

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Gary Taylor.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Michael MacCready, Robert Hilty, Michael Bengelink, Michael Bush, Gary Taylor, Judy Nichols, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – Julie Theobald and Leslie Housler;

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Delete item 2. Letter of Understanding – COAM

Add item 5.a. Partial Payment Approval

Add item 6. Discussion on Animal Shelter

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm MacCready, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in favor: 6; Opposed 1.

Employee Recognition - None

Presentations and Reports

1. Senator Booher- Added

Senator Darwin Booher appeared before the Board to answer any questions Board members may have about what is going on in Lansing. The Senate will be back in session on August 16, 2017. Senator Booher sits on the budget committee and they have completed the budget for 2017-2018, three months early. He reviewed some of the expenditures they have budgeted. Board members touched on the growing liability Counties are being forced to deal with over their current retirement plans with. Senator Booher will look into this matter further when he gets back to Lansing. Many jurisdictions across the state are facing the same problem. In closing, Senator Booher explained that he does not support part time legislation. When he leaves next year, the State will see at least 25 new Senators out of the 38 now serving.

2. Morgan Stanley Retirement Benefits

Joleen Christine, Wealth Management Associate from MorganStanley, came before the Board to talk about what benefits MorganStanley could bring to the County and county employees. Currently, Wexford County carries 100% of the liability in retirement plans funded by county employees. If we work with MorganStanley they will share the liability with the County. The County can look to them as our retirement expert. Employees that are enrolled in the plan at the county now are paying an estimated 1.82%. MorganStanley participants would pay 1.05% which would be a benefit to our employees. They are confident that employees would see an increase in their retirement

plan of approximately 43%. Notices will be sent to all departments to set up a presentation to employees by MorganStanley.

3. Networks Northwest Annual Report

Matthew McCalley, Chief Operating Officer of Networks Northwest, came before the Board to give their Annual Report. Board members were provided with a booklet outlining the funding they receive through Federal, State, and local dollars with a few donations. He also reviewed the benefits they are able to provide our community.

Public Comments

Mike and Barbie Felsk, Selma Township, appeared before the Board regarding the parvo outbreak at the shelter and the false statements that have been made. Mr. Felsk read the statements that were made on social media and pointed out the inconsistencies. Many changes have been done at the shelter and there will be more. The volunteers have assisted in many of the changes. Ms. Felsk pointed out the statements posted were very hurtful.

Dr. Brinkman, Veterinarian at Meyer Veterinary Clinic, has been working with the shelter for several years and is in constant contact. The shelter has been doing a great job. Dr. Brinkman explained parvo and how difficult it is to catch in the early stages. The shelter will be closed for two weeks to do a thorough cleaning, using bleach water. Thought has been given to some changes they may implement: a quarantine area to use for newly acquired animals; vaccinate dogs before adopting them out.

Crystal Johnson, Cadillac, thanked all the volunteers that have been working very hard at the shelter. She encouraged those interested in helping to bring bleach to the Sheriff's Department to help with the disinfecting of the shelter. She too was very upset that three dogs were put down, but she understood why. She ended by thanking all volunteers that help with the animal shelter for all their hard work.

Dorie Williams, Cadillac, thought it was a shame to have a quarantine area. She suggested testing new admissions to the shelter to see if they have parvo or any other life threatening disease. She did not blame anyone at the shelter for the parvo problem.

Mark Felsk explained that there was no "Adoption Open House" when the parvo was discovered, which was stated in social media.

Donald Koshmider, Cadillac, believes that marijuana is doing wonderful things to help people. Mr. Koshmider said there are many lies out there regarding marijuana.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the July 19, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the July 27, 2017, Special Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Job Description for a 911 Director
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the Job Description for a 911 Director, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

2. Letter of Understanding – COAM – *Removed from the Agenda*
3. FY 2018 Child Care Budget Information
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Basic Grant and In-Home Child Care Certification between Wexford County and the Michigan Department of Human Services in the amount of \$776,996 for the period of October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 and authorize the Chairman of the Board to electronically sign the grant, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Budget Amendments(s) – None
5. Committee of the Whole – Jail Project
MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bush to resolve into a committee of the whole for the purposes of discussing the jail project.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Lisa Vogler, Owner's Representative on the Jail Project, updated the Board on the progress of the jail facility. She explained that Granger is about 93% done. Board members were provided with a Dashboard showing the progress of the jail construction for their review. They also were presented with a "Change Order" which would address some drainage issues. With the recent amount of rainfall, it was discovered that the current retention ponds were not sufficient to handle that large of rain fall. To fix the problem, Granger would like approval for an additional drainage area that would be three feet wide by 500 feet long. The added cost for this "Change Order" would be \$26,867.

Also, they would like to make a change in the sewer system by putting a Y pipe in, which would amount to approximately \$1800. The cost for the sewer system change will be addressed in another change order.

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Bengelink to rise and report the findings for the Committee of the Whole.

All in favor.

a. Partial Payment Approval – *Added*

MOTION by Comm Nichols, seconded by Comm Goodwill to approve the partial payment request in the amount of \$734,347.21 submitted for July 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017 for the jail construction and related expenses.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Bush to approve Change Order No. 7 for site grading and storm water control dated 8/2/2017 in the amount of \$26,867, as presented.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

6. Discussion Regarding Animal Shelter and the Sheriff's Department – *Added*
Due to the recent parvo breakout at the Animal Shelter, a commissioner suggested that the Animal Shelter should be turned into a nonprofit with the left over funds. He questioned how the parvo happened at the shelter. A discussion by this commissioner started about the care of dogs and it should be taken seriously. A point of order was called. This matter will be sent to the Executive Committee for further discussion.

Administrator's Report

Co-Administrator Richardson reported the work that had been done on the 911 dispatch job description.

Correspondence

1. Bay County Resolution
2. Responsible Retirement Reform for Local Government Task Force
3. Cash/Investment Report – 2nd Quarter provided by Treasurer Stanton.

Public Comments

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, discussed the legalization of Marijuana in Michigan. Also, Evart has opted to allow a marijuana facility to open.

Liaison Reports

Comm Nichols attended a District Health Department #10 meeting and they had a presentation on marijuana. They signed a resolution to not support recreational marijuana.

Board Comment

Comm Bush touched on the cost of the new jail facility continuing to cost the County more and more.

Comm Nichols explained why the three dogs at the shelter were put down. She touched on the negatives statements that have been put out to local media. Before publishing information like this, she encouraged them get the truth before putting untrue statements out to the public. She and many others volunteers at the shelter have worked very hard and they are very proud of how the shelter is run.

Comm MacCready apologized for putting out incorrect information on the shelter. He explained that he views things differently. He believes it is time to do something to separate the shelter from the Sheriff's Department.

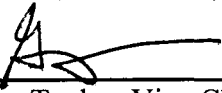
Chairman's Comments

Vice Chair Taylor thought that an RFP had gone out to see if operation of the shelter could be changed. However, they came back at a higher amount than what is being paid now.

Adjourn

**MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nichols to
adjourn at 7:32 p.m.**

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Vice Chairperson



Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk