

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Leslie Housler.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Michael MacCready, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Mark Howie, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – None.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added - L. Correspondence from Traverse City Vet Center; Item 7 – Hiring Freeze; Item 8 – Commissioners' Salaries

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in favor.

Employee Recognition

1. 25-year Service Award, Lt. Richard Denison, Sheriff's Department
Chairman Housler read the employee recognition award to be presented to Lt. Denison. He was not present, to be given to him later.

Presentations and Reports - None

Public Comments

Michael Figliomeni, 10503 E. County Line Road, appeared before the Board representing Boon Sports Management (BSM). He expressed their disappointment in learning that the County may be selling the WEX. BSM started managing and running the WEX back on 05/01/2014 after entering into a four year agreement with the County. The WEX has had many volunteers working to make the WEX what it is today, clean and a facility to be proud of after several years of neglect. The millage passed a couple of years ago shows that the public is interested in keeping the WEX an active ice arena. BSM feels betrayed by the County. Currently, the County subsidizes the WEX with an appropriation of \$50,000. BSM would like to sit down with the County to work this out. Mr. Figliomeni asked the Board to not enter into the reverter agreement with the Fair Board at the meeting tonight.

Duane Alworden, 1023 Second Avenue, appeared before the Board as the Fire Chief of Haring Township and as a dispatch officer at the Sheriff's Department. He explained that the Fire Chiefs have all come together in support of the 911 surcharge that will be on the November ballot.

Tony Badovinac, Wexford County Prosecutor, express the need to fill the recently vacated position in his office.

Donald Koschmider, Cadillac, supports the 911 surcharge that will be on the November ballot. He would also like to see the decriminalization of medical marijuana.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the October 5, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Acceptance of Resignation from the Airport Authority
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

All in favor – eight to one with Comm MacCready voting against the motion.

Agenda Items

1. Approval to Amend the September 21, 2016 Board Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Taylor to amend the Board of Commissioner's October 5, Approval of the September 21, 2016 Board minutes to accurately reflect the Board motion to permit for the hiring of three corrections officers.

A commissioner felt the missing motion would have significant impact. Another commissioner felt if the Board approved the minutes at their October 5th meeting without the motion and they should not be amended. It was pointed out that the motion to correct the minutes was for a clerical error.

Roll call: Motion passed seven to two with Commissioners Fuscone and Howie voting against the motion.

2. Commissioner Appointment to the HR/PS Committee
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to accept the decision made by the Board Chairman designating Michael Bush to the HR/Public Safety Committee.

All in favor – eight to one with Comm MacCready voting against the motion.

3. Agreement for Partial Release of Right of Reverter
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to approve the Agreement for Partial Release of Right of Reverter between the Northern District Fair Association and Wexford County, as presented.

Included in the agreement is a request by the Fair Board for the County to build them a bathhouse which may cost as much as \$200,000. Some Commissioners felt that was too

costly. A commissioner pointed out that the \$200,000 bathhouse was contingent on the sale of the WEX. The Fair Board has also agreed to put money towards the stabilization of the Octagon building. A commissioner felt this agreement was a win win situation for both the County and the Fair Board. And, still another commissioner felt it was important to keep the ice arena in the community. The insurance on the octagon building and the other buildings on the property would be the responsibility of the County. A commissioner pointed out the reverter agreement before the Board tonight only allows for the possibility or an option for the County to sell the WEX. Currently, there is no one interested in purchasing the building.

Roll call: Motion approved six to three with Commissioners MacCready, Howie, and Bush voting against the motion.

4. Request for Millage Funds for Repairs to Ice Arena Compressor
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Goodwill to reimburse Boon Sports Management seventy-five hundred and eighty dollars using millage funds for the Ice Rink Chiller Compressor Repair upon proof of payment, as amended.

(The original motion was for \$7200 only but there was another purchase of \$380 for a switch; a friendly request to amend the motion was made.)

Roll call: Motion approved eight to one with Comm Howie voting against the motion.

5. Budget Amendments
 10/19/2016

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners
 Amendments to the 2016 Budget**

Adj #	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
20161002	101.253.702.04	Temporary Part time		1,500 (a)
	101.253.702.03	Permanent Employees		(1,500)
		More hours worked when permanent employee left county.		

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the budget amendment dated 10/19/2016, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved eight to one with Comm MacCready voting against the motion.

6. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project – No Report.
7. Hiring Freeze – *Added*
MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Fuscone to amend the hiring freeze motion made on October 5, 2016 to add the following: remove

payroll dollars when and if an employee leaves the office of an elected official. The Elected Official may come back before the Finance/Human Resources Committee to request to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. This motion is retro back to October 5, 2016.

Some Commissioners questioned why this was back on the agenda. It was mentioned by one commissioner that if there is money in their budget they can do what they want. It was stated that County Counsel was contacted and reviewed the tentative motion. Another commissioner requested a legal opinion before this motion is voted on. Other commissioners felt that the hiring freeze motion was not clear. It was suggested that no hires should be done before the 2017 budget has been approved. And, if someone is hired, the dollars may not be in their 2017 budget. A commissioner felt a hiring freeze was just that, a hiring freeze.

Roll call: Motion passed five to four with Commissioners Howie, Theobald, Fuscone, and MacCready voting against the motion.

8. Commissioners' Salaries – *Added*

With Department Heads being asked to reduce their budget by 10% the Board of Commissioners should do the same, lead by example. This commissioner suggested that the salaries of Board members be reduced to \$1.00 a year.

MOTION by Comm Fuscone, seconded by Comm Howie to reduce salaries for Commissioners to \$1.00 per year.

A commissioner questioned the last raise commissioners received. They believe their time is worth more than \$1.00 per year. Another commissioner suggested reducing their wages by 10%.

Roll call: Motion failed one to eight with Commissioners MacCready, Hilty, Bush, Theobald, Taylor, Fuscone, Goodwill and Housler voted against the motion.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Fuscone to reduce the Commissioners salary to \$4000 and Board Chair's salary to \$4500 for Fiscal Year 2017.

Roll call: Motion failed two to seven with Commissioners Bush, Theobald, Taylor, Goodwill, MacCready, Hilty and Housler voting against the motion.

Administrator's Report

Adm. Jordan provided Board members with a written report dated October 19, 2016. He updated the Board on the new phone system which would be completed in December.

Adm. Jordan reported on the radio megahertz check that was done throughout the County. They checked 696 points and the average range was 4.8 with rating running 1-5 with five being high. There were 11 failures throughout the County – 5 out of buildings and 6 in buildings. This test tells us that no infrastructure will be needed if the County goes to the 800 MHz radio system.

Correspondence

1. Liberty Township Letter
2. Clam Lake Township Letter
3. Traverse City Vet Center *Added*

Public Comments

Mike Figliomeni expressed his disappointment that the Board voted to enter into the agreement with the Fair Board and sign the reverter. BSM will continue to put in their time and talent for the remainder of the contract.

Donald Koschmider heard a lot about the need for money in the County at tonight's meeting. He suggested that the County could make a lot of money by decriminalizing marijuana.

Cathy Wright, Administrator in the Prosecutor's Office, explained that she went to the Administrator's office to request filling their position. They were asked to wait until the Board meeting. They waited and now they are not able to fill the position.

Liaison Reports

Comm Housler attended a Road Commission meeting and they had a resignation.

Board Comment

Comm Taylor believes the Council on Aging will be presenting their budget to the Board at the next meeting.

Comm Goodwill hopes the decision in the future on the WEX will include BSM. He would like to see this Board honor the agreement with BSM.

Comm MacCready touched on a 911 collaboration with Manistee County that was discussed several years ago. He believes that the COA Administrative Fees are too high. They have a self-renewal contract that should be looked at.

Comm Hilty stated that he and Comm Housler have had a few meetings with the Fire Chiefs to discuss the dispatch matter. They have been working together on the 911 Surcharge. The Fire Chiefs now understand the cost and how very important it is to pass

the surcharge vote for the additional income to the County. They have agreed to support the proposal with no promises from County.

Comm Howie believes that the 911 Surcharge proposal is a fleecing of the Citizens of the County. He will vote no on the proposal.

Comm Theobald would like the 911 dispatch to stay local if the proposal passes.

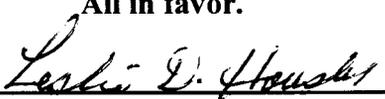
Chairman's Comments

Comm Housler pointed out that if the proposal for the 911 Surcharge does not pass the County will have no option to keep dispatch in Wexford County. Dispatch can continue if other county services are cut. He also stated that if the proposal fails what services should be cut. State Revenue Sharing has been down and they never payout as much as they should. Commissioners are the fiscal stewards for the tax payers. If the surcharge passes it will help. As for the signing of the reverter, currently there is no intent to sell the WEX. There is just a need to give the County some options going forward. There will be communication with BSM in the future. Comm Housler appreciates the work of BSM and running the arena. He also appreciates the Fire Fighters support of the 911 Surcharge with no promises if the proposal passes or does not pass.

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn
at 6:40 p.m.**

All in favor.



Leslie D. Housler, Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk