would create 40 new jobs to our area with pay between \$75,000 and \$100,000.00

Having completed the agenda items, it was moved by Commissioner Savoie, seconded by Commissioner McLean to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine C. Maleport, Clerk



James Martin, Chairman

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners
319 Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Phone: (906) 635-6330
Fax: (906) 635-6325



Jim Martin
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Scott Shackleton

September 10, 2020

Ms. Charlotte Bewersdorff
Vice President for Community Engagement
Merit Network, Inc.
880 Technology Drive, Suite B
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

RE: Leveraging Infrastructure for Transforming the Upper Peninsula (LIFT-UP)

Dear Charlotte:

On behalf of Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to provide this letter expressing our full support of the Merit Network's project- Leveraging Infrastructure for Transforming the Upper Peninsula (LIFT-UP). This project will result in the construction of a 70-mile, 144 fiber count middle mile fiber optic infrastructure that will serve as a high capacity backbone route through the Eastern Upper Peninsula Economic Development District (EDD).

As the Eastern Upper Peninsula EDD seeks to address its multiple economic challenges—all of which have been exacerbated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic—access to reliable, robust, high-speed telecommunications infrastructure has become imperative for the social and economic health and well-being of its communities. Once construction is complete, LIFT-UP will serve to enable local organizations to interconnect via Open Access for a variety of activities to support economic prosperity and a better quality of life for unserved and/or underserved rural, remote communities in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Specifically, access to high-speed broadband internet will enable residents in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties to fully participate in the post-pandemic economy through: telecommuting/working from home; access to telehealth services, government E services and pandemic operational continuity resources; remote learning and workforce readiness (inclusive of digital skills development); smart agriculture; and remote monitoring, among many other opportunities.

Additionally, by providing open access to schools, governmental agencies, commercial entities and electrical cooperatives, LIFT-UP will enable these entities to leverage the middle-mile to support resiliency and deliver services throughout existing infrastructure, which furthers capital investment and growth.

We look forward to collaborating with Merit Network in bringing the much-needed LIFT-UP middle-mile backhaul to our rural communities.

Regards,

Jim Martin, Chairman
Chippewa County Board of Commissioners

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