

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, March 05, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Robert Colvin, Mark Howie, Gideon Mitchell, Alan Devereaux, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, Bill Goodwill, and Leslie Housler; Absent – Commissioner Robert Hilty.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added - 4. Waive the Hiring Freeze for District Court

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in favor.

Employee Recognition

1. 15 Year Service Award, Michelle Kovach, Election/Deputy Clerk

15 Year Service Award, Julie Valice, Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Chair Housler presented the 15 Year Service Award to Michelle Kovach after reading it to the public. Julie Valice was not present to receive her award.

Presentations and Reports

1. Northwest MI Council of Governments Annual Report

Elaine Wood, CEO of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, presented the Board with their Annual Report. She began by thanking Comm Housler and the other appointees from the County for their interest and hard work on NMCOG. She outlined the three areas that NMCOG focused on: Workforce Development, Business Development and Community Planning and Development. Board members received a handout that also included a summary of their financial operations.

Public Comments

Suzanne Slack, Wexford County resident, came forward to discuss the amount of days the Animal Shelter has been closed for the past few months. Ms. Slack would like to see the County hire another attendant. Also, she would like to see the dollars taken from the Animal Control Fund for their pension returned.

Dee Robinson, Marion, also discussed the number of days the Shelter has been closed. She suggested that the County look at hiring a 20 hour a week employee. She too would like to see the pension money returned to the Animal Shelter Fund.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the February 19, 2014, Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Appointments to the Wexford/Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board
MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Taylor to appoint Corey Wiggins as the representative of the Business Community and Dale Rosser as the representative of the General Public to the Wexford/Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2015.

All in favor.

2. Re-appointment to the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Board of Directors
MOTION by Comm Colvin, seconded by Comm Mitchell to re-appoint Jane Whitney to the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Board of Directors for a three-year term expiring March 31, 2017, as presented.

All in favor.

3. AT&T MiDeal Purchasing Agreement
MOTION by Comm Devereaux, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the three-year AT&T MiDeal Purchasing Agreement in the amount of \$15,500 annually and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement, as presented.

A commissioner questioned why this request has not been before the Finance Committee. Adm. Hinton explained that the County participates in the MiDeal program for AT&T. He has had some difficulty with AT&T when trying to renew the AT&T Agreement. The agreement has been expired for a few months causing the invoices to double in cost. Once the renewal agreement has been signed, the County will receive a retroactive reimbursement.

Roll call: Motion passed five to three with Commissioners Howie, Mitchell and Goodwill voting against the motion.

4. Request to Waive the Hiring Freeze for District Court – *Added*

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Judge VanAlst came before the Board to request the Board to waive the hiring freeze. She has an employee who will soon be retiring and she would like to replace her as soon as possible.

Before the vote, a commissioner questioned why Chair Housler was always called last. He has reviewed the policy manual and could not find anything in there that addresses this procedure.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Adm. Hinton discussed a few of the matters he has been busy with, including:

- Working with the Treasurer and the financial consultant to see if the County has the cash flow available to build or renovate a jail.
- Working on many FOIA requests that have been taking a great deal of his time. Many of the requests must be passed to County Counsel before the FOIA is sent out. The cost of the attorney review cannot be passed along to the requestor.
- Working on updating the county policy manual.
- In the middle of finalizing a union contract.
- Steve Birdwell, Veteran Trust Administrator, believes the Lake Street space will work well. Adm. Hinton is in the process to get a written agreement with the American Legion.
- CWTA has requested a millage renewal be placed on the August ballot.
- The Administrator performs HR functions for the county (correction from/03/19/2014

Correspondence

1. CWTA Letter
2. Register of Deeds Annual Report 2013

Public Comments - None

Liaison Reports

Comm Colvin informed the Board that the Department of Human Services has been discussing Project Christmas and whether or not they will need to look at a different venue if the Civic Center is not open.

Comm Howie explained that the CWTA is looking at renewing their .6 millage. They are working to find a way to lease or sell the old building. He also attended a CAMA meeting where they discussed an innovation in incubation system. There are a number of them around the State. The focus is to take technology from the shelf of the universities and have it commercialized by companies in Michigan.

Comm Mitchell announced the Airport meeting was cancelled. He will be unable to attend the MSUE meeting because he will be attending a MAC meeting in Lansing.

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Comm Fuscone reported that the Community Action Agency meeting was cancelled due to weather. Their Executive Committee needed TO approve the financial return to the IRS, which was done by audio conferencing.

Comm Housler attended a Road Commission meeting today. They reported the dollars they have spent this year as compared to last year.

Board Comment - None

Chairman's Comments - None

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Taylor to adjourn at
5:45 p.m.
All in favor.**

Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson

Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk